

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 29 April 2020

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens)** took the chair at 14:15 and read prayers.

**The PRESIDENT:** We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to the land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.

*Parliamentary Committees*

### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (14:16):** I bring up the fourth report of the committee.

Report received.

*Question Time*

### ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding public health.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** On 11 March, the Premier released a statement, and I quote:

In this economic stimulus package, we are immediately investing \$350 million on a range of measures—from major road and hospital upgrades to significant tourism infrastructure.

The statement went on to say, and I quote:

...with construction to begin in coming weeks.

It is now more than 1½ months since this announcement, and the statement ended with:

This is all about securing jobs and keeping local businesses' doors open.

It said that works would start within 'a short period of time' as one of the major criteria. My questions to the minister are:

1. In terms of the hospital infrastructure and upgrades, how many contracts have been signed? What is the total contracted value of this work?

2. What actual construction has commenced for hospitals or hospital upgrades?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:19):** In relation to the stimulus package, the particular focus in the health portfolio was in relation to bringing forward country capital works. I will certainly take on notice the particular projects and the total project costs, but I would be at pains to say to the house that, whilst the economic stimulus package is welcome, it is only one part of the government's spending on capital works in the health system. Perhaps the three most stark examples are the work that's being done to ready the state hospital system for COVID-19, with capital works at the ECH College Grove, at the former Calvary Wakefield Hospital and also at the Repatriation General Hospital.

As well as that, the government is well aware that the work we have done to bring forward capital works outside the stimulus package will also serve as a stimulus to the economy. For example, we have brought forward the southern hospital expansion program such that the emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre can be expanded more rapidly. Likewise, work on capital works at the Modbury Hospital is being brought forward.

Certainly, my understanding is that a number of the projects under the stimulus package were shovel ready because the Treasurer made it very clear that he wasn't interested in our forward estimates, he was interested in our spending now and immediately for the sake of stimulating the

state. SA Health and the Department for Health and Wellbeing are proud to be playing a part not just in the health response to the global pandemic but also the economic recovery after it.

#### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** Supplementary arising from the answer: is the minister aware of any actual work that started as part of the stimulus package 'for hospital upgrades or major maintenance work'?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22):** My recollection is that there were about a dozen examples of country capital works and that some of those were starting almost immediately.

#### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** Further supplementary: as the Premier's words used were 'hospital upgrades', is the minister aware of a single hospital upgrade that has commenced under the stimulus package?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22):** Yes.

#### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:22):** My question is to the Treasurer regarding public finances. What are the oversight arrangements to monitor and report on the government's stimulus expenditure in response to bushfires and COVID-19? How frequently is this reported to him as Treasurer? Given that the Premier has described this as an 'immediate economic stimulus', how much will be spent this financial year?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:23):** I thank the honourable member for her question. Together with the usual financial monitoring processes that Treasury involves itself in with various departments and agencies, there is the added element of the budget cabinet committee process. There are also discussions at cabinet and there are also occasional discussions that I might have with individual ministers. To use a basketball phrase the Leader of the Opposition would well understand, it's a full court press—it's not man to man defence or offence, it's a full court press all over the fiscal court, the Treasury department, the Treasurer and others monitoring what occurs.

The reality, as I have indicated on a number of occasions, however, is that the Treasurer is generally not the service delivery agency. All we do is allocate the funding to line ministers or service ministers. Indeed, as the Minister for Health, my colleague, has just outlined, whilst there was agreement in relation to country hospital maintenance funding, the responsibility for delivery of that rests with the line minister. We are a team. We rely on the undoubted competence of my ministerial colleagues in carrying out the collective decisions of the team that is the cabinet.

Specific questions in relation to country hospital maintenance go to the Minister for Health. If it is a regional road project, they go to my very hardworking and competent ministerial colleague the Hon. Stephan Knoll, and similarly with all other allocations that might be made. Whilst there is oversight, the responsibility for the delivery of the expenditures rests with the line ministers.

#### **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:25):** Supplementary: is it fair to say from the Treasurer's answer, in which he mentioned budget cabinet committee, cabinet and individual conversations, that expenditure would be reported to him at least twice weekly?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:25):** No, one doesn't discuss what goes on at budget cabinet committee or cabinet. I can understand the deputy leader has not been in cabinet or in government, but I am not going to take the bait of discussing what might or might not go on in budget cabinet committee. I have just provided to the honourable member the general oversight mechanisms which are available to this government, one of which is the budget cabinet committee and the cabinet process, but others are individual conversations that I may have with ministers or, indeed, senior Treasury officers might have with senior officers within various departments and agencies.

Similar to the discussions yesterday and a similar line of questioning—and also at the federal level; I think the Treasury secretary was asked a question in relation to how much money was being spent within the first four weeks or however long the period might have been—the reality is that ministers and public servants are working as hard as they possibly can in terms of implementing the decisions of the government. There is certainly nothing from ministers or cabinet which is holding up the implementation of the decisions.

It is just the work that needs to go into the various schemes in terms of ensuring that the money gets out to those who are eligible for it, and certainly you won't find me being critical of the hardworking public servants who are working very hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. I would hope that the deputy leader would not be critical of the hardworking public servants, who are working as hard as they can to try to get the money out, the contracts done and signed. They are certainly not being held up by ministers in the cabinet.

### ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:27):** Further supplementary: the Treasurer's answer hasn't actually addressed the question of how frequently expenditure is reported to him.

**The PRESIDENT:** Treasurer, you can answer that, if you like.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:27):** I have nothing more that I can add to the answers I have provided to the first two questions.

### CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:27):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing regarding public health. What are the conditions for easing COVID-19 restrictions, and what is the order of priority in which these are planned to be eased? Who has the final decision on when and what restrictions will be lifted?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28):** I would just remind the honourable member that the person who is going to lead us out of the COVID global pandemic is the person that your party refused to hear from at the first parliamentary committee meeting this year. You may not want to listen to her now, but you will be hearing plenty from Nicola Spurrier as we gradually lift restrictions. She will continue to work with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

*The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** This is the person who chaired the meeting that gagged the Chief Public Health Officer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Minister, continue.

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** The easing of restrictions will be led in South Australia by the Chief Public Health Officer.

### CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:28):** A supplementary arising from the original answer: is there any strategy available to the public in how these restrictions will be eased?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:29):** I am very proud of the way the national cabinet, the AHPPC and particularly our own Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall, member for Norwood—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.G. WADE:** —Dunstan; they keep changing the names—have kept the public informed. The fact that Scott Morrison comes out after almost every national cabinet meeting and provides a very comprehensive press conference, the way my Premier almost daily comes out and explains to the people of South Australia the journey that we are on—I believe that the people of

South Australia are being kept well informed. The fact that they are overwhelmingly voting with their feet and supporting these public health measures demonstrates their support for them.

### **CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS**

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:29):** A supplementary arising: where can any business or any member of the public access this strategy so that they can plan ahead?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Dawkins.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL AND HIGH-TECH CAPABILITY**

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (14:30):** My question is directed to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the minister provide an update to the council on how South Australia is growing its digital and high-tech capabilities?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Just before you start, minister, I struggled to hear the Hon. Mr Dawkins then. As long as you heard the question, minister, you may continue, but it would be helpful if everybody would actually listen to the question.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:30):** I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in our digital and high-tech sectors and their capabilities. With closed borders, social distancing and other restrictions COVID-19 is changing the way we do business. Likewise, the Marshall Liberal government is changing how we support our South Australian exporters and key industries, with an increased focus on digital engagement providing up-to-date information and advice.

This includes our new online Export Fundamentals Program, which commenced yesterday, as well as our global in-market webinar series, which covers Japan, Korea, the United States of America, Malaysia, the United Kingdom and China. Including yesterday's webinar with our chief executive, Ms Leonie Muldoon, the second series of webinars has seen over 950 viewer registrations across all our key sectors, generating many business leads for follow-up.

The Marshall Liberal government is working hard to promote South Australia's digital and high-tech capabilities, and I can announce that through the Department for Trade and Investment our government is putting the spotlight on high-tech industries for the month of May. This activity will include webinars featuring thought leaders from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Lab, something I am very proud of, and a digital media campaign, as well as a broad promotion of South Australia's capability.

Businesses are invited to share their stories on social media by using #HighTechSA and #amazingsouthoz. Of course, our state has recently attracted MIT, which established MIT's Big Data Living Lab, and we are the home of the Australian Institute of Machine Learning. In addition to these world-leading capabilities and institutions, South Australia has world-class capabilities in data analytics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

South Australia is one of the best places on earth for an organisation to explore and prepare for the coming transformation of technology and to work through an uncertain world. As part of High-Tech South Australia May 2020, I invite our high-tech companies to share their stories of success and inspiration so that we can shine a light on this important sector and ultimately boost exports, drive direct foreign investment, grow the state's international partnerships and showcase South Australia to the world.

I had the very great privilege this morning of watching some of the very first face masks come out of the Detmold manufacturing facility in Brompton. This is a first for South Australia, and it is a credit to the Detmold Group that it has been able to stand up a factory in just a tick over two months. The facility itself, when it is fully stocked with equipment, will be capable of producing 25 million masks a month or 300 million masks a year. It is, indeed, a particularly impressive bit of high-tech manufacturing.

I also took the opportunity to go to Mawson Lakes to visit Ellex Medical Lasers where, interestingly, I saw the Hon. Kyam Maher's name on a plaque on a building he had opened when he was minister. I was doing a little piece to camera and it did throw me somewhat off my script when I saw his name. However, all jokes aside, Ellex is a wonderful high-tech manufacturer. I looked at some medical lasers they are now exporting to China, 25 of these units a quarter, and they are also looking to be involved in some componentry manufacture to support the production of ventilators in this current global pandemic.

Those are just two quick examples of how high-tech manufacturing is capturing opportunities right now.

### **CORONAVIRUS, SAFE EXERCISE**

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (14:34):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Trade and Investment, representing the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, about safe walking and cycling during the current public health emergency.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL:** Last week, doctors, nurses, public health and transport researchers, health promotion organisations and industry groups wrote an open letter calling on state governments to enable safe walking and cycling during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. A letter with 100 signatories called for infrastructure to enable safer walking and cycling. This letter was supported by key organisations including the Heart Foundation, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, the Australasian College of Road Safety, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Trauma Committee, and the Committee for Adelaide. I note that the signatories were part of a press release that went out last week, and I will just read two paragraphs:

Australian Health and Transport experts have today called on decision makers to enact urgent measures to support safe walking and cycling and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Government has recognised the importance of remaining physically active during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has listed exercise as one of four essential activities. As a result, many Australians have been getting active across the country by walking and cycling, but many areas lack sufficient space required to maintain critical physical separation.

Across the world we are seeing many examples where jurisdictions are rapidly rolling out infrastructure that enables social distancing when cycling and walking. Many jurisdictions are reallocating road space to walkers and cyclists using low-cost methods. They are slowing speeds in neighbourhoods, they are closing off streets for play, and they are prioritising funds for these projects. My questions to the Minister for Transport are:

1. How will the government respond to this letter?
2. How will it respond to the urgent need for connected and safe networks of walking and cycling infrastructure in South Australia?

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:36):** I thank the honourable member for his question and his very longstanding interest in especially cycling but walking as well. I will refer that question to my colleague the Hon. Stephan Knoll in another place and bring back a reply.

### **INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS**

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:36):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question regarding public health.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.E. HANSON:** On Monday morning the Premier was asked on radio whether visitors to aged-care facilities were required to get flu vaccinations. The Premier replied, 'No, I think that might be in place in terms of workers but not for visitors.' The government's own COVID-19 website states that:

From 1 May 2020, you cannot enter an aged care facility if you have not been vaccinated against the 2020 seasonal influenza.

The website then repeats this message and actually states in bold and underlined 'all staff and visitors are included'. That direction came into effect at 8.45am on 21 April. My questions to the minister are:

1. Based on the expert health advice, do visitors to aged-care facilities need to be vaccinated against influenza?
2. What assurances exist that all aged-care workers in state government-run aged-care facilities will actually have a flu shot by this Friday?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:38):** What a cowardly explanation which then doesn't even get referenced in the question. If you want to accuse the Premier of misleading people, then at least have credit to put it in your question. The fact of the matter is that the Premier was completely right. Monday was Monday 27 April; Friday 1 May is after 27 April. On 27 April people did not need to be vaccinated to enter residential aged-care facilities.

As the Hon. Frank Pangallo highlighted yesterday, this government will not tolerate improper use of restrictions to block access to residential aged-care facilities. The Premier was highlighting the point that some people had been using the influenza vaccination factor and blaming the government for its restriction for blocking access. The fact of the matter is that the national cabinet, in its wisdom, gave an appropriate time frame within which residential aged-care staff and residents could be vaccinated and, for that matter, visitors too.

In terms of the program, the latest update I have in terms of vaccination for flu in residential aged-care facilities I admit is 10 days old but, at that time, it was very encouraging. At that stage 60 per cent of staff had been vaccinated and 62 per cent of residents. Of course their program for vaccination has been ongoing since then, so I am not expecting a major disruption in terms of the transition from the non-mandatory recommendation to have flu vaccine to the mandatory element that starts on 1 May.

### INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:40):** Supplementary: can the minister confirm or deny reports that have been in the media today that there is a shortage in South Australia of the flu vaccine?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:40):** That may be the fact of the matter in the private sector; there is certainly no shortage in relation to the National Immunisation Program. In relation to that shortage in the private sector, I would like to acknowledge the announcement by the commonwealth government on 20 April of the procurement of another three million vaccines, which will be going into community pharmacies in, I understand, April, May and June.

### REGIONAL AIR SERVICES

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:40):** My question is to the Treasurer. What action have state and federal governments taken to assist regional air travel during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:41):** I am pleased to be able to again congratulate our federal colleagues on the response they have adopted in relation to COVID-19. Clearly, those of us who are familiar with regional air travel and the importance of it, not just within South Australia but within Australia, are aware that most, if not all, regional flights were discontinued as a result of the flow-on implications of travel bans instituted by federal and state governments as part of the national cabinet decisions.

This obviously involved significant travel restrictions but also some significant difficulties for some of our regional communities. So I do want to congratulate the federal government. They have negotiated the package with both Rex and Qantas in South Australia, and the state government has also, once those decisions were finalised, concluded some discussions with Rex. I am pleased to be able to advise the house that, in relation to God's own country—the South-East and Mount Gambier (I start there firstly)—the federal government is funding return flights to Mount Gambier on Tuesdays and Fridays.

My colleague and his officers indicated the importance from a health viewpoint—and also a community viewpoint, but they were obviously putting the health viewpoint—of having a return flight on Monday, so the state government is providing some revenue guarantees to Rex to ensure that there is a return flight on the Monday. So there will now be Monday, Tuesday and Friday return flights to Mount Gambier.

Similarly, in relation to Coober Pedy, the federal government has funded return flights on Wednesday and Friday. Our health colleagues indicated the importance, if possible, of a return flight on the Monday, and the state government is assisting the funding of a return flight to Coober Pedy through Rex on the Monday, so there will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday flights to Coober Pedy.

My congratulations to the commonwealth because it is funding four flights a week to Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Kingscote and two flights a week to Ceduna. The state government's commitment is based on a revenue guarantee, which is similar, as I understand it, to the federal government funding arrangements. It ensures the flights are there, but guarantees revenue to, in our case Rex, in the commonwealth case both Rex and Qantas. The duration of the state government package at this stage is, I think, for an initial period of three months, with the option of being extended on a month-by-month basis, I think, for a further two months.

As I said, I again place on the record my congratulations to my federal colleagues for the action they have taken in South Australia, and nationally, in relation to regional air travel. I am pleased to say that the taxpayers of South Australia are also going to make a contribution out of the economic stimulus package funding that has been provided to ensure flights to Mount Gambier and Coober Pedy.

#### REGIONAL AIR SERVICES

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (14:44):** Supplementary: when will the additional flights to Mount Gambier commence?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (14:44):** I will take that on notice. My understanding is asap, that is, as soon as is possible, but certainly I will take that on notice as to when the first flight will be, whether they will wait for the start of a week or now that the funding—actually, there was a press release from Rex today, which may or may not have indicated the precise start date for each of the locations. I am happy to take that on notice. The member, I think, only asked about Mount Gambier, but I am happy to take on notice in relation to all of them to provide the council with an answer in relation to the exact starting date for each of those services.

#### DONOR CONCEPTION REGISTER

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:45):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Health and Wellbeing a question about donor conception registers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS:** Along with thousands of donor-conceived people, I was absolutely delighted last year when the state government agreed to establish a register of sperm, eggs and embryo donors in South Australia. This followed a surprising, but very much welcome, backflip by the government on its original decision to oppose the register, which was the centrepiece of a private member's bill I introduced in October of last year.

For those of you who may have forgotten—I am sure the Hon. John Dawkins is not amongst them—the government's about-face support of the register came during the debate on the government's planned surrogacy laws, which were successfully passed and will now make surrogacy easier for more people, whereby I introduced amendments to have the register included in that bill. Thank goodness that went well.

In that complete reversal from the original position, the Attorney-General agreed to the amendments and the legislation was passed in a history-making milestone for thousands of people born with donor assistance in South Australia. Of course, under that legislation, the register needs to be established within two years. My questions to the minister are:

1. Given it has now been five months since the legislation was passed, how is the establishment of the register progressing?
2. Can the minister provide an update on the sort of model that will be adopted for the register?
3. How much, if any, money has been set aside initially for its establishment?
4. If it is known, what will the annual budget be in terms of maintaining that register?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:47):** I certainly don't accept the characterisation of the honourable member that this government backflipped. This government has an unshakeable commitment to ensuring that people who have been conceived through donor conception have access to their genetic heritage.

We have only been in power for a little over two years, and yet it has been decades that this issue has not been resolved, almost two decades. I recognise that knowing one's own genetic heritage is a right and is integral to identity, and we are pleased to be moving towards a register.

In terms of the time frame going forward, as the honourable member says, we are five months into a two-year time frame. The government is looking through a range of models. Let's be clear: just because the amendments got through the lower house didn't mean that the problems in the honourable member's model somehow magically disappeared. We have to work through a range of issues, and we will continue to do that in a workmanlike way.

#### YOUTH ACTION PLAN

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:48):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Human Services regarding young people.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.T. NGO:** COVID-19 has caused thousands of young South Australians to lose jobs, lose hours and change their study arrangements. Economic crises, particularly unemployment, disproportionately affect younger people. The minister released the Youth Action Plan on 17 April, on a Friday afternoon in the middle of the COVID-19 emergency and more than two years after coming to government. The Youth Action Plan has no mention of coronavirus, COVID-19 or a pandemic. It does not appear to have been updated from its pre-pandemic draft. My questions to the minister are:

1. How was the feedback from the final consultation that closed on 14 April considered and included in the final plan that was released just three days later on 17 April?
2. Does the minister believe the plan adequately addresses the needs of young people if it doesn't address the biggest emergency since the Great Depression?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:50):** I thank the honourable member for his question. I do find it a little ironic that the Labor Party is criticising the release of the plan, given that I think they asked me a question earlier this year about where was the plan.

As well as all the scrambling, a bit of a white-knuckle ride for a lot of ministers in terms of preparation and ensuring that people are adequately cared for through this coronavirus crisis, there is still work that has been going on in the background. We had done a lot of work in terms of the preparation for the development of the three-year plan, which had been something that the youth sector had asked for—a three-year plan instead of an annual plan—so that there was that longevity and certainty to it which they could point to.

There are four key priorities in the plan which young people told us they wanted. That included earning and learning, being fair and inclusive, wellbeing, environment, and connecting and growing. Most of the people in the age group are in that category of either earning and learning, so clearly their focus is on ensuring that they have the greatest opportunity to have an education that prepares them for life and sets them up for their future; so we were very pleased to release that.

We consulted with some 500 young people through the YourSAy platform and also through direct consultation with a group of young people who could nominate themselves and then were



selected by random ballot to contribute to this plan, so we believe it represents a comprehensive approach across government to young peoples' futures. Necessarily, it involves all agencies which have a lot of contact with young people which includes, clearly, education, industry and skills, and mental health, I think I heard my colleague the Minister for Health and Wellbeing quite recently talking about additional funding for young peoples' mental health.

I think the honourable member in his comments is trying to imply that the plan should have included some reference to COVID. I would like to point out that these strategic plans are very much a blueprint for where we would like things to be. If I can refer to the domestic violence plan, Committed to Safety, we see that as a living document. It is certainly adapted as new information and new funding becomes available and so it provides us with that roadmap to where young people want to be.

In terms of the COVID response, I have read media reports that there are a lot of young people who have been impacted by this through their working arrangements. Clearly, they are in industries that have been vulnerable, such as hospitality and the like. There has been a lot of support provided to workers, both by the federal government and through the state government, with our particular funding arrangements. There have been various packages to various industries. For young people, into the future the best thing that we can provide to them economically is that we have a soft landing in South Australia for our economy so that those jobs return as soon as possible.

The overall management of this pandemic in South Australia has been at the forefront of all jurisdictions, and I would say quite proudly that I think we have done a great job. I particularly commend the Chief Public Health Officer, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Premier, the Treasurer and a range of people across government—our hardworking Public Service—to ensure that South Australia is well placed through this pandemic. Nobody wants to see industries go by the by through this process. We need to be careful, and for young people into the future, they want to get back into education, they want to get back into their jobs, so having managed this process as well as could possibly be expected is the best outcome that we could give them.

#### YOUTH ACTION PLAN

**The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:55):** Supplementary question: the minister mentioned that she is not going to update the plan to include the COVID-19 emergency. Will the minister update websites or some statements that include the COVID-19 emergency to address the sudden lack of employment for young people during this period?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:55):** I think the honourable member is putting words in my mouth. I think the roadmap—the document is a document that is printed at a point in time, but there are living documents. There is a lot of information available through the sa.gov.au website, which is constantly updated. We don't necessarily do things by age group and tell people whether they have to identify themselves as an elderly person or the like. There is a lot of information available. Young people clearly are very adept at utilising media and social media to access that information. If they need assistance they can certainly contact my office or the Department of Human Services if they need more information.

#### COVID-19 RELIEF CALL CENTRE

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister please provide an update to the council about how the Marshall Liberal government is providing relief to South Australians through a new relief hotline in response to COVID-19?

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (14:57):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I know that she has a strong interest in this area, as she and I have a number of conversations about people and how they can access support and assistance during this crisis. The South Australian government has established a relief call centre which is specifically dedicated for people who may be experiencing personal hardship or need information about accommodation. We have also stood up through Red Cross, the Telecross service which contacts vulnerable people at home. People can register themselves or someone they love to receive that phone call to assist them.

We have also provided additional funding to a range of hardship support welfare organisations and food security organisations to assist people who may be struggling at home. I am really pleased that we have managed to establish a statewide network for anybody who needs to receive food assistance or that emergency relief. We have a number of agencies that operate in regional South Australia and in metropolitan South Australia who provide that emergency relief. They would often have contact with people who were experiencing hardship, but there are obviously a number of other people in our community who have not experienced this level of financial pain in the past who now are needing assistance.

In addition, the commonwealth government has provided additional support. My understanding is it funds something like 80 per cent of the emergency relief and food relief to organisations around Australia, and a number of those have also received assistance through them.

The COVID-19 Relief Call Centre number is 1300 705 336, so for anybody who is experiencing particular financial hardship they can contact that number and they will be provided advice about where they can go to get that assistance. We also know there are particularly some elderly people who may not be connected through the My Aged Care system or through existing service providers who may be self-isolating. We encourage anyone who is in that situation to contact that number so that they can gain that assistance.

### LIVE MUSIC SECTOR

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:59):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Leader of the Government in this place on behalf of the Premier on the topic of the impact of COVID-19 on the live music sector.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS:** Our state capital, Adelaide, is a UNESCO City of Music, and our pubs and clubs are the homes of live music. One thing in this crisis that we are reminded of, in our times of isolation, is how much we really value the social interaction of live music performances. The Grace Emily was, sadly, one of the first live music pubs to close its door just before the pandemic restrictions were enforced, quickly followed by other venues such as Jive, Electric Circus and dozens more.

Last week, we learned that another loved venue the King's Head will not be reopening even after the pandemic restrictions are lifted, and the Gov down at Hindmarsh estimates it can only sustain its existence for a few more months. In times of normal crises, these are the very people who put on a show to support those in need, but now urgent action is required if this industry is to have a place to return to when this crisis subsides, the very bricks and mortar and sticky carpets that surround our much loved live stages, because if these venues lose their licences or their leases, it will be very hard to regain them. The Chief Executive of Music Victoria's Patrick Donovan has summed it up:

Throughout history, opportunistic carpet-baggers have moved in during times of crisis. Our venues and studios sit on sought-after high street real estate, and plenty of developers will be eyeing off some prized sites.

He has called on that state's planning minister to protect the live music venues and rehearsal studios by banning planning applications for a change of use for live music venues for 24 months while this industry recovers. My question to the Leader of the Government, representing the Premier, is:

1. What engagement has the Premier held with the live music sector?
2. What supports are already in place or planned to be rolled out to protect live music venues?
3. Will the Marshall government look at instituting similar planning protections so that our sticky carpets and stages are not paved over by developers come the end of the pandemic?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:02):** I am happy to refer the honourable member's question to the Premier. I do note, however, that I think that regarding the problems that confront hotels that are live music venues the AHA has made it quite clear that there are general problems confronting the whole of the industry, including those that the honourable member has referred to, that is, those that may well provide live music as a venue.

**The Hon. T.A. Franks:** They can shut down the pokies.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I beg your pardon?

**The Hon. T.A. Franks:** All of them—shut down the pokies.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will certainly refer the honourable member's question insofar as it relates to the live music venues and issues the honourable member has raised to the Premier, but I am just noting in response that the AHA has certainly made it clear publicly and privately that there are concerns generally about hotels right across the board as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decisions the national cabinet has taken to close down the vast majority of those venues and significantly restrict what it is that they can do within those venues. There are certainly significant issues that relate to the hotel industry generally, but insofar as they relate to live music venues, I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier.

### PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:03):** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Leader of Government in the Legislative Council regarding public sector workers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER:** The COVID-19 crisis has caused us to better appreciate, in a lot of areas, the roles of many front-line workers, such as teachers, nurses, shop attendants or cleaners. We have seen both the importance and the vulnerability in areas such as hospitals or aged-care facilities and homes of people with disabilities. Workers have left their homes and families, often exposing themselves to greater risk of COVID-19 to care for people at places that are at most risk.

Throughout this emergency, these workers have dealt with changing rules and uncertainty about protective equipment, sanitiser and other needs. In aged care, staff often have to fill a huge gap left from family and friends who have been banned from visiting. My questions to the minister are:

1. How is the government specifically supporting and valuing public sector workers on the front line during the COVID crisis?
2. What is the government's position on enterprise bargaining in the current circumstances for public sector workers who are on the front line?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:04):** Can I say at the outset, as I have said publicly and I think the Premier has said on any number of occasions, that the state government is a very staunch defender of the work that our public sector workers have undertaken. We won't brook any direct or inferred criticism of public sector workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, who we believe are working as hard as they possibly can, in particular, as I said, in trying to get much-needed funding out to industries, businesses or, indeed, individuals.

The government has been extraordinarily generous to its public sector workers, certainly as generous or probably more generous than most private sector employers. I am happy to bring back the detail of the considerable access to leave and support arrangements that the government, together with the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, have made available to our public sector workers.

One of the key ones has been a new provision of 15 days special COVID-19 related leave. I am happy to bring back the conditions or eligibility requirements in relation to those, but certainly most sections of the public sector, from the CEOs down, have been generally pretty generous in terms of allowing flexible working arrangements for those who want to work or need to work from home in terms of providing support to allow that to occur. As I said, there are also very generous leave arrangements.

In relation to enterprise bargaining, whilst there is considerable pressure nationally for a public sector wage freeze, as the minister responsible I have not gone down that particular path. I

believe the commonwealth government have issued a determination that there be a public sector wage freeze. I believe the Queensland Labor government have either specifically indicated or have hinted at a policy of a public sector wage freeze. The New South Wales Liberal government have indicated that they will be implementing a public sector wage freeze. The position that I have adopted on behalf of the state government is the one that I have adopted for a long period of time on behalf of the taxpayers of South Australia; that is, we have budgeted for sensible and reasonable salary increases, and that is all that the taxpayers of South Australia can afford.

We endured a long, 18-month period of industrial disruption in relation to the AEU dispute, but the government remained steadfast in terms of saying the taxpayers couldn't afford more than the reasonable salary increase that had been budgeted for. We certainly couldn't afford the demands for 3 and 3½ per cent salary increases that were being made by union bosses in the public sector.

Whilst I can't dictate what national cabinet may or may not ultimately decide, because we have seen the national cabinet make decisions in a variety of areas and there are clearly differing views amongst Liberal and Labor governments nationally about the efficacy of a public sector wage freeze, my position on behalf of the government, and I have relayed this directly to representatives of public sector unions, has been there are reasonable and sensible salary increases budgeted for.

It would make sense that we settled these particular disputes in a reasonable fashion as quickly as possible. We believe it would be in the interests of the public sector workers themselves but also in the interests of the taxpayers of South Australia. There is no doubting that we and the taxpayers of South Australia are going to be confronting massive budget deficits and significant increases in public sector debt as a result of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final point I would make, as I have indicated—and I am sure all members in this chamber would applaud me for doing so—is there will be a wage freeze for ministers and for members of parliament. There will also be a wage freeze for ministerial staff, and a wage freeze for public sector executives as opposed to public sector workers more generally. That is as far as the state government has gone in relation to the issue of public sector wages insofar as it relates to the leader's question, more broadly, on enterprise bargaining.

### **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (15:10):** A supplementary arising from the answer: is the Treasurer aware whether government officials are currently in negotiations that would see non-wage elements, such as rights and entitlements, wound back in industrial agreements for front-line workers?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer) (15:10):** Every public sector enterprise bargaining arrangement involves the capacity for efficiency offsets. For example, in relation to the Australian Education Union dispute, the AEU agreed to some offsets in relation to what was eventually a 2.35 per cent salary increase for teachers and a 3.35 per cent salary increase for principals and preschool directors.

I am not sure how enterprise bargaining was conducted under the former government, but under this government there is a discussion about what is a reasonable salary increase, and if there is to be something that is a little bit above that there are productivity efficiency offsets in terms of what the taxpayers of South Australia would get out of that particular deal. In relation to that my colleague the Labor Treasurer for Victoria, Tim Pallas, has adopted exactly the same position: that is, a reasonable salary increase being offered and, if there were to be something a bit higher than that it had to be offset by efficiency or productivity offsets agreed to by the public sector unions. I think that is also the position of the Liberal government in Tasmania.

### **CORONAVIRUS, HEALTH INITIATIVES**

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:11):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister update the council on health initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**The Hon. S.G. WADE (Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:12):** I thank the honourable member for his question. Around the world we have seen the COVID-19 pandemic strain and overwhelm health systems, with a corresponding and tragic toll in human life. My understanding is that the most recent death toll worldwide is 200,000 deaths.

One of the indicators of whether or not a pandemic is coming under control is how many days it takes for the cases in a particular defined area to double. I understand that currently the doubling rate for the world as a whole is 19 days; in comparison, fortunately Australia is increasingly extending the doubling rate and it is now at 32 days. One can get lost in the statistics of this, but the extending of the doubling rate has meant that, to use the words of the Premier, we have been able to 'flatten the curve, push out the peak' and, at this stage at least, ease the pressure on the hospital system.

Of course, any case is tragic, any case is a risk of mortality, and the risk of mortality significantly increases if you have exponential growth. If you have a hard, short, sharp burst on the hospital system it significantly risks overwhelming it, and it has been tragic in recent weeks to see countries we know—countries we know well—having real trouble coping with the demands on their hospital systems.

Here, through the leadership of the Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrer, her deputy chief public health officers and their teams, we have seen significant success in public health measures. As the Treasurer highlighted, this is a South Australian partnership within the rest of the federation, and I believe that when the history of the COVID-19 pandemic is written, Australia will have some lessons to share.

I want to stress that the public health team has been superbly backed up by the whole SA Health network of services. There has been incredible innovation, a willingness to work together across domains and, to be frank, that is not just within SA Health but also includes the network of GPs, who are basically small business operators right across the state. The partnership with the commonwealth and its agencies, such as its public health network, has been exemplary.

One program which I would particularly like to highlight is the support that has been provided to COVID patients through the home hospital pilot. The home hospital was a pilot begun as part of the Marshall Liberal government's commitment to rebalance the health system following the Transforming Health experiment. The pilot supports care for South Australians in the comfort and security of their own home, freeing up capacity in our hospitals for people who need higher acuity care. This pilot became the foundation for a very effective home hospital program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, 40 per cent of COVID-19 patients have received care through our Hospital at Home program. That is a very significant contribution, particularly in times like these when we are working hard to make sure that the hospital system is available when the need is there. To be able to provide more than 160 patients with the care they needed in a home hospital environment meant that not only were those individual patients receiving care in a more familiar environment without the risk of hospital-based infections or falls, it also meant that the hospitals were able to keep their beds free.

One of the very pleasing features of the South Australian response to the COVID-19 pandemic is that we have had significant inpatient capacity on hand. That is partly through home hospital, it is partly through things like the work of the peri-urban hospitals to provide care for metropolitan-based patients in nearby facilities, and it is partly in relation to the great work that has been done in terms of placing long stay patients, both aged-care patients and also patients who are waiting for the next step in the national disability program. However, the home hospital program, as I said, in providing care to about 40 per cent of our COVID-19 patients has played a crucial role. Home hospitals were able to support the health system by easing the pressure on our emergency departments and, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, provided the nimbleness that the system needed.

Today, SA Health has launched a tender for the delivery of services as part of 'my home hospital'. Of course, like any reform in the Marshall Liberal government, it is well thought through and it is incremental. The aim is to lift care in the community to about 5 per cent of activity. The majority of patients will continue to receive hospital level care in a hospital environment, but for many the opportunity to have their care provided in the community is a choice that they welcome.

The services out of the tender will begin later this year and I am sure will become an integral part of the South Australian health system's new normal after the global pandemic. This is another example of the way that the reforming work put in by this government following the 2018 election

provided a solid foundation for the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be part of the improved delivery of health services on the other side of the pandemic.

*Matters of Interest*

**BEYOND GALLIPOLI FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:19):** I rise today to speak about the Beyond Gallipoli fundraising event that I had the pleasure of attending recently, representing the member for Adelaide. I note, sir, that you were kind enough to attend the event as well. I was representing the member for Adelaide, the Hon. Rachel Sanderson MP.

This wonderful event commemorated the brave soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting on the Gallipoli battlefield. It is hard to believe, in the relatively short time since this event, that such events are not possible to be held anymore as we all deal with the fallout from our collective battle with COVID-19. Beyond Gallipoli served to remind us all of what happened behind the scenes, if you like, of the battlefield in Gallipoli itself.

We all need to remember those who assisted and treated the sick and wounded as they journeyed to safety. We all remember the soldiers and are aware of the enormous sacrifice they made and the huge price many of them paid, but this event focused as well on those behind the scenes. Thousands of sick and wounded ANZAC soldiers travelled to Malta for medical and hospital treatment following their time in Gallipoli, and remembering this we consider the many ANZACs who were subsequently laid to rest in Malta.

Of those who were buried in Malta, there were 202 Australians and 72 New Zealanders. It was a chance to commemorate the doctors, nurses, workers on the hospital ships, the volunteers and the vital role the Red Cross played in saving as many lives as possible. Throughout the Gallipoli campaign over 55,000 troops travelled to Malta for care. It was not only a place of treatment for the ANZAC troops, but a place for respite, rehabilitation and recreation. It served as an escape from the war itself.

The Australian Hall, built in 1915, still stands in Malta today. It provided a place for recreation and a concert hall for soldiers on the island. The money to build the hall was raised by the Australian branch of the Red Cross, which relied on the generous donations of an appreciative Australian public. This fantastic night also served as a fundraiser for the under 18s rowing regatta, to be hosted in the Grand Harbor in Malta itself, also known as the Port of Valetta, on 25 April 2021, ANZAC Day of course.

This race will involve competitors from Australia, New Zealand and Malta. This event is the first ANZAC sporting competition which will honour the memory of all those involved in this particular chapter of this brutal conflict. Elite rowing students from years 11 and 12 will be invited to participate and will undertake an educational trip to Malta, providing an invaluable opportunity to learn more about these significant ANZAC sites and the events that surround them.

Thank you to the event organisers and catering staff, and a special mention to the Legion Frontiersman Cadet Corps for their outstanding renditions of the Last Post and the National Anthem. The fundraiser included the usual door and raffle prizes, as well as the auctioning of sports memorabilia, and the silent auction was well supported and raised almost \$5,000. These funds will significantly contribute to next year's regatta, which will serve as an opportunity to maintain the important connection between Malta, New Zealand and Australia, preserving this vital part of our important shared history.

I reflect now on how fortunate we were to be able to celebrate and commemorate this event when we did. In the short time since, we have seen that such events, including the ANZAC Day services that have just passed, were not possible as we strive to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19. I look forward, hopefully soon, to the return of these important community gatherings.

I appreciate that we were able to remember the hard work of healthcare professionals on the battlefields in Gallipoli, which seems even more pertinent now with healthcare professionals globally fighting this new and dangerous COVID-19 battle. Even though we were not able to gather as a community on 25 April to commemorate and remember the fallen, as we normally would on ANZAC

Day, and all those who sacrificed so much for their families and their country, all of us in our own way were able to pay tribute, most importantly, to remember them.

As would have many members of this council, I stood in commemoration at dawn, reflecting on the significance of the occasion. I think, to the best extent that we could as a society, we paid appropriate tribute not only to the fallen but to those who sacrificed in other ways on these very significant occasions in our national history. It was different this year; it was a time when some people felt that it was not enough, but it was the best we could do. I am sure all of us look forward to going back to the normal ceremonies next year. I, for one, look forward to my own father marching next year: he has marched every year for many years, and it was the first ANZAC Day that I was not able to spend with him because of the events surrounding COVID-19. I very much look forward to next year.

### CORONAVIRUS

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (15:24):** Coronavirus is non-discriminative. The stark reality is that, until a prevention or cure is found, our community will be impacted physically, socially and financially. During disaster situations like this pandemic, vulnerable groups are again affected disproportionately to the rest of the community. Those who are recent migrants and on temporary visas often fall into this category.

Over the past week, I have had the pleasure of talking to several staff members from the South Australian Red Cross team. Like many other charity organisations across Australia, Red Cross has had to act quickly to adjust its existing programs to fit social distancing measures and create new emergency relief to a wave of people who have become vulnerable. Red Cross say they were inundated with calls for help as soon as restrictions came into place and workplaces started to shut down.

International students and temporary visa card holders were a majority in the group asking for assistance. Not being covered by federal government support and being without any work has left millions of people vulnerable. Although small, I recognise that the South Australian government has rolled out a support package for international students studying at the three major South Australian universities.

However, the state and federal governments have failed to recognise that people on temporary working visas are a part of our community and deserve protections. Their position on the issue remains that they should go home. These ridiculous statements by the Prime Minister have many of these workers feeling abandoned by the Australian government.

Organisations such as Red Cross and Foodbank are again heading the call in times of emergency and filling the gaps of government responsibility. Even small businesses have felt the need to step up and help those in trouble. One example of this is Shobosho. With the support of OzHarvest and Foodbank, the Adelaide restaurant has been able to make meals six days a week for Adelaide's homeless and vulnerable. Adam Liston, head chef of Shobosho, expressed that the program has been a lifeline for his co-workers, to help with the mental health and wellbeing of staff during this time.

Stories similar to this continue to emerge throughout the hospitality industry. A large proportion of the 840,000 temporary visa holders with working rights in Australia are employed in the hospitality and tourism industries, both of which, in terms of industries, have mostly closed, leaving these workers with no income.

If this government is prepared to assist international students, it only seems right that they help those on temporary visa cards. Both Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory have launched support packages for temporary visa holders. Although these payments are significantly smaller than any federal funding, the act itself signifies the importance of the issue. It should not be up to small businesses and community organisations to bear the full brunt of coronavirus. Government, both state and federal, has a responsibility to assist everyone living in Australia affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

## CORONAVIRUS

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:28):** 'See it quickly, isolate it quickly, respond to it quickly.' These words are from Barack Obama's 2014 prediction of another pandemic. As Australia turns the tide against COVID-19, we must consider how to prepare for the next pandemic and how to rebuild after this one.

In preparing for future pandemics, Taiwan demonstrates the immense value of central disease control bodies. Additionally, the former commonwealth department of post-war reconstruction shows how we can effectively coordinate reconstruction efforts after COVID-19's defeat.

Taiwan exemplifies how a central disease control body can bolster responses against future outbreaks. Taiwan, which has only some 400 confirmed COVID-19 cases, despite having similar population levels to Australia, has its own centre for disease control (CDC). Taiwan's CDC has been instrumental in the country's world-class COVID-19 response, including by quarantining suspicious cases, proactively seeking new cases, educating civilians and negotiating with regional and overseas governments.

Despite the obvious potential health benefits of a central disease control body, it is baffling to learn that Australia is the only OECD country without one. While the Australian Medical Association saw an urgent need for an Australian CDC, its 2017 call on the federal government to establish one fell on deaf ears. From the Plague of Athens to the Spanish flu, history shows outbreaks can and will wreak havoc on societies. The federal government must admit the unfortunate but inevitable omnipresence of infectious diseases by creating a central disease control body.

Our own COVID-19 response was commendable, but it can definitely be better in the future. When COVID-19's threat became clear we closed our borders, implemented social distancing and gave the public clear and timely information. Broadly, South Australians have successfully risen to the challenge as the state's curve continues to flatten. SA Pathology has used the pandemic to demonstrate its immense value to our community as it deployed its stockpile of masks and testing reagents, which have been vital to winning this unprecedented battle.

Nevertheless, Alan McLean, a senior lecturer in healthcare management at Flinders University—and who has worked on emergency plans for the swine flu epidemic—notes that in 2005 Australia invested significantly in preparing for a flu pandemic. However, mask fit training and testing was eventually reduced in South Australia in the interests of cost cutting. He believes deaths of healthcare workers could be blamed on poor training in the use of PPE. McLean warns that the first health programs axed amid fiscal pressures tend to regard safety, quality, prevention and preparation. Indeed, the devastation COVID-19 has inflicted shows that we do not need another crisis to understand the value of long-term investment in public health. While our response to COVID-19 was effective, there are tough but important lessons to be learned.

Finally, it is imperative that we assess specifically how to make Australia bounce back stronger and better than ever. If we are at war with a virus, then we need a post-war economic recovery plan. History shows that governments are more than capable of steering the economy in the right direction after major crises. Established in 1942, Australia's department of post-war reconstruction leveraged the brilliant minds of aspiring young economists to determine how to transition from our war economy while improving our living standards.

Headed by then treasurer Ben Chifley and Director-General, Herbert Cole Coombs, the department envisioned an ambitious post-war Australia. Its policy goals included maintaining full employment, protecting low income earners through housing programs, bolstering local manufacturing and stimulating economic growth through immigration. Post-pandemic recovery should not be left until the last minute. The state and federal governments must lead the charge in charting a way forward after COVID-19.

While our COVID-19 response is commendable, the pandemic adds to the important learning experience that is history. To quote the philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, 'We learn from history that we do not learn from history.' Now is not a time to continue trends of forgetfulness. Hence, I urge the state and federal governments to seriously consider establishing individual disease control agencies and to begin planning for a post-pandemic recovery.



### COMMUNITY SPORTING CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:33):** On 23 February this year, I joined Gawler Mayor, Karen Redman, in speaking at the conclusion of the state junior softball championships, conducted over the previous three days by the Gawler and Districts Softball Association at Karbeethan Reserve, Evanston Gardens. As Gawler and Districts Softball Association patron and its inaugural chairman in 1982-83, I was honoured to present championship winners medals to players from Hills in the under 14 boys, under 16 boys and under 16 girls divisions; West Torrens for under 14 girls; and Sturt, under 18 girls.

I want to particularly compliment the work of the GDSA chair, Amanda 'Roadie' Unger, and secretary Sally Green for their organisation of this event and the coordination of their great team of volunteers. It was a very successful event which received great support from the overall umbrella organisation for softball in South Australia, the South Australian Softball Association. Other clubs and associations represented in the championships included Seacombe, Port Adelaide, Central Districts, Riverland, Walkerville, Glenelg, the Northern Area Men's Softball Association and, of course, Gawler and Districts.

A few weeks later I saw a Facebook post from the Gawler and Districts Softball Association which did not surprise me but is something that is indicative of what a lot of organisations have had to deal with. It basically said that Softball Australia had recommended that all softball activity cease immediately. This was dated 18 March this year. So the Gawler and Districts association decided that all of their finals games and presentations had to be cancelled. Obviously, there was mention of the health and wellbeing of all of the members, volunteers and supporters and that the advice had been taken from government health experts and Softball Australia.

As I said, it was indicative of the position that all community sporting clubs and associations have found themselves in due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you, Mr Acting President, mentioned a few minutes ago, it is interesting to reflect on the fact that only a few months ago all of us in this place would go to lots of different events like that, and at the moment we are not able to, and people are not able to participate in those things.

I would note, however, that the Gawler and Districts Softball Association did go ahead subsequently with a virtual presentation night. While it obviously would not have been the same as the way they would normally celebrate, they certainly did their best.

I do want to commend that organisation on its development of young leaders. I think through the championships we saw through all the teams that, while there are some people there who have been involved in softball right through the very long time that I have—nearly 40 years—we are seeing the development of people coming through the system, not only developing skills within the sport of softball but beyond that.

I think that is something to be commended in terms of that association, the clubs and all the other groups that were involved in that event. It was the first time that Gawler and Districts had hosted that state junior championships since the early 2000s. The event was a great credit to the association in the way they organised it. I remain very proud to be associated with them as patron and their former—their inaugural—chairman.

### CORONAVIRUS

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (15:38):** The current coronavirus pandemic is posing enormous challenges to our society and our economy. Our disrupted lives and those of our friends, families, neighbours and pretty well everyone else, both here and overseas, are never far from our thoughts. Reports of the virus and its impacts are certainly dominating the media and are now virtual water-cooler or front-bar conversations, and the news over the past few months has been bad most places that you look. But I want today to reflect on some of the more positive signs that are coming out of the current coronavirus pandemic.

One of our country's strengths is our resilience and our ability to support one another, especially during hard times. The way that we supported our farmers through the drought and we pulled together in the face of the bushfires, the way that we cared for the injured wildlife that were

lucky enough to survive them, these are the things that Australians do. We care for each other and we show courage in the face of adversity.

On the back of the coronavirus, life as we know it is changing daily, but I have great confidence that Australians will face it together and, as we have done before, we will support one another through these hard times. As well as what we are doing to help each other, I am also excited about what people are thinking. In particular, more of us are thinking about what kind of world we want after the current crisis has abated. Certainly, some people are just looking to get back to how things were before but others are anticipating and working for a better future, one that is based on fundamental human values and not driven by artificially constructed notions of what the economy is and how it should work.

What is driving this thinking is that, during times of crisis like this, the cracks in our current system are readily highlighted. Basic inequalities and the way we treat our most vulnerable are being exposed like never before. What has now become obvious to all is that the stronger our public institutions and services are, the better placed we are to deal with this crisis. Cooperation and compassion, rather than business as usual, is what will get us through this and what we need to foster once the initial crisis has passed.

In a recent article, George Monbiot pointed out that, 'All over the world, communities have mobilised where governments have failed.' From my perspective, seeing communities taking action in these ways is really heartening. It shows that people everywhere are ready and willing to embrace positive change. In Australia, this crisis has shown us that the systems put in place to govern our lives can be quickly changed by those that we elect for our collective wellbeing. We can deliver new hospital beds and hire enough people to care for us. We can provide free child care, we can stop landlords evicting tenants and we can tell the banks that they are not the number one priority.

In this time of heightened awareness and cooperation, we not only have our eyes wide open to the flaws in our current system, we have a great opportunity to rewrite the rules to fix what is broken and create the type of Australia we want for our future, not just temporary bandages to get us through this immediate crisis. So that begs the question: what will happen when restrictions ease? Will the government halve the unemployment benefit back to its original level? Will the 400 Adelaide rough sleepers being housed in hotels and motels be pushed back onto the streets when the risk of the virus has passed? I certainly hope not, and most members would agree. We will do what we can to make sure that that does not happen.

There are many other areas where we can take current emergency measures and ensure that they do continue into the future, and this will ultimately benefit us all. But it is not just keeping the emergency measures going, we also have the chance to reimagine every aspect of society, whether it is health or housing, the protection of the environment, our relations with other nations or anything else that we like to consider. Perhaps those multinational corporations that have been avoiding paying their fair share of tax, or in fact any tax at all, can finally be brought to heel. It is certainly possible, if there is political will, and a key driver of political will is public opinion and community action.

Let's use this time to reflect and share ideas about the type of society we would like to see emerge from this crisis. The time is right and people are ready. They are thinking about the future and they have seen what can be done with political will and what we can do when we work together for our shared future.

### NEIGHBOUR DAY

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (15:43):** Neighbour Day this year was on 29 March and the theme was social connection. It might seem a little ironic, given the circumstances that we have found ourselves in. I want to speak today about my local community throughout the Limestone Coast and how they are working together, being good neighbours and rising to the challenges that COVID-19 presents. Three months ago, the term social distancing was virtually unknown in Australia, but now social distancing, self-isolating and quarantine are regular parts of our everyday language. Yet, despite these restrictions on face-to-face contact, so many people are showing that they are good neighbours—supportive, caring and helpful.

A couple of weeks ago I went to my door after seeing someone approach the door and then go back into their car that was parked out the front. The young woman had left a small laminated message as a doorhanger and was delivering them to households throughout Port MacDonnell. The message on the card was, 'While these times are uncertain and tough, I'd like to pass this on to you. A handmade card to read if you're sad and you feel like you've had enough!' On the reverse it said, 'An invisible hug' and had some sprigs of greenery and some gentle and cheerful colours. I want to commend this anonymous neighbour and thank her. I want to thank her for caring about the people in our community and making the effort to create something individual and to take the time to hand deliver them around our township.

Our local library and community centre has also quickly adapted so it can continue to provide services to our local community. Usually led by the wonderful Eve Carlin, who I think is in isolation at the moment, the centre has quickly made changes so that local residents are not feeling unable to access the sorts of resources they need, particularly in a time of isolation. We can now click and collect, or phone and collect, books and DVDs and audiobooks. The library at Port MacDonnell is also an agency for several banks, Centrelink and other government agencies. I want to thank Sharyn, Zoe, Angela and Georgia for being so welcoming and happy to help when people come in, stand two metres away and go in and out one at a time.

Local government throughout the Limestone Coast has also offered assistance for our community in many ways. My local council, the Grant district council, has actively promoted information about local businesses that remain open and need to be supported. These include the wonderful Periwinkles, open for takeaway only at the moment, as well as the Breakwater Cafe and the Parade Fish Shop, among a number of others.

Our local council has also established a business liaison team to help local businesses to access government support and develop flexible rates hardship arrangements, and a number of other initiatives. I encourage all our local councils, including Mount Gambier, Wattle Range and the District Council of Grant, to work with and lobby the state government because we want to ensure that our region gets its fair share of the local government stimulus package announced previously by the Premier.

I would also like to commend Josh Lynagh, who runs the very popular Limestone Coast community news Facebook page. This has been a really good resource and source of information for local residents throughout this difficult time. I think it is fair to say that, at a time like this when people must stay home so much, having a forum in which local residents can interact and share information is absolutely invaluable, so thank you, Josh.

Josh is also involved in the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Advisory Council, and I want to congratulate them for their initiative to create the COVID Kindness neighbourhood card, with the message, 'Let's make kindness go viral'. They distributed these cards which encourage residents to leave at their neighbours' doors information on how they can contact their neighbour and offers of help in whichever way is needed. My staff and I have also made hundreds of calls to the Limestone Coast, checking on residents' wellbeing and offering assistance and COVID-19 information if needed.

For many elderly people in particular, this has been an especially difficult time. Being forced to remain isolated is hard for everyone, but particularly for those who might get most of their social interaction by going down to the shops or some other activity which is now restricted. Receiving a neighbourhood card or a phone call just asking how they are going and having an opportunity to chat lets them know that they are not alone. The community and their neighbours are there for each other, a worthy purpose of Neighbour Day.

## CORONAVIRUS

**The Hon. J.S. LEE (15:48):** Today marks day number 96 from when the first case of coronavirus landed in Australia. A month ago, new cases of coronavirus were growing at a rate of more than 20 per cent a day. For more than 10 days now, the rate has fallen to less than 1 per cent a day in Australia. It is particularly comforting to know that yesterday, 28 April 2020, South Australia again achieved zero new cases, which is a new record of no new cases for six consecutive days.

Sadly, across the world we have seen how deadly and how quickly the coronavirus has spread and the devastating health and economic impact caused by the coronavirus pandemic so far. For example, in the United Kingdom over 21,000 people have died. This is nearly 100,000 times our death rate per capita. In countries like Spain, France, Italy and in some states of the United States of America the devastation has been even worse.

Australia's actions, including travel bans, quarantines, restrictions on gatherings, social distancing and comprehensive testing as well as contact tracing, have made a real difference in how Australia and South Australia is managing the COVID-19 public health emergency. We must continue to suppress the virus whilst planning our road to recovery, and I remind members that if they have not yet downloaded the COVIDSafe app it is time to do so.

I rise today to say a big thank you to everyone in South Australia; the cooperation and diligence of the whole community of South Australia has been amazing. Thank you to everyone who is following the government's COVID-19 measures and at the same time reaching out and supporting others in need during this most challenging time. It is by working together that we are all keeping our community safe and strong in South Australia.

I would like to place on the public record my heartfelt thanks for the incredible work of our front-line professionals. Doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals and emergency services teams at SA Health, SAPOL and SA Pathology have dedicated their services to emergency front lines every day, working around the clock to safeguard the wellbeing of everyone and protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. South Australia is leading the nation in successfully flattening the curve of this highly infectious disease because we have some of the very best, world-class health and emergency services heroes in Australia.

Former UK Prime Minister David Cameron once said, 'The real test of being a prime minister or a president or a cabinet minister is how you respond to the difficult crises that are put in front of you.' The coronavirus pandemic that our country is facing is arguably the worst crisis in the modern history of Australia, and this public health emergency has certainly placed Prime Minister Morrison and his cabinet ministers in the position of facing their biggest test in government. Similarly, the same challenge has also been imposed on the Premier of South Australia and our government ministers in response to COVID-19.

The federal Morrison government has demonstrated outstanding leadership in managing the coronavirus pandemic for Australia, and we are incredibly lucky to be in South Australia because of the exceptional leadership of the Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall, together with the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade, and the entire Liberal government team in managing the coronavirus emergency plans for South Australia.

The goals of the Marshall government have been very clear from day one: flatten the coronavirus curve as low as possible and keep the supply of high-level hospital beds above the demand curve of patients, compile the medical hardware and appropriate workforce that is required to achieve the best health outcomes, examine real-time data and reconcile it against predictions, and benchmark the state's COVID-19 response against comparable peers across Australia and seek to better them.

The strong leadership and meticulous emergency plans by this government have delivered an excellent outcome in terms of COVID-19. It is our plan to continue to keep South Australians safe, calm and strong during this extremely difficult and challenging time.

#### *Motions*

### **GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS**

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (15:54):** On behalf of and at the request of my colleague the Hon. Tammy Franks, I move:

That the regulations made under the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004 concerning Designation of Area, No. 3, made on 5 March 2020 and laid on the table of this council on 8 April 2020, be disallowed.

This is the third time this council has considered an identical motion. The issues have been canvassed many times before. The issues fall into two categories: there is the merits or otherwise of

genetically modified crops and then there is the issue that has convinced this council on the previous two occasions to disallow these regulations, and that is that the use of regulations to make such a fundamental shift, as should properly be done by legislation, is inappropriate and therefore we have seen even people who might be sympathetic to the government's agenda supporting the disallowance motion.

From my conversations with colleagues, I expect that the result will be exactly the same today. The issue of the moratorium on the growing of GM crops should properly be dealt with by the parliament with a bill. We know that from yesterday a bill has passed the lower house and we will be getting that bill shortly, and that is the appropriate mechanism to deal with whether or not the moratorium should be lifted and under what circumstances. These regulations are an inappropriate use of executive power. I have said before that I think they display an arrogance and a contempt for the legislative process, and my understanding is that the numbers today are the same as they have been in the past.

There are four speakers. I will not say any more now but I reserve the right in summing-up. If any of those speakers say anything which I believe needs to be addressed I might say a few more words then but otherwise I commend the motion to the chamber.

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (15:56):** As the Hon. Mr Parnell has said, this is the third time we have dealt with this issue in terms of whether the moratorium on genetically modified crops should be lifted through regulation. The opposition has always wanted to ensure that the parliamentary process is thorough and that the issue should rightly be addressed through legislation and not through regulation.

As has been mentioned, a bill will be coming up from the other place and that is where I will have the opportunity to speak more about the issue of GM itself. However, for the purposes of this motion, we are supporting it which will ensure that the regulations are not approved because the process is that it should be done through legislation and not through regulation.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:57):** I will be brief—

**An honourable member:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** But I will not be in my summing-up when I present my bill. I will briefly say that we wholeheartedly support this motion for the same reasons that we did previously. It is almost beginning to sound like groundhog day because it is the third occasion that we are doing this. I would imagine that after the disallowance today the minister in the other place will probably again regulate for the GM crops.

Our opposition is not about whether we support or do not support GM crops. As the Hon. Mark Parnell and the Hon. Clare Scriven have pointed out, it is all about proper parliamentary process, and that is as simple as it is. With that, I will commend this motion to the chamber and I will have more to say about GM later.

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:58):** For the reasons so articulately outlined by other members, I indicate again on behalf of SA-Best that we strongly support the motion.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (15:58):** I rise on behalf of the government to make a few comments in relation to the notice of motion given by the Hon. Tammy Franks but moved, with her consent, by her colleague the Hon. Mark Parnell to disallow the regulations.

This is the third time and it has meant, of course, that these actions have denied South Australian farmers the opportunity to plant GM canola this year. As we know, we had good rain about a fortnight ago and it is raining outside today. It was the traditional ANZAC Day break in the season that everybody dreams of getting. The average date for a break in the season is about 15 May, so that when it comes on ANZAC Day it is three weeks ahead of time and presents a really good opportunity to grow some great crops, and I hope our farmers get to do that.

It is a shame that all of these actions have meant that it will be 2021 before our South Australian farmers will get a chance to get access to GM canola, which is the only crop we are currently talking about. I will correct the Hon. Mr Pangallo: we have a bill that has passed the House

of Assembly that will be on our *Notice Paper* in the next couple of weeks, so I will be surprised if the minister does bring regulations back in to have them disallowed again when he has a new bill that now enjoys the support of the Australian Labor Party. We will be grateful for their support as it comes through this chamber in the next couple of weeks. However, with this one, I indicate we will not be supporting the Greens' disallowance motion.

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:00):** As I alluded to before, I reserve the right to correct egregious errors of fact or mistakes, but the Hon. David Ridgway has been more temperate than normal, so I do not feel any great need to add any further information. The majority of the members of this chamber have made their views clear: they do not believe that regulations are the appropriate vehicle to achieve what the government wants to do, so I am confident that, when this is put to a vote very shortly, these regulations will be disallowed.

Motion carried.

### INTERNATIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES DAYS

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (16:02):** At the request of and on behalf of the Hon. S.G. Wade, I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the World Health Organization declaring 2020 the 'Year of the Nurse and the Midwife';
2. Recognises both International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife;
3. Recognises the courage, hard work and compassion of nurses and midwives in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
4. Thanks nurses and midwives for their outstanding service in hospitals, homes and the community to protect and maintain the health and wellbeing of all South Australians, year in year out and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I speak today to introduce this motion in the Hon. Stephen Wade's name. The Marshall Liberal government supports the celebration of the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife as an opportunity to recognise the contribution that nurses and midwives make to healthcare settings within South Australia and across the world.

The year 2020 has been designated by the World Health Organization as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife in recognition of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale is recognised universally as the founder of modern nursing. She was the caring lady with the lamp. She was also an extraordinary administrator, educator and researcher. Her contribution moved nursing to a profession, characterised by evidence-based practice and increased autonomy.

She influenced nurses and midwives across the globe to lead and shape healthcare delivery and health policy, leading to better health for all. Her pioneering work about the fundamentals of care, including sanitation and hygiene, remain embedded in public health principles today. These fundamentals are more important than ever as we respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic, with personal hygiene and good cough etiquette and social distancing the bedrock of the global response.

As we honour and celebrate Florence Nightingale's legacy, the global community celebrate, engage and empower nurses and midwives as the torchbearers of her legacy. International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on 12 May to coincide with the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. The theme for this year is 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead—Nursing the World to Health'. International Day of the Midwife is held each year on 5 May, with this year's theme being 'Midwives with Women: Celebrate, Demonstrate, Mobilise, Unite'.

Across the world we are seeing the spirit of nursing and midwifery shine bright in the biggest public health crisis in living memory, with nurses and midwives demonstrating courage, hard work and compassion in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In South Australia, nurses and midwives are strongly stepping up. More than 400 nurses and midwives throughout South Australia's public hospitals have now completed training to upskill in readiness for a COVID-19 surge, particularly in critical care nursing. This extra training for staff at

the front line of the COVID-19 response is part of the state Liberal government's strong plan to prepare the South Australian health system for all scenarios.

The skills and training undertaken by these front-line staff will both bolster our ability to respond to the COVID-19 threat and increase the knowledge and skill set of hundreds of nurses and midwives beyond the pandemic. Up to 100 nurses and midwives have also been demonstrating the broad skill base and versatility of their professions by taking on vital roles outside the traditional hospital system during the pandemic, including airport screening, contact tracing, repatriation of international travellers, managing the safe distribution of PPE and providing out-of-hospital support services.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing has developed a five-day accelerated intensive and critical care program to supplement and complement local health network strategies. It is excellent to see that nurses and midwives in SA have embraced the opportunity to undertake extra training for COVID-19, including more than 1,200 who have enrolled in the commonwealth-funded high dependency critical care online course. For anyone yet to enrol, there are still more than 500 funded additional places available.

Another 300 courses have been made available for nurses and midwives throughout the private hospital system, providing a strong boost to the state's capacity to provide high-level care amid the pandemic. Our Country Health rural support service has also developed a COVID-19 acute care course to prepare rural nursing and medical staff for triaging, assessing and managing suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. They have made this an open resource for the benefit of country GPs.

Every minute, every shift, every day, nurses and midwives make a real difference in our community. Nurses and midwives are there when life begins and there when it ends. There are few professions that have that privilege but also carry with them such immense responsibility. Nurses and midwives provide a unique and vital contribution to the promotion and support of good health, prevention of illness and management of illness within our health services and communities.

South Australian nurses and midwives are integral to supporting our communities through their dedication, compassion and commitment to ensuring best care for all. Health for all means not just the availability of health services, but bringing a holistic state of physical and mental health that enables a person to lead a socially and economically productive life. With a core role as a patient advocate, scientific reasoning skills and a spectrum of care across the lifespan, nurses are ideally placed to lead and inform decision-making within health services as we work towards health for all. Nurses are the people whom we depend on at some of the toughest times we experience in our lives.

It is significant in highlighting the magnificent work that midwives do that the key is ensuring that women and babies in their care have a positive birth experience. Midwives play a critical role in promoting healthy mothers and ensuring women and babies safely navigate pregnancy and birth. These interactions lay the foundation for the continued health and wellbeing of both beyond childbirth. Midwives also have an important role in health counselling and education, not only for the women but also within the families and the communities.

Once again, this year, we want to pause and pay tribute to South Australian nurse Kirsty Boden, the recipient of the Australian Bravery Decorations Bravery Medal, the Queen's Commendation for Bravery and the Red Cross Florence Nightingale Medal. In the 2017 London Bridge terrorist attack, Kirsty without hesitation ran into danger, offering her nursing expertise and qualities to save others. Kirsty's courage, dedication and her strong will to care for the injured as a nurse and as a caring person will always be remembered.

The Marshall Liberal government is committed to working closely with nurses and midwives to rebuild our health system and to ensure equitable quality access to health care for the community and the people in South Australia. The Marshall Liberal government wants to thank all South Australian nurses and midwives for their outstanding service in hospitals, homes and the community to protect and maintain the health and wellbeing of all South Australians, year in year out and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our nurses and midwives demonstrate leadership, innovation, advocacy and humanity that make a difference to the lives of South Australian communities every day and particularly in these challenging times. I commend the motion to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon D.G.E. Hood.

**SHANAHAN, CHIEF SUPT JOANNE AND MCNEILL, MS TANIA**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:10):** I move:

That this council—

1. Expresses its deep regret over the tragic death of pioneering South Australian police officer, Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan, and St Peters woman, Tania McNeill, in a tragic road accident on Saturday 25 April 2020;
2. Acknowledges the exemplary service, commitment, dedication and outstanding contribution Chief Superintendent Shanahan made to the South Australian community through her highly distinguished and decorated career in the South Australian police force, spanning four decades;
3. Expresses its appreciation for Chief Superintendent Shanahan's pioneering role in working with domestic violence support agencies to make the lives of hundreds of women and their children safer;
4. Acknowledges Chief Superintendent Shanahan's leadership role in SAPOL's response to the coronavirus pandemic; and
5. Recognises the outstanding contribution Chief Superintendent Shanahan made to the SA Greek community, where she was highly regarded and respected.

I rise to speak on the motion in my name to express my deep regret over the tragic death of pioneering South Australian police officer, Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan, and St Peters wife, mother and businesswoman, Tania McNeill, in a tragic road accident on Saturday 25 April 2020. From the outset, I offer my condolences to both their families. They were loving and devoted wives, mothers and daughters and will be so sadly missed by their loved ones.

Our community is a much poorer place today following the loss of these two much-loved and respected women, and I doubt my following words will do justice to the exemplary service, commitment, dedication and outstanding contribution that Joanne made to the South Australian community throughout her distinguished and decorated career in the South Australian police force, spanning nearly 40 years. Specifically, her pioneering role in working with domestic violence support agencies has had a profound effect on the lives of hundreds and possibly thousands of vulnerable women and their children by making them safer.

The much-loved daughter of proud Greek immigrants, Mr and Mrs Panayiotou, Joanne has left such an immeasurable and indelible mark on so many lives it's hard to fathom—and perhaps we never will. Not many of us have had such an impact. In 2002, Joanne was promoted to the rank of inspector and worked as a manager and leader in several units with a particular focus on domestic violence. She was eventually appointed the inaugural officer in charge of the Family and Domestic Violence Branch, and last year was awarded the Australian Police Medal. Most recently, Chief Superintendent Shanahan had played a leadership role in the police response to coronavirus. It was a lifetime of community service and dedication that started in 1981 when Joanne commenced her career with SAPOL.

In 2002, she was promoted to the rank of inspector and worked as a manager and leader in several units, including officer in charge of the Elizabeth CIB. It was during this time she led the horrific investigation into the state's largest criminal neglect and child abuse matter that became known as 'the house of horrors' case. In 2013, she was integral to the development of the Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS), leading the cross-government project team from concept stage to implementation in 2014 when she was appointed as the inaugural officer in charge of the Family and Domestic Violence Branch. Her close police colleagues say this period of her career was arguably her greatest achievement during her distinguished police career and that she was so incredibly proud of the impact her team had on so many lives during that time.

Most recently, Joanne has played a leadership role in the police response to coronavirus. She was only the third woman to be appointed chief superintendent in SAPOL and also served as acting assistant commissioner. Joanne was a trailblazer anyway you look at it—something that was recognised last year when she was awarded the Australian Police Medal. The outpouring of grief following her tragic death has been palpable.



Police commissioner, Grant Stevens, was so visibly moved when he held a media conference to advise the community of the death of his close colleague and friend. He said of her, and I quote:

Not only have we lost a beautiful person but we've lost an officer with a wealth of knowledge. Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan leaves an overwhelming mark on SAPOL. We've been overwhelmed with the outpouring of grief as a result of Joanne's passing.

The Police Association of SA President, Mark Carroll, was also full of praise for one of the state's finest police officers. Again, I quote:

The SA police community has suffered a crushing loss with the untimely death yesterday of Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan. A major crash on Cross Road, Urrbrae, claimed her life and injured her husband, former sworn member and now general counsel to the Commissioner, Peter Shanahan. Joanne was a highly accomplished police officer who had given more than 38 years' loyal service to policing.

A woman of solid intellect and great application, she had worked in a range of investigational and other fields after beginning her police career in 1981.

Joanne was widely known and respected among Police Association members and enjoyed the recognition of her interstate counterparts.

Her death adds to the pall of grief which already hangs over the Australian police family after the loss of four Victorian officers four days ago.

For many of those who worked with Joanne and/or knew her on a personal level, the pain of losing her, so suddenly and unexpectedly, is certain to be overwhelming.

The Police Association is grateful for the messages of condolence which have come from around the nation.

Interstate police have known not only Joanne through policing but also Peter through his long-time chairmanship of Police Health.

The Police Association is proud to have counted Joanne among its members and is as deeply devastated as her closest friends and colleagues.

Joanne was thoroughly devoted to her family—Peter and their two adult children. The true measure of the value of her presence in their lives will be evident in the decades to come.

It will lie in all the precious family moments of which an unjust death has robbed a close, loving family.

We, of course, extend our greatest sympathy to Peter and the children. But words are of little, if any, value in the face of a loss so profound.

Our aim should be, and is, to provide Peter and the children, and our grieving members, with all the support it is within our power to provide.

'Look after my family' is the simple but heartfelt request Joanne would have made of us, and we will not fail her.

As I have mentioned, Joanne left an indelible mark on so many people through her pioneering police work, particularly in the domestic violence field. Women's Safety Services SA CEO Maria Hagias said of Joanne:

I had the privilege to work alongside Joanne. She was a dear colleague to all of us... she was a leader, a pioneer and a truly beautiful soul.

Through her leadership, South Australia saw many firsts—the Multi Agency Protection Service and she also worked tirelessly to setup the multi-agency hub at Women's Safety Services that I believe is truly a first in the nation where police officers are based in a women's service and together we work on real-time information sharing and developing responses to ensure the safety of women and children in our state.

She lit up the room when she would walk in and it was quite infectious... we have lost an amazing colleague.

The thing I really want people to know about Jo is her compassion.

The work that she did was driven and informed by those people that were affected by violence.

She not only listened—but she heard what they had to say and it was her mission to make South Australia really safe for women and children.

Prominent and well respected anti domestic violence campaigner Arman Abrahamzadeh OAM first met Joanne in 2014, the year before he and his two sisters established the Zahra Foundation in honour of their beloved mother, who was murdered by her estranged violent husband in 2010 when

Joanne was in charge of establishing MAPS. Their friendship and respect for each other grew from there. He too was glowing in his praise of Joanne:

My thoughts and prayers are with Joanne Shanahan's family and loved ones.

My heart aches—especially for her husband, Peter and their two children.

Detective Chief Superintendent Shanahan APM was a highly decorated, committed & passionate policewoman, a loving wife & mother, a loyal friend & work colleague, & a champion for many causes—especially domestic violence.

She was one of a handful of people outside of the domestic violence sector who understood the complexities of family and domestic violence.

If it wasn't for her work, we as a state would not be where we are today in relation to preventing domestic violence tragedies and taking care of our domestic violence survivors.

MAPS is only one of her many professional legacies.

She will be missed but not forgotten. May she RIP.

Those words moved me to tears the first time I read them.

It was not only her police work where she was so well respected and loved. As I mentioned earlier, Joanne was also very highly regarded in the South Australian Greek community and was also very proud of her ancestry. In an interview about her Australia Day award in *The Advertiser* last year, Joanne revealed she did not really speak English until she started attending school. To quote Joanne from that article:

Coming from quite a strict Greek background and going into the police force as a female was quite significant for my family.

They were totally shocked that their daughter wanted to be a police officer. But when I was accepted, they were proud as punch.

I think it is fair to say that from a very young age her parents, Mr and Mrs Panayiotou, recognised that their daughter would indeed do a great deal of good in the police force. But the Greek community was also very proud of Joanne. Bill Gonis, the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, had this to say about Joanne:

Our community is devastated at the tragic loss of one of SAPOL's finest officers in Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan.

Joanne was a wonderful and compassionate person, someone who never forgot her heritage, and who was very proud of her upbringing and loving of all things family, Joanne loved to tell stories of growing up in the early days.

Joanne Shanahan was a friend of the Greek Community and to everyone that knew her; always willing to help and provide guidance, Joanne was likeable and always with a smile on her face.

I think it is worth recapping that Joanne was a beautiful person and a police officer with extensive knowledge. Chief-Supt Joanne Shanahan was only the third woman in the history of the state's police to rise to the rank of chief superintendent and everyone who knew her was proud of her achievements.

I believe a career highlight for Joanne was when she was selected by the Commissioner to travel to the UK and investigate innovative improvements in the way SAPOL supervises domestic violence and child protection matters.

On her return, she developed the Multi-Agency Protection Service—MAPS—an inter-agency information sharing model to manage domestic violence and child protection matters for the whole of South Australia—a legacy for SAPOL that she was honoured with.

At last year's International Women's Day function, hosted by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA (GOCSA), Joanne made two very poignant statements that express and stand out about who Joanne Shanahan was. She said this:

I have been in SAPOL 38 years and it still exciting as when I first joined. I still enjoy coming to work every day.

I was the first Officer in management to have children and still am the only woman in our Executive group with children.

I must say that I have been able to do what I have in my personal life and professional life because of my family and friends, they are important.

It has been my mother, father and husband that have cared for the children when I have been at work, it has been my friends that have inspired me and kept me going when I have failed and it is the same people that I share the great moments with and laugh with. I thank those people.

The second point was:

For me, International Women's Day is about a lot of things—it's about the women before me like my mother and other migrant women who hopped on a boat with no idea what was before them, paving the way for my generation of women and making a better life for our daughters and granddaughters.

The Greek Community of South Australia said:

Joanne put others first. She remembers her upbringing and Greek heritage. The GOCSA will always remember Joanne for who she was. We salute you. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Shanahan and Panayiotou families for their heartbreaking loss of Joanne. Together we grieve with you and the entire South Australia Police family during this most difficult time. May she rest in peace.

I was at the International Women's Day function, hosted by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, humbled and extremely honoured to stand alongside Joanne as an invited speaker at that occasion. We also shared the stage that evening with the Australian actress and writer Elena Carapetis. My husband, John, was with me that night and I vividly recall him saying how immediately engaging Joanne was. We had had a chat with her and her family and, when we reflected on the evening this past weekend, his words were empathetic, a little bit corny, 'She had us all at hello. She was engaging.' He was right, she was engaging and she did have us all at hello.

There is no question that our migrant communities are exceptionally proud when one of their own reaches milestones within the broader Australian community. It is, after all, the reason why our parents and grandparents sacrificed so much to give their children and grandchildren the best of opportunities. That night nothing could have been clearer. Joanne had everybody who was present at Olympic Hall beaming with pride. There was a clear sense of, as her parents would say, 'perifania' (pride) by all, but especially by them, Mr and Mrs Panayiotou.

I know there are undoubtedly many other people in this place who knew Joanne better than I did. Ours were chance encounters at events like the one I just mentioned, but the effect that she had on people was profound and it was always clear. As her son, Nick, said on Monday:

Mum was loved—and she touched so many people's lives—and that's really good because this is what she loved doing.

To her daughter, Eleni, she was indeed the most amazing woman in the world, not just to you and the family that she adored but to so many others who knew her as well. Jo was indeed universally loved.

Being of Greek background myself, yet following completely different paths in life, so many aspects of Joanne's life experiences growing up in a Greek family resonated with me that night and I was so proud that a member of the local South Australian community but also the South Australian Greek community was making such strides and was having such a meaningful impact on the way we live our lives in this state.

In closing, I would like to commend those involved in lighting up some of Adelaide's iconic buildings with blue on Monday evening to honour Joanne's life. I think it was a truly beautiful and fitting gesture. To the family, also, of Mrs McNeill—a wife, daughter, mother and successful businesswoman—I offer my sincerest condolences on behalf of the entire SA-Best team and I am sure everyone else in this place. We know your pain is just as deep and your family is just as broken.

To Joanne's husband, Peter, her children, Nick and Eleni, and her extended family, we are all so very sorry for your loss. To her parents, Kyrie kai Kyria Panayiotou, ta silipitiria mas (our condolences). This state lost two wonderful women last Saturday—ANZAC Day, a day when we pause to remember the service and commitments of others to protect their fellow citizens. May they both rest in peace.

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (16:27):** I rise today to support the motion that has been moved by the Hon. Connie Bonaros and pay my respects and offer my condolences to the families and loved ones of Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan. I know my colleagues in another place, the Leader of the Opposition and member for Croydon, who

is a former police minister, and also the member for Elizabeth, Lee Odenwalder, who is a former member of South Australia Police, have both spoken on this topic in the House of Assembly.

Chief Superintendent Shanahan, along with Tania McNeill for whom I would also like to pay my respects and offer my condolences, was taken from us in a tragic car crash on Saturday afternoon. My thoughts are also with the two other people who were injured in this crash. Chief Superintendent Shanahan was described by police commissioner Grant Stevens, who said:

...she had a passion for helping people and she cared about people—not just for her friends and family—but people she genuinely held concerns for and supported during very difficult times as a police officer.

He also described her as 'one of our finest senior police officers'. Chief Superintendent Shanahan had a 38-year career with South Australia Police, which she held across most of the organisation. She had a particular interest in tackling domestic and family violence. She worked as a manager and a leader in many units and became the officer in charge of a localised service area domestic violence unit. This would eventually evolve into the Multi-Agency Protection Service that does so much critical work to keep people safe.

Chief Superintendent Shanahan was then appointed as the inaugural officer in charge of the Family and Domestic Violence Branch. In 2003, she was awarded Most Outstanding Female Leader at the Australasian Council of Women and Policing Excellence in Policing Awards. In 2019, she received the highest honour award available to a serving member of the Australian Police Force, the Australian Police Medal. The public outpouring of grief and support for Chief Superintendent Shanahan since Saturday has shown just how many lives she has touched, how many lives she has improved and how much she was loved and respected by all who knew her. She will be missed.

It is always hard to lose a family member or friend, but it can be especially hard to do when something is as sudden as a car accident. This tragic event serves as a reminder to all South Australians about the importance of safety on our roads and the need to keep other people's safety in mind, something that the Chief Superintendent did every day,

In closing, I note that South Australia was one of the first places in the world where women were involved in operational policing. In recent years, SAPOL has actively sought to increase the recruitment of women, something that is of great benefit not just to the force but to the wider community. Chief Superintendent Shanahan was a mentor, and will remain an example to the men and women of SAPOL.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G.E. Hood.

*Parliamentary Committees*

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:30):** I move:

That it be an instruction to the Select Committee on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees that its terms of reference be amended by inserting new paragraph IIA as follows:

IIA. That, during the period of any declaration of a major emergency made under section 23 of the Emergency Services Act 2004 or any declaration of a public health emergency made under section 87 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, members of the committee may participate in the proceedings by way of telephone or video conference or other electronic means and shall be deemed to be present and counted for purposes of a quorum, subject to such means of participation remaining effective and not disadvantaging any member.

The purpose of this motion should be straightforward to all members. It is to ensure that we have audio and visual capabilities in order for the select committee to be able to continue its fine work, and I ask all honourable members to support it.

Motion carried.

*Bills***CORONERS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:31):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:32):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill follows on from a bill introduced in the last session of parliament. It introduces a number of simple and practical amendments to the Coroners Act 2003. These reforms are more than overdue; indeed, I have undertaken a veritable archaeological dig to establish the origins of the bill and to formulate a comprehensive suite of reforms, some of which go further than the bill I had previously introduced.

Thus far I have managed to trace the bill's genesis back to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody of 1991 and the tireless advocacy of people like Chris Charles, now retired from the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, the Hon. Ian Gilfillan in 2003, and then coroner Wayne Chivell in 2004. Sandra Kanck and David Winderlich, both Democrat members of the Legislative Council, took up the issue for a time until they left this place.

These reforms, first identified by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody 1991, found coronial reform was key to addressing the high rate of deaths in custody. The Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner subsequently found that an average of 8.5 RCIADIC recommendations were breached in each death in custody. In 2008, the Hon. Justice DeBelle in his judgement in *Saraf and Anor v Johns 2008* suggested that consideration might be given to amend the Coroner's Act along the lines of Victorian legislation.

The bill's more recent parentage has seen the Hon. Vickie Chapman and the Hon. Stephen Wade who, in opposition, made considerable progress passing amendments in both houses that were included as key elements of the bill that I introduced today. These members each invested a great deal of commitment and energy into progressing the bill from 2009 to 2012. I was disappointed to find the bill was eventually negated in October 2012. As far as I can tell, that bill became the forgotten orphan of the Fifty-Third Parliament, but one that I remember well nonetheless.

Until the passing of the Coroner's Undetermined Natural Causes Amendment Bill 2020 in the last sitting of this parliament, brought on by long-term resourcing limitations of the Coroner's Office and Forensic Science SA, I was very surprised that the honourable members now in government have shown no inclination to reintroduce a bill or to make any of the recommended reforms to the act. Neither has the now opposition, which I suppose is less surprising as it did nothing in this area in its 16 years in government. It seems to be doing even less in opposition given the deals it has done with government this week alone.

The government's Coroner's Undetermined Natural Causes Amendment Bill 2020, which alleviates the need for the Coroner to determine the cause of death in specific cases the Coroner might otherwise have been obliged to investigate, has been the first and only very limited attempt by this government to reform the Coroner's Act. As needed as it was, that reform really belonged within a broader suite of reforms included in the private member's bill I am introducing today. It is remarkable but gratifying to me to know the bill I am introducing today to this Second Session of the Fifth-Fourth Parliament has been almost 20 years in the making but has at least been introduced by SA-Best.

We have listened and responded to the calls of the Coroner, the courts, constituents, legal practitioners and families of deceased persons that our Coroner's Act be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I hope the support of the now government, opposition and crossbench is today similarly enlivened and that as the Hon. Stephen Wade requested back in 2009, while in opposition, that we can all work together to pass this bill.

I have respectfully waited for the Supreme Court of South Australia to make its decision in the matter of *Bell v Deputy Coroner of South Australia 2020* to introduce this bill to ensure that it is entirely consistent with those findings, and I am pleased to advise that it is. That matter also highlights the pressing need for this bill to give the Coroner the powers needed and to ensure there is no doubt about those powers. Although SA-Best does not have the resources of the government, and in particular the Attorney-General, we would like to thank in particular the office of parliamentary counsel for their excellent work on this bill.

What does the bill do? Briefly, it clarifies the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Court to identify those involved in an event being investigated where it appears they may have caused or contributed to a death, or require those persons, agencies or organisations to provide information so that the Coroner can assess the accountability or responsibility of that party involved in the event.

The recent chemotherapy bungle helped clarify the current legislation in regard to jurisdiction. However, jurisdiction has been a common ground of challenges run in the courts, including the recent SASC *Bell v Deputy Coroner* case which found that an incident includes the aftermath and that the Coroner can investigate post-incident actions such as reporting. My bill aims to clarify this beyond doubt.

Of course, there is another case, a decision that was reported on some days ago, regarding the death of Mr Wayne Morrison, which has also been the subject of a Supreme Court action in similar terms. It will be important to take into account the consideration of the court in that case throughout our deliberations on this bill. It improves transparency and clarifies the responsibility of the person, agency or organisation to provide information and explanations in regard to the event being investigated by the Coroner. It provides for legal representation for families of the person to whom the Coroner's proceedings relate, with that cost to be met by the Crown. Legal representatives can examine and cross-examine witnesses.

It separates legal professional privilege from privilege against self-incrimination and makes new provisions for the court to issue a certificate, providing indemnity from self-incrimination in certain circumstances. This is certainly one of the key insertions into this bill. If a person refuses to answer a question or produce a document because it would tend to incriminate them for an offence or a civil penalty in a court, if satisfied that the interests of justice require it, the Coroner can require the person to answer or produce a document. That would certainly do away with many of the current legal challenges that have taken place over a number of years regarding the court's jurisdiction.

If the court requires them to self-incriminate directly or indirectly, then the person giving the evidence will be given a certificate of indemnity in respect of that evidence in any proceedings, other than criminal proceedings in respect of giving false evidence, by the court. Then the evidence given, be it information, a document or thing, cannot be used against the person. If the person still refuses to give evidence to the Coroner then they can be in contempt of court.

These provisions, as I said, are to address the current practice of shutting down the Coroner's investigations, often by large groups of public officials refusing to give evidence. Legal professional privilege is protected as usual, which is consistent with the findings in the recent SASC *Bell v Deputy Coroner* case. The bill also contains reforms that the Hon. Stephen Wade vigorously pursued while in opposition but did not achieve.

There have been issues in the past where it was alleged that the Coroner did not have the power to make the findings and recommendations that he did in a matter, which has constrained the Coroner from making findings and recommendations which could contribute to saving lives and preventing avoidable deaths into the future.

The bill, consistent with the one pursued by the Hon. Stephen Wade, seeks to amend the scope of recommendations that the Coroner is permitted to make in relation to an investigation. Thus the Coroner could identify systemic issues, practices, policies or the administration of justice that could be addressed and thereby prevent future deaths—recommendations that could be vital to preventing future deaths and injuries.

This bill will bring the SA Coroners Act in line with all other states and territories in Australia, where the power to investigate issues incidental to a death have existed for many years. The bill before you also improves government accountability, in the same way it was contemplated in the

opposition bill in 2010—a mere 10 years ago. The Coroner can compel a minister to prepare a supplementary report, addressing concerns raised in a Coroner's report. That report would be required to be tabled in both houses of parliament within three months, with the government having to respond within this time frame, which is also consistent with the practices adopted in other jurisdictions.

The bill supports giving the Coroners Court the powers it needs to ensure early and decisive action to support systems, and improvements to reduce injuries, save lives and prevent future deaths in similar circumstances. I do not know what part of that we would not want to address. On that point, we task the Coroners Court with some of the most important work in our judicial system: investigating the death of our loved ones. Yet successive governments continue to grossly underfund the Coroners Court to the extent that it virtually runs on a shoestring budget.

More disturbing is the fact that many of its recommendations are virtually ignored by the lawmakers of this state. I, for one, believe that is not good enough, but I will leave that argument for another day and go back to the purpose of the bill itself. As the many families and friends who have had the deaths of a loved one investigated by the Coroner have told me over the years, they just want to know what really happened.

I have been involved in more coronial inquests than I care to think about or count, and I know the toll that these inquests take on families. It is absolutely heart-wrenching and, just as crucially, they want to ensure the same tragedy does not happen to anyone else and that no other family has to suffer as they have suffered.

I have every confidence that, having been pursued and supported by then opposition, now government, and previous government, now opposition, and my Greens colleagues on the crossbench in 2009, we can surely collaborate in 2020 to bring our South Australian Coroner's Act into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and into line with other Australian jurisdictions. With those words, I commend this bill to the council.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.E. Hanson.

## **ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:46):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:47):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure once again to introduce on behalf of SA-Best the Assisted Reproductive Treatment (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2020. The effect of the bill will be to legislate recommendations made by Deakin University health law expert Associate Professor Sonia Allan OAM in her independent review of the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988, as tabled by the former Labor government on 29 November 2017.

One of the main recommendations of that review, as I am sure all members will now know, was for the establishment of a donor conception register. I am extremely proud to say that the donor conception register provisions were implemented as part of amendments that I moved to section 15 of the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988, which were legislated in the government's Surrogacy Act in November of last year.

This was a significant step in the right direction for the preservation of donor records in South Australia. That register will hold both identifying and non-identifying information of parties to donor conception treatment in South Australia. As we know, there is a requirement that it be established within two years from the passage of that legislation. While I applaud the apparent commitment of this government and the former Labor government to the plight of donor-conceived people and donors and their families in this state, there are of course a number of review

recommendations that are yet to be legislated. I introduce this bill on behalf of the many South Australians who remain in search of a missing piece to a puzzle.

There are hundreds of boxes of puzzle pieces sitting in various locations in South Australia that need to be preserved. Donor-conceived people, donors and their descendants should at least retain the possibility of accessing valuable information in the future because without preservation an important piece of their personal puzzle may be lost forever.

The amendments are not a new concept. It is entirely appropriate that we implement the recommendations of the review, especially given that we have passed those measures aimed at establishing a register in this jurisdiction. As I have said before on the record, the amendments do not seek to legislate for the release of confidential information. That is a separate but more contentious issue and it is one that can be dealt with separately to the framework necessary for this model. Section 18 of the ART Act provides:

- A person must not disclose the identity of a donor of human reproductive material except—
- (aa) as required or authorised by or under this or any other Act; or
  - (a) in the administration of this Act; or
  - (b) in order to provide assisted reproductive treatment; or
  - (c) with the consent of the donor of the material.

This is not a question of revealing the confidential information of anonymous donors or recipients, so this is not a question of removing the rights of anonymous donors. The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) ethical guidelines on the use of assisted reproductive technology in clinical practice and research suggests that:

Clinics have a duty of care to all parties, especially to the persons born, to ensure that there is appropriate maintenance of records and data.

Consent can be presumed for donations of reproductive material since 2004 pursuant to the ethical guidelines of the NHMRC. Modern clinics must adhere to these guidelines. From all accounts, modern records have been sufficiently preserved in this state. Future access to identifying information is now presumed by donors and donor recipients at the time of donation and conception.

As I have said before, there are still thousands of historical donor records in South Australia requiring immediate preservation that are not covered by the current legislative regime. They exist in various locations in Adelaide and they hold the key to the genetic history of thousands of donor-conceived people and their donors.

Unfortunately, infertility, as we know, was shrouded with shame in the past and some donor records were deliberately destroyed. However, some records do exist. Some are in filing boxes, some are on Excel spreadsheets, some are scribbled in diaries or on random pieces of paper. It is important—indeed, it is imperative—to preserve them now. What we do with them in the future is for another day or, indeed, for the government of the day.

Why are the records so important? I think that speaks for itself. One of the first questions we are inevitably asked by a medical professional these days concerns our family history: 'Do you have a family history of cancer? Is there a history in your family of heart disease? Is there a history in your family of diabetes?' It is an important piece of the puzzle for any person to be able to identify potential genetic conditions or risk factors, and it is often at the forefront of a person's mind when they have their own children: 'Are there any genetic conditions I may be passing onto my child?'

The genes we are born with may increase our risk of developing certain diseases. A hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome is characterised by a high inherited risk of those cancers. People with knowledge of this syndrome can take steps for themselves and their children to minimise the risk of developing these cancers through stringent monitoring, or other steps.

A genetic link has been found with colorectal and prostate cancer, amongst many other diseases. Heart disease, high blood pressure, Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, diabetes, cancer and obesity are all examples of multifactorial inheritance disorders proven to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.



Donor medical history is an extremely important blueprint for their offspring and, indeed, all their descendants. If you do not know who one of your parents is—whose DNA you possess—then you are left in limbo. You are left with questions. To at least have hope that someday some of those questions may be answered is what this bill attempts to do in part.

Though DNA was discovered in 1869, it has truly not been understood until recent times. The role genetics play in our present and future has only somewhat been uncovered, and as we continue to make medical advances they will become more and more important.

When many donor recipients were conceived in the early years of sperm donation our scientific and medical knowledge was less developed, and inheritable conditions were not necessarily thought of. At the time, little thought was given to just how important those records could be. Little consideration was given to the impact of the anonymity of a donor on the donor-conceived person. It is true that donors were anonymous, and this bill does not seek to legislate for people who wish to continue that anonymity to receive unwanted contact. In the event that this did eventuate one day, there would be an opt out clause for no contact.

There are many heartbreaking stories of donor-conceived people being denied access to family medical history, none more so than Narelle Grech. Narelle was a Victorian donor-conceived woman who passed away from bowel cancer in 2013 at the age of 30. Her submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in 2011 told of her 15-year search for answers:

I was diagnosed with Stage 4 bowel cancer following an emergency surgery...The first thing the doctors and surgeons asked me was: is there any family history of cancer in your family?...I am sure there was no family history of illness at the time that [the donor] donated but who is to say he simply didn't know...What if he or someone else has developed cancer since? What if he died from cancer himself?...What if my eight half-siblings are at risk of cancer? What if there are children whose aunty has bowel cancer? It's really quite important that they should know this if they are at risk. It's believed that in most cases where a person is diagnosed with bowel cancer under the age of 30 there is a genetic link.

As more time passes and medical research and developments improve even more, the importance of the medical history of donors will no doubt become even higher.

It is, of course, not just the person's vital medical history that these important records have the potential to uncover. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century German-American psychologist Erik Erikson famously said, 'In the social jungle of human existence, there is no feeling of being alive without a sense of identity.'

As we have heard in this place before many, many times, many donor-conceived people struggle with their sense of identity or lack thereof. They often wonder if they have similar physical, temperamental and behavioural traits as their donor parent or their donor siblings. Most people look in the mirror and see the eye, hair or skin colour of a parent. Sometimes you recognise the height of a grandparent or that your walk is the same as your sibling's. Sometimes it is a random or quirky thing.

But a donor-conceived person, a person conceived perhaps 20 or 30 years ago, who has so many unanswered questions does not have that. In fact, as one donor-conceived person put it to me, it is like knowing only half of yourself. It is cruel to deny a person the opportunity to, at some time in the future, answer some of the questions they have. The yearning for answers is an extraordinarily difficult thing to live with and I think something that we all take for granted.

Donor-conceived people must be reminded of their missing piece of the puzzle in many areas of their life on a daily basis. What field do they work in? Do we like the same foods? Do I have any half-siblings? Do we look the same? Do we share the same physical and personality traits? It is like an unfinished dot-to-dot picture that is someone's life. Aside from the issue of the preservation of historical donor records, the bill also seeks to implement further yet-to-be-legislated recommendations of the review. Recommendation 16 reads:

The Minister should amend the statement of principle concerning the paramountcy of the welfare of the child within the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988 (SA) to include the wording that both the health and welfare of the child born as a result of A.R.T. is paramount.

Commonly known as the paramountcy of the welfare of the child principle, section 4A of the current act provides that:

The welfare of any child to be born as a consequence of the provision of assisted reproductive treatment in accordance with this Act must be treated as being of paramount importance, and accepted as a fundamental principle, in respect of the operation of this Act.

Parliament has recognised the interests of the child born as a result of ART must be placed above all others. The review recommended the paramountcy principle be strengthened to include the health of the child, specifically:

The current statement of principles does not explicitly include reference to health outcomes for the child.

In 1948, the World Health Organization defined health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity'. Health encompasses the screening of donors, including their embryos and sperm, for heritable diseases, disorders and illnesses. It also recognises the need for research into long-term health outcomes of donor-conceived people. They overlap to some degree yet are a unique enough to both be required if the interests of the child are to be paramount as parliament intended. For those reasons, section 4A of the act should read:

The health and welfare of any child to be born as a consequence of this provision of assisted reproductive treatment in accordance with this Act must be treated as being of paramount importance, and accepted as a fundamental principle in respect of the operation of this Act.

I have a little bit more to go. I am placing this on the record again to save members the effort of having to go over previous *Hansard* records to refresh their memories as to why this legislation is so important. I do so because I have given a commitment to the families that I have spoken to over some time now and to those people who work in this industry that I will continue to do this until we get some change in this area.

On that front, the bill also seeks to provide the option of listing 'donor' as a child's father on their birth certificate, as recommended by the review. For a parent to have the option of listing that the genetic father of their child is a donor, rather than an unknown person, recognises that their child was not just fathered randomly. It is recognition that the birth of their child was a conscious choice. It also arms that child with information that they may well investigate further themselves by accessing the donor conception register. As I have previously mentioned, the bill seeks to preserve those records for these precise reasons. Recommendation 21 of the report reads:

The Minister should pass legislation prohibiting the destruction of any record that relates to donor conception, and the donation of gametes and/or embryos, as a matter of priority.

Despite this recommendation, and the other recommendations I speak of, being tabled in 2017, legislation has not been passed in this jurisdiction to implement them. The insertion of clause 16A reads:

A person in possession of a record or document relating to the provision of assisted reproductive treatment (other than a record or document to which section 16 applies) must ensure that the record or document is retained in accordance with any requirement set out in the regulations.

There is a maximum \$50,000 applicable penalty. That provision will apply in relation to a record or document whether created before or after the commencement of this section. In that regard, it is retrospective in terms of the documents it applies to.

There are currently four registered clinics in South Australia, but only two of these existed prior to 2010, namely Repromed and its predecessors and Flinders Fertility. Though the register has not yet been established, clause 16A is most relevant to the two historical clinics with the most compromised record keeping. Repromed has changed owners and locations on a number of occasions over the years. Records are spread over three locations that we currently know of: The QEH, with records between the 1960s to 1987; the University of Adelaide, from 1987 to 2006; and the current owners of Adelaide Fertility Centre, from 2006 onwards.

There are 400 archive boxes stored by the state on behalf of The QEH. Thirty random additional boxes of records were discovered just prior to the review of 2017. Extensive sorting of their random contents will at some stage need to be undertaken to adequately decipher their contents and link data codes. As Repromed is now a shell company and no longer provides assisted reproductive treatment services, it is not bound by the NHMRC ethical guidelines. The University of Adelaide thankfully does, at this stage, continue to store pertinent information, including 895 entries of birth

outcomes on spreadsheets, 156 different codes, 92 entries of egg recipients that resulted in 97 births, as well as nine entries of embryo recipients that resulted in 10 births with donor details also entered.

I am going into a great deal of detail here because there are professionals and individuals all around this jurisdiction who are doing this daily, going into this level of detail in an effort to ensure that the material that I am proposing be preserved here be preserved in an appropriate manner. Right now, all they have is their goodwill. They have no legislative framework for what they are attempting to do. It is just their hard work that is managing to keep these records from being destroyed, and so I think it is extremely important that we recognise those facts.

The University of Adelaide, as the previous owner of the shell company that once owned Repromed, also holds hard copies of patient files, including 67 possible sperm donor files—that is also 67 possible donor-conceived children. There are photocopied pages from a diary with names and codes, which may be the names of donors. Twenty-three donors and contact details are also listed. It is very valuable historical information that is being held randomly in an ad hoc manner across the state.

Some past records of Flinders Fertility have apparently been destroyed. There are some still available but pre-1988 records are less likely to have been retained as there was no legal requirement to do so. The state of historical donor record keeping has understandably left those seeking answers confused, distressed and extraordinarily tired. Some are traumatised that their records may have been destroyed, some are hopeful they may have been retained. Some have told me personally that they have physically sat across a desk with a person looking at a computer screen who has been able to access their codes or their data and has not been able to tell them anything about that data.

The 2017 review received many heartfelt submissions from donor-conceived people, donors and families. I have put some of those on the record previously. I have previously spoken in this place of Damian and Tiffany, and if anyone was present when Damian and Tiffany spoke at the forum that I co-hosted last year with the shadow minister for health and wellbeing, you could not help but be brought to tears by their stories.

I think the only silver lining, if you like, at that time was that in those days and subsequent to that passage of the surrogacy legislation, Damian met his biological father for the first time in his life. That was a moment that he had been fighting for for some 30 years and so it was quite timely in the sense that we had just passed for the implementation of that register. The hope, of course, is that at some point all historical records can be entered into the newly established Donor Conception Register, but in the meantime, as I have said, there are thousands of records sitting all over the place that need to be preserved.

Victoria has been at the forefront of modern 'right to know' assisted reproductive legislation in recent times. Victoria has given donor-conceived people and donors the right to apply for each other's identifying information, subject to the consent of the other party. Amendments which came into effect in 2017 in that jurisdiction gave all donor-conceived people the right to access information about their donor. Prior to that, that information could only be released with the donor's consent, as pre-1988 donations were made under conditions of anonymity.

From 1998, donors were made aware that their identities could be made available once the donor offspring reached the age of 18. Contact preferences are recorded for pre-1998 donors and donor-conceived people on the Victorian donor conception Central Register. By all accounts they have a record keeping system that is far superior to ours, and it has the backing of legislation.

Bearing in mind that the population of Victoria is more than three and a half times that of South Australia, the following data was provided in the 2019 report of the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority:

- there were 565 births from donor treatments in the 2018-19 year, 427 of which were from sperm donors and 86 from egg donors;
- 113 applications for information were made to the Victorian Central Register (up 38 per cent on the previous financial year), and 39 per cent of those applications were

from donor-conceived persons, 50 per cent from recipient parents and 11 per cent from donors;

- 51 of those applications related to pre-1998 donor treatment and 62 to post 1998;
- 22 applications were for identifying information only, 13 for non-identifying only information and the remaining 78 for a combination of both;
- there are currently around 10,690 donor-conceived children registered on the Central Register; and
- 4,301 of the people registered are over 18 and are now eligible to apply for information about their donor.

I look forward to a time when the same access is available in this jurisdiction. There are other risks that I have spoken of in this place previously—risks that were outlined by donor-conceived children who appeared and spoke at the forum. They include the consanguineous risks, otherwise known as incestuous relationships, in South Australia, which is a particularly real risk considering our population.

There was one young lady who said, 'Every time I go to date someone, I stop and think twice about whether they may or may not be related to me, because I just don't know.' To date, that particular person has identified in excess of half a dozen siblings as a result of donor conception. We do not have legislation that restricts the donors-to-families ratio, though it appears the practice in South Australia is 10 families.

Donor recipients of the past sought out donors with specific ethnic or cultural backgrounds, which may mean their donor-conceived children have been raised in the same community. Donors often made their donations over a short space of time, increasing the likelihood of children being born around the same time. They possibly attended school together.

It is particularly concerning if you consider there was not a limit on how many South Australian children a man could father. Prolific sperm donors may have fathered upwards of 20 children each. Accidental incest is an avoidable scenario with the availability of information. NHMRC's ethical guidelines now require that registered ART clinicians take into the account the risk of a donor-conceived person having an inadvertent sexual relationship with a close genetic relative. That was not always the case.

Despite these modern guidelines, there is a real risk among donor-conceived persons that they could unknowingly enter into a relationship with a sibling or that their child could date someone who is one of their siblings. It is not unusual for these children to have up to 20 half-siblings. In the past, men have donated in multiple states. It is a possibility that cousins could connect. The psychological impact on a donor-conceived person that they could mistakenly enter a relationship with a half-sibling is enough to traumatise one's ability to enter into any meaningful relationships.

In this jurisdiction we always say that Adelaide is so small when you realise you know the same person as someone else, so I just ask members to imagine if you had to ask yourself if you might be related to every potential love interest that you met if you were one of these children. There are a number of submissions that have been made in relation to this issue which I will canvass further during the debate on the bill; submissions that relate specifically to the issue of incest and relationships between half-siblings and family members.

I remind honourable members again that the establishment of a register, the key recommendation, has now been passed in this jurisdiction with the support of the government and the opposition. We now must take those next steps in terms of implementing the other key recommendations of the Allan review, and that is entirely what the bill intends to achieve.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G.E. Hood.

*Parliamentary Committees*

#### **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:17):** I move:

That it be an instruction to the Budget and Finance Committee that its terms of reference be amended by inserting new paragraph IIA as follows—

- IIA. That, during the period of any declaration of a major emergency made under section 23 of the Emergency Services Act 2004 or any declaration of a public health emergency made under section 87 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, members of the committee may participate in the proceedings by way of telephone or video conference or other electronic means and shall be deemed to be present and counted for purposes of a quorum, subject to such means of participation remaining effective and not disadvantaging any member.

It is identical, except for the committee to which it refers, to the motion we passed, moved by the Hon. Connie Bonaros, to allow the committee, during this declared emergency, to use electronic means to meet.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:17):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO SA PATHOLOGY AND SA MEDICAL IMAGING**

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:17):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON POVERTY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:18):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON WAGE THEFT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (17:18):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDEVELOPMENT OF ADELAIDE OVAL**

**The Hon. I.K. HUNTER (17:19):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINDINGS OF THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN ROYAL COMMISSION AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AS THEY RELATE TO THE DECISIONS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT**

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Leader of the Opposition) (17:19):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

#### **SELECT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE LIMESTONE COAST**

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (17:19):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:20):** I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Motion carried.

*Motions*

**SPRINGBANK SECONDARY COLLEGE**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. T.A. Franks:

That this council—

1. Notes that in 2016 the then Pasadena High School resolved by a voluntary vote process to remain open and not merge;
2. Applauds the rebranded Springbank Secondary College for its ambition to be a progressive forward-thinking school with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics), with a disability unit, basketball academy and trade training centre that provide students with a wide range of specialised opportunities in a school that is small by design;
3. Condemns both the withholding of an allocated \$10 million and the recent announcement of a review process that both serve to undermine public confidence in the school's future;
4. Acknowledges that this review has no stated purpose, was announced to media before it was communicated to the school community and that has placed undue anxiety and stress on current and prospective Springbank Secondary College students, families and staff; and
5. Calls on the Marshall Liberal government to abandon this review into the Springbank Secondary College and release the \$10 million to sustain and support the school and its community to thrive.

(Continued from 8 April 2020.)

**The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (17:20):** I rise to confirm that Labor supports this motion in its entirety. This government has shown nothing but contempt for the parents, staff and especially the students of the inner southern suburbs since coming to office. It is important that we look back and reflect on how each party has approached and supported this community. As we all know, history will shed light on why today's decisions are being made.

Springbank Secondary College, formerly Pasadena High School, has a proud history of serving the community since 1964, when it was opened as Daws Road High School, a proud public school community. In 2016, the school governing council decided to undertake a voluntary amalgamation process, a process enshrined in legislation to stop governments forcibly closing public schools left, right and centre as was seen when the Liberal Party was last in government, and overseen by a certain minister for education, who sits in this chamber today—the Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas.

After going through this process and assessing all the options, a vote was held in 2016, and the parents of Pasadena High School voted to keep the public school open, deciding to seek the assistance of the Labor government of the day to help the school and its community grow and prosper. In response to this decision—one owned by the community—the then Labor government set about investing in the school. It did this in a number of ways: resources and essential support were provided to build links with other educational institutions, such as the Australian Science and Mathematics School and Flinders University.

A name change and community promotion campaign commenced as a vision for the future began to emerge, all owned by its students and the community the school served. The following year the then Labor government provided additional support, ensuring the school's long-term future by investing \$10 million for building the classrooms and building upgrades around the school, along with the specialist learning areas to modernise the public school facilities.

The construction work was due to begin this financial year, and I understand that some site preparation work had already commenced. But, unfortunately, this is where the lessons of history

come back into play: the tales of the Liberal government's agenda to close almost 50 public schools when they were last in government, a process overseen by the now Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas. It took less than a year for the Marshall Liberal government to continue its crusade against the public school assets, moves that again show the Liberal Party's view on public education in South Australia.

Deep cuts to the department, zone changes, underfunding their only education policy of moving year 7s into high school, and a short-changing of infrastructure projects in dozens of public schools were implemented. It quickly became clear: the Marshall Liberal government's complete lack of vision for the future of South Australia's public schools.

Then, last year, we had the shock announcement that the Minister for Education wanted to close another public school, Springbank Secondary College. Just months earlier, the Marshall Liberal government informed families previously zoned to the Adelaide High School that Springbank was one of the schools they would be sending their children to. This was all after only a couple of years earlier the then Liberal opposition demanded that the Labor government guarantee that this school remain open.

The Friends of the Springbank Secondary College and the Save Springbank campaign, along with the member for Badcoe, Ms Jayne Stinson, are calling for the school to remain open, the \$10 million promised to the school by the previous Labor government to be spent on the planned improvements to the school, and a shared school zone to provide parents and carers a choice about which school is right for their child.

The local council, the City of Mitcham, has universally supported these pleas. We thank them for their leadership. A shared school zone is of particular merit. Certainly, we have shared school zones in other parts of the state. Springbank and Unley are clearly quite different schools, especially in terms of size but also in terms of focus, and this is an important factor for any parent.

As I look around this chamber, this is a decision most of us have been required to make: what is the right school for our children? It is a decision that can be a difficult one to make. Indeed, for the 50-odd students in the disability unit, the difference between Unley High and Springbank is crucial for the parents who do make this choice. Establishing a shared school zone is a sensible approach to satisfying those locally zoned families who believe Unley High is better suited to their children's needs, but also to meet the needs of those who believe Springbank is the better option for their child.

It is a win-win, and we would very strongly urge the government to look at this option if their intention is to provide quality education, rather than closing a school to save money or even make money from the sale of the land. The local MP for a large section of the Springbank school zone, the member for Badcoe, Ms Jayne Stinson, has been actively, thoroughly and genuinely consulting her constituents, as well as those in the Elder, Unley and Waite areas, about the impact of this closure. The member from the other place, the member for Badcoe, has achieved this by attending several public meetings and holding her own community meetings and, in more recent times, Zoom meetings. The member for Badcoe and the Labor opposition have also sought the community's views through a survey and directly speaking with hundreds of local residents.

It is a terrible shame that, even though the member for Badcoe clearly has a direct interest in this matter as an elected representative for many existing and prospective families attending the school, to the best of my knowledge no-one from the government has contacted the member for Badcoe—not even a phone call—about the government's plans to shut down one of the local high schools in the community she has been elected to represent. It is one of the many signs that this government is not serious about community consultation if it cannot reply to one letter or pick up the phone to the local MP.

It is really disappointing. This community deserves better. They deserve to know about important decisions before the media does. They deserve to hear informed decisions from all their local MPs, not just the Liberals. They deserve a say in what the future of their education looks like. Most of all, they deserve a chance to grow their school and see it flourish. That is why Labor is supporting this motion and will continue to support the Springbank Secondary College community in their fight to keep this school open.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:29):** I rise to strongly support the motion by the Hon. Tammy Franks. With the Hon. Ms Franks and other MPs, including Carolyn Power, the local member for Elder, and Labor's Jayne Stinson, whose electorate takes in the school zone, I attended a parents and friends community meeting on 12 March, in which the future of Springbank Secondary College was passionately discussed. I met with the Principal, Wendy House, who coincidentally attended the same high school as me—Underdale—as well as the enthusiastic convener of the Friends of Springbank Secondary College, Danielle Duffield, but, more importantly, the parents and the kids who love going to that school.

One parent told me how it has dramatically changed the life of his son: a once troubled boy who avoided school so much that he often refused to leave the vehicle when he was being dropped off. Now he looks forward to it every day. Another student with learning difficulties has responded to the nurturing philosophy espoused by Ms House and her dedicated staff. One child made a poster, which she handed to me, and I seek leave to show it to the members in here. It is not offensive, it is not political.

**The PRESIDENT:** No, no props. The Hon. Mr Pangallo, no props—the same rule as always.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Okay. It is not a prop. It emphasises the message that I am trying to deliver here.

**The PRESIDENT:** If you hold it up I will tell you off.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** I did not hold it up. I expected that you would not—

**The PRESIDENT:** If you hold it up I will tell you off.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** I will continue.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** It is outrageous, the Hon. Mr Pangallo. Please put the prop down.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** It was an eight-year-old child who absolutely loves her school and loves going there and is so thankful of the environment in there. I also met an Indigenous teenager and his mum who told me of the long trip they undertake each day to get there, and it was so worthwhile to his mental wellbeing.

The students are benefiting from partnerships with Flinders University, the Australian Science and Mathematics School and Basketball SA's academy. The stories I heard that night from parents whose children have had a positive experience that they may not have had at other public schools resonated strongly with me. This school has a special unit that conducts specialist programs for kids with learning problems and disabilities.

They are responding in a way that would not be possible in a mainstream school like Unley High, which is where the minister intends to amalgamate Springbank. I know what these parents are going through, and they hold legitimate fears that their kids may well fall through the cracks in a larger and less welcoming school environment.

That is not to say that Unley is not a good school. By all accounts from people I know, it is one of the best public schools in the inner south, and has been historically. In fact, it is where our first female prime minister, Julia Gillard, attended. There are numerous alumni comprising lots of MPs, including former premier, the late John Bannon; Michael Atkinson, the former Speaker; Mark Butler, the member for Hindmarsh; Amanda Rishworth, the member for Kingston; former state governors, Sir Mark Oliphant and Dr Keith Seaman; ex-Crows player and current Melbourne coach, Simon Goodwin—who you would be familiar with, Mr President—a host of Sturt greats, such as John Halbert; the ICAC commissioner, the Hon. Bruce Lander; and on it goes. The question is: is it the right one for Springbank's cohort?

I will go back to my own personal experience and that of my wife, Angie, with our son, Connor, and the challenges parents face dealing with the unknown. When Connor was seven he was enrolled in the junior school at Mercedes. He was unsettled and had trouble fitting in. Social distancing was actually practised there by the kids in his class—they avoided Connor. He was without



friends. It was quite heartbreaking for me to see him playing alone at recess and lunch breaks. He was not invited to birthday parties.

We knew he was a bright boy and quite focused on particular things but we could not put a finger on it, and neither could the school. One abrupt senior teacher even told us that Connor's behaviour was so poor that he would not amount to much in life and was unlikely to finish school.

My wife went looking for answers the school could not give us. A wonderful psychologist named Dr Lindy Petersen and an education advocate, Mark Le Messurier, opened our eyes to Connor's unique world. He was diagnosed as having Asperger's syndrome and on the higher end of the spectrum. Even then, there was little if anything available in our school system to deal with children like Connor. We were advised to place him in a smaller school environment. We chose St Joseph's at Kingswood, and I will say he will be eternally grateful for the great support and mentoring he received from a very caring principal, Mr Justin Cavuoto.

By year 8, Connor was ready to return to Mercedes and prove a point to that senior teacher—that he was not worthless. In 2017, he was dux of Mercedes, achieving an ATAR of 99.8 and three SACE merit awards. He is in his third year at Flinders University and is flying high in his double degree of law and international relations. He sees Asperger's syndrome as a gift, not a hindrance. Even if they may be socially awkward, they make up for it with a strong determination to succeed. The only unfortunate thing with Connor is that we often have many political discussions, and I have not quite convinced him that he should switch sides.

Where it changed for Connor was a spontaneous initiative in 2007 by my wife, Angie, with a few other mothers with children on the spectrum. Determined that their kids should reach their potential, they started the not-for-profit Gold Foundation, running social skills programs using a meagre \$15,000 grant from Angela Condous and The Advertiser Foundation—and we are thankful for it.

From eight boys in 2007 it now has 661 children of various ages registered and attending programs at the Camden premises. The point I am making here is that you never take hope away from parents and children. It can destroy confidence. Our public schools are really only now grappling with these complex children with special needs. Springbank is one of them and, by all accounts, is doing exceptionally well in this area. Smaller environments do produce much better outcomes. Experts in this field have confirmed this.

The education minister, John Gardner, wants to take away all that good work they are doing, reneging on the accolades he was freely handing out in March last year that the school had a rich future with its smaller environment and a caring focus, and there was a promise of a \$10 million upgrade. Fast forward to 4 March this year: without consulting the school community, he announces, by press release, a ministerial review because the school is not hitting its targets and growing student numbers.

I suspect it is partly his bean-counting bureaucrats telling him to ditch the school and absorb its 167 students elsewhere and 'Let's flog the huge site to developers'. He also announced the \$32 million upgrade to make Unley an even larger school, with more students, particularly when year 7s go into high schools.

For expediency he has appointed a review committee headed by an experienced and respected DECD regional director. It includes the principal and members of the governing council from Springbank and Unley. They will go through the motions; however, you get the impression the minister has already signed Springbank's death warrant, particularly when he found \$10 million to spend at nearby Urrbrae high school. Could it be the \$10 million that was originally earmarked for Springbank?

I can see Springbank from my home. I remember the school well from its days as Daws Road High, when it had about 1,000 students. It later morphed into Pasadena High. Daw Park and the surrounding suburbs of St Marys, Bedford Park, Panorama, Pasadena, Clovelly Park and Colonel Light Gardens were strong working-class areas in the sixties and seventies heyday. Today, they are undergoing gentrification and redevelopment. More younger families are moving in because it has become affordable.

Their kids are going to need a nearby school, not having to catch a couple of buses to get to and from Unley High or Mitcham and other schools. Then, of course, there are the special needs kids. Who is going to care for them? Do not count on it happening at Unley when it is bulging at the seams. I urge the minister to appreciate the enormous value and good that is happening at Springbank college and give it the time and opportunities to expand on Wendy House's exceptional achievements by abandoning the review. In saying that, we warmly endorse the member's motion.

**The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (Minister for Human Services) (17:40):** I rise to make some remarks in relation to this motion. Springbank Secondary College, as previous speakers have noted, was formerly known as Pasadena High and, prior to that, Daws Road High School. In March this year, the Minister for Education approved the establishment of the Springbank Educational Review Committee under part 2A of the Education Act. At the time that the announcement was made by the minister, he stressed that the government's priority is to ensure that current and future generations of students have access to high-quality public education.

While the government has confidence in teaching and learning at Springbank Secondary College, it is concerning that the local community has not demonstrated the same level of confidence in sending their children to their local zoned school. The low numbers contribute to a significant challenge for the school to offer the full range of curriculum options that families and students reasonably expect from their local zoned public high school.

While the government understands that the current circumstances are challenging, the government is also focused on the future and the need to continue to improve the outcomes for students. It is important that the review continue as announced so that the Springbank community and the local community have the opportunity to present their views and be heard by the review committee. The government is confident that the review chair, Ms Terry Sizer, will ensure that the consultation is thorough and incorporates feedback from all relevant parties, including students, parents, staff and the governing councils of local schools. With those remarks, I indicate that the government does not support this motion.

**The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:41):** I thank those speakers who have made a contribution today and put their positions on the record—the Hon. Emily Bourke on behalf of the Labor opposition, the Hon. Frank Pangallo on behalf of SA-Best and the Hon. Minister for Human Services on behalf of the government.

I note that when it has come to the issue of Springbank Secondary College there have been lies, damned lies and government statistics. This school was told of this review, not actually by press release as the Hon. Frank Pangallo noted, but by a press conference held at their school. They woke up to see on the front page of the newspaper that this review had been announced, having microphones shoved into the face of children at the school, creating great anxiety, creating great distress and citing some figures which have just been repeated here today about a lack of choice for those in the zone.

What those figures fail to acknowledge, where the minister cites supposedly lessening enrolments, is that Springbank has been growing. I will draw members' attention to the article by Caleb Bond in the East and Hills weekly *Messenger* back in 2018 in October. Springbank has been springing back. It has had a very difficult past but, after that voluntary vote, they had rebranded and they were in fact growing. That article of October 2018 highlighted the fact that the school was set to offer two year 8 classes in the next year, after offering only a single year 8 class the year before and a combined year 8/9 class the year before that.

It noted that enrolments in higher year levels were also increasing and that the school's disability unit is at capacity. It lauded the STEAM focus—not just science, technology and engineering but also the arts and maths—as something for its future and, of course, the other offerings that that school has that make it quite a unique school. But in the statistics where the focus is only on those local zoned children's enrolments, in what is in fact a plethora of choices in both the public and private system, what has been ignored time and time again is that the school is actually growing and that two-thirds of the students currently at the Springbank Secondary College do not come from the zone. Two-thirds—two in every three students at this school—choose to come from elsewhere.

Do you know why they choose that? Because the choices they are offered locally have failed them. This is in fact a school that is small by design, it is not one size fits all, and many parents and children are choosing Springbank. Two-thirds do not come from the Springbank zone. Two-thirds actually want Springbank to be there.

I thank the Hon. Frank Pangallo for sharing his personal perspective. As a parent of somebody who is in year 7 now and is looking to go into year 8 next year, I have just received the email asking me what school I want to choose for my child. My child has a range of diagnoses, including sensory processing disorders, and in fact small by design is what will suit her. She has indicated to me that she wants a small school. Our local school has over 1,500 students in it. That is no choice for her. That is no choice for her future.

I will fill in this form this week to send back to the department knowing full well that they are seeking to shut down Springbank by the end of the year and knowing full well that in the announcement of the review they have offered students a subsidy to buy new uniforms. That is no open-ended review—a subsidy to buy new uniforms at a school where some of those students had already attended and had dropped out, where they had been bullied, where Unley had in fact turned away students with disability because they had stated directly to them that they could not support them at the Unley High School and so they have found a home at Springbank.

This is the situation we face here with this government's sneaky review. Under the particular provision of the act that was put in after the now Treasurer, then education minister, shut down schools en masse the last time he was in government, we know that this is a protection measure to stop sneaky governments shutting down schools without the community having a say. The review at the moment does not listen to parents like me, parents who are looking for a small-by-design school, parents of those children at the disability unit at capacity who do not have options in their local zones, who are not suited by this large-size-fits-all approach and, while some members of their family will thrive in schools like Unley, who are much more suited to Springbank.

Despite the hurdles being put in its way, I believe that Springbank should spring back. I believe that the government has got this wrong. If they look at their words in opposition and stay true to them and be honest with the South Australian public about their intentions here, I think they will go back and come clean with the community about the fact that they have got this wrong. This review has created anxiety and distress right from the get-go, from the way the minister announced it to the way that it has been rolled out. It was without detail at first and now with detail that basically offers students new uniforms, incorporates only the options for a merger with Unley and does not talk about a shared zone, which is what the Springbank Secondary College community has called for.

The review does not acknowledge that we are in COVID times right now and the community cannot even gather to ensure that their voice is heard, nor does it acknowledge the anxiety that all children in this state are facing right now with regard to their schooling is not just doubled but probably tripled by the Springbank kids and the potential Springbank kids who do not even know if their school—their beloved school, the school that two-thirds of them chose even though they do not live in the zone—will be gone and that choice taken away by the Marshall Liberal government.

It is an indefensible position that the Marshall Liberal government brings, and it is a position that seems to speak of some sort of idea that Unley High fits all. Unley is a very fine school and it does have a fine alumni. I would note on that, however, that the Hon. Dennis Hood and I share a high school alumni that perhaps has not had quite as many premiers, but Parafield Gardens High School did indeed produce at least two members of this current parliament.

Schools suit their communities and their communities are more than just the postcodes and the suburbs around them. Springbank is a very strong community. Springbank Secondary College has had to suffer a voluntary vote, years and years of distress and anxiety, coupled with this slap in the face in the way they are being treated now by the Marshall Liberal government.

Choice is more than curriculum and choice is more than just rewarding those high achievers who will do well no matter what school they go to. Choice is about giving every child in this state a range of options, where it does not matter that they are a little bit odd or a little bit unusual or that they may have diagnoses. Choice is having a range of options to choose from, where if they are bullied at one school they still have another option like Springbank to go to.

I note one child in particular, who I mentioned in my previous contribution. She was failing at her previous school. She was being bullied and here at Springbank she is now on the SRC and I see joy in her face. There were so many children like that in that room that the minister should have come and talked to that night, rather than do his press conference a few weeks prior on that morning.

The Marshall government has got this wrong. Choice is more to these children than just whether or not they can do a particular subject. Choice is whether or not they will survive at school. Where many kids will thrive at Unley, not all kids will. They may have that uniform that the government will fund for them, but if they never actually make it through the school gates at Unley, or if when they do they are completely isolated even beyond this pandemic, then what choice have you given them at all?

Motion carried.

### *Bills*

## **GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS MANAGEMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 20 February 2020.)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (17:52):** I rise as the lead speaker on behalf of the opposition and indicate that we will not be supporting this bill. I will speak quite briefly today because we expect to have large discussions about GM crops on a bill coming up from the other place in the very near future.

This bill allows the moratorium on genetically modified crops to be lifted but introduces requirements around notifications to neighbouring properties and also in regard to buffer zones. The view of the opposition is that, as has been previously mentioned, certainly it is appropriate that any changes to GM should come through a bill in legislation and not be done via regulation. Because the previous movements on this were around regulation, the opposition could not support that.

I do commend the Hon. Mr Pangallo for introducing this via legislation and not following the Leader of the Government in trying to get something through that is not given full consideration by the parliament. However, we do not consider that the changes proposed in this bill would be of benefit. We look forward to saying more in relation to another bill that will be coming to the upper house.

**The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (17:53):** I rise on behalf of the Greens to speak today on the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, introduced by the Hon. Frank Pangallo. The bill seeks to lift the moratorium on the cultivation of genetically modified crops on mainland South Australia via legislation. Leaving aside the merits of this issue, this is far more appropriate than the disrespectful method of lifting it via regulations, which the Minister for Primary Industries keeps doing and this chamber has earlier today again disallowed.

It will come as no surprise that the Greens do not support the lifting of the moratorium. This has always been our policy. We believe that the moratorium has served South Australia well and will be even more important into the future. However, there are some provisions in this bill that we do support, and these relate to the farmer protection measures that the honourable member has included in his bill.

The first of these is the right to damages provisions. This section is identical to my rights to damages private member's bills that I introduced four times previously in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2014. The Greens applaud the inclusion of these provisions in this bill as we have long recognised the need for our farmers to have an entitlement to damages if they have suffered a loss due to GM contamination on their land.

We also subscribe to the 'polluter pays' principle and these provisions make the true owner of the GM seeds that cause the contamination—that is, the multinational agrichemical corporations who are the patent owners—responsible. This provisions removes the appalling situation that we

have seen in other Australian states where farmer is pitted against farmer, destroying friendly neighbour relations and where the non-GM farmer is the one who ultimately suffers the loss.

There is nothing fair about this. The rules need to change so that we can even the playing field. You would think that even those purporting to represent farmers, both the handful that want to try to grow GM canola and the rest who do not, would be supportive of measures that protect farmers from economic loss resulting from contamination but, interestingly, Grain Producers SA has decided not to support the rights and economic interests of all farmers. It appears that they are instead looking after the economic interests of the multinationals. In response to this bill in their media release of 19 February 2020, CEO Caroline Rhodes said:

GPSA cannot accept legislation that would impose legal risk and complexity in adopting GM crops eroding the competitiveness of the state's industry through imposing unnecessary red tape.

If you are wondering whose legal risk she is referring to, it is the legal risk to the multibillion dollar foreign-owned, agrichemical corporations who are unwilling to accept legal and financial responsibility for their patented products in the event that they cause financial loss to others. Why are the representatives of our South Australian grain growers so concerned about the legal risks to these rich corporations to the detriment of our own local farmers? I think it is worth pondering that question.

I have lost count of how many times I have had heard the furphy that there are no cases of contamination from GMOs. We all know that that is not true. To the fanatic GM lobbyists who keep trying to sell this myth, I pose this: if GM contamination does not happen, if it is not real, then this protection measure will have no effect. It will have no work to do. It will not change anything, so why are they so opposed? If there is no contamination from GMOs then there is no loss suffered and there will be no entitlement to damages, so what is the problem?

Then we come to the government's response to this measure. On 3 March 2020 a government media release stated:

Minister Whetstone said seed companies would boycott South Australia and refuse to release GM seeds because of the untested right to damages provisions.

Nearly all provisions that parliament puts in legislation are untested until they are enacted and implemented, so is the minister suggesting that we never pass new legislation because it has not been tested? That is simply ludicrous.

If these seed companies want to boycott South Australia because we as legislators expect them to take responsibility and liability for their own product, as we expect from all other companies selling their products to South Australian consumers, then so be it. If you cannot stand by your product and take legal responsibility if it causes damage to others, then perhaps you should peddle your product elsewhere.

In relation to the other provisions of the bill, if GM crops were allowed, the Greens think it is important for neighbours to notify each other if they are planning to cultivate or harvest a GM crop, so we fully support the proposed requirement for at least 60 days' notice. Although we appreciate the intention of the Hon. Frank Pangallo in proposing a buffer zone of at least 10 metres for GM crops, I am told by farmers and other experts that this is not nearly far enough. In the parliamentary briefing that I hosted on 3 March on this issue one of the speakers, Bob Mackley, a conventional farmer from the Wimmera region in Victoria, spoke about his experience of his farm being contaminated in 2011 by his neighbour's GM canola crop.

Mr Mackley traced germinating GM canola seed at least 100 metres into his paddock, and some material was washed all the way across the paddock which was about 300 metres. There was so much of it that it not only went through his fence but it pushed his fence completely over. Likewise, we appreciate the intention of the crop inspection requirements in this bill which enables testing for GMO contamination and ensures that the cost of the testing will not be at the expense of the non-GM farmer but rather an expense to the public purse. It may be that PIRSA is a more appropriate authority for this responsibility than the EPA, but we think the intention is the right one.

We acknowledge the efforts of the honourable member in incorporating these farmer protection measures into his bill. If the moratorium is to be lifted permanently in South Australia,

protections are essential for non-GM and organic farmers suffering economic loss due to GM contamination. However, the Greens know that the best protection for our farmers is actually to keep the moratorium in place. With that, the Greens will not be supporting this particular bill.

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade and Investment) (18:00):** I am happy to speak on behalf of the government on the Hon. Frank Pangallo's SA-Best Genetically Modified Crops Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020. It does feel a bit like *deja vu*: every few months we come back and talk about genetically modified crops here—and of course we did see one in the twilight of the parliament before the election, when things were rushed in with no consultation with industry. This one is very similar in the fact that there has been very little consultation with industry.

We have indicated that we will not be supporting the legislation. Our farmers deserve regulatory certainty with the confidence to know that they can invest in a GM crop and plant it if they wish to, in the knowledge that the government has their back and will support them. If this bill were to somehow miraculously escape the Legislative Council and pass, it effectively would impose a permanent moratorium on South Australia's primary industries.

I am always interested when the Hon. Mark Parnell talks about the multinationals. Every farmer I know plants crops based on a management plan to control weeds or based on profit. If they cannot make a profit and it is not worth doing, they will not be kowtowing to any of the multinationals. While I am on some of the Hon. Mark Parnell's comments, he spoke in his brief contribution about a GM crop in Horsham, or in the Wimmera, that was so aggressive and vigorous that it pushed a fence over.

Actually, I think it was storm, rain and water that picked up material and pushed it onto the fence. I do not think that you should blame the GM canola for pushing the fence over; I expect it was a storm and weather event that picked all the material up and pushed it against the fence. It could have been phalaris, dock and thistles, and canola as well, so are we going to ban phalaris, dock and thistles and everything else that was pushed up against the fence in that storm?

I do not believe the SA-Best legislation has gone through anywhere near the consultation that we would normally have seen. This issue has been consulted on for well over 10 years; I think it was 2004 when the ban went in. I do not know how many times in this place I have heard people say, 'You should listen to the stakeholders. Listen to the people whom this will impact. They are the ones who want it.'

Our big concern with this bill would be about forcing the EPA to send officers to undertake inspections on farmers' properties without the permission or the request of the non-GM farmer. We believe that seed companies would boycott South Australia. The other thing we have to understand is that we have the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics. We have a challenge, globally, to feed the world, and we have one of the world's greatest agricultural research institutions at Waite, just out here on the edge of the city.

If we have a GM moratorium, it will stifle any of that research. While I know that some members are nervous about that research, there is a whole range of things that I suspect our scientists will look at over the next 10, 20, 30 or 40 years that will help feed the world when all of us are long gone. Of course, we also know that the independent review of the moratorium found that it has cost grain growers \$33 million a year since 2004, and it would cost another \$5 million or so if we continue any further.

I am not going to delay this debate any longer. I know there will be a lengthy debate when the very sensible arrangement and agreement that the opposition and the government have come to in progressing a GM bill that we will see in this chamber in the next couple of weeks, so I will not prolong it. I am certain the Hon. Mark Parnell will have a significant amount to say at that time, and also I suspect will the Hon. Frank Pangallo. We have consulted, we have talked, we have listened and we do not support this current proposal.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO (18:05):** I wish to thank all members for their contributions to the bill that I introduced that lifts the moratorium on GM crops, as well as providing some safeguards for those who choose not to grow it and perhaps have their business or livelihoods impacted by it. I roundly reject the Hon. David Ridgway's assertions that we have not consulted: we have. How would he know who we have consulted with?

**The Hon. D.W. Ridgway:** Well, the main stakeholders for one.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** We have consulted with all the stakeholders, Mr Ridgway—all of them on both sides. We have done that, so you got that wrong, like you have on many other occasions. The primary industries minister, grain producers and farmers have always said that growing GM is about choice, and so it should be, while also respecting the wishes of those who do not wish to grow it. Unfortunately, the government and Labor have thrown them under the harvester.

My position on GM has been clear right from the outset: I support it and I feel it will bring benefits to not only our farmers who want it but also to our world-class scientists working on research into crops to improve yields and lower costs. GMOs are not only about improving farming methods, particularly in Third World economies, they are also used in areas like medicine. I am sure GMO technology is being used in the race to find a vaccine against COVID-19.

I welcome Labor's support in the other place for GM crops in a bill that has been rushed through by the primary industries minister with the input from the opposition's primary industries shadow, Eddie Hughes. I realise I will now most likely not have the support from either the government, the opposition or the other crossbenchers for my bill, which I believe strikes a very fair balance and has received support from both sides of the debate. We had built in a mechanism to protect both the GM growers and the non-GM growers, while providing flexibility and compromise.

I would like to thank my senior adviser, Adrian Gillam, and parliamentary counsel for their work in developing a workable solution to this emotive discussion. It legislates for the moratorium on GM crops on Kangaroo Island so it cannot be altered by regulation. This seemed to get up the goat of the minister when we had a rather tense briefing with his chief of staff. He also did not like the idea that a farmer had a remedy for damages and could sue, if they wished, persons or the company that held the patent or intellectual property rights without having to prove negligence. It also does not limit their rights for damages in the event of spray drift of insecticide or herbicide on their crop.

There are a few other minor inclusions, like issuing notices to neighbours before planting, harvesting or spraying, and imposing a distance between properties, which the Hon. Mark Parnell has pointed out might be unworkable. That could be the case and could always have been amended. It is quite disappointing and a dereliction of the minister's duty of engagement that he failed even to respond to us after the briefing. He instead issued a media release attacking us and made false accusations, including claiming that we wanted to set up a GM watchdog. Fake news!

My bill also had built in a tolerance level of 0.9 per cent contamination, which is a benchmark used by other states. Recorded levels of contamination have only been less than 0.5 per cent, so, put into effect, legal action by a non-GM farmer would have been highly unlikely. However, in his latest deal with the devil, in consenting to Labor's amendments, the minister has, in his bumbling way, complicated the uncomplicated.

I call this the Forrest Gump GM bill. You might recall one of Forrest's more memorable sayings: stupid is as stupid does. I might also suggest the minister, the opposition leader and Mr Hughes take note of the lyrics of a song with the same title recorded by the Dune Rats. To avoid blushes, I will not repeat them here, but in essence that is what they have done: stuffed it up. Giving local councils six months to apply to an advisory committee to opt in for an exemption to remain as a non-GM region with the minister still having the right of veto is plainly ridiculous and unworkable.

I understand both the government and Labor failed to consult with local government about this. It caught them by surprise. So who is going to pay for the consultation process? It is yet more cost shifting offloaded onto local government. It is a dog's breakfast. The thought of having non-GM zones and GM zones scattered around the state is dopey. What happens to a farmer who has a property that traverses two council boundaries or to transport vehicles contracted to collect and deliver GM and non-GM crops across different council boundaries? Who is going to supervise that?

Once the genie is out of the bottle, that is it. I cannot see many regional councils taking it up anyway, especially Kangaroo Island—bad news for the member for Mawson. The Mayor of Kangaroo Island, farmer and former Liberal MP Michael Pengilly, gleefully applauded the prospect of GM being lifted in one of his tweets yesterday. His own council is stacked with pro-Liberal supporters, so you

can be assured that KI's GM holiday will soon come to an abrupt end, taking with it the marketing advantage we wished to protect.

On the subject of KI, stupidity seems to be contagious in the Liberal Party at the moment. Take the insane proposal by the energy minister, the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan. In a submission to the state electoral boundaries review—

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Pangallo—

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** I am nearly finished, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** No, the Hon. Mr Pangallo, it would be advisable—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Well, it is; it is about Kangaroo Island.

**The PRESIDENT:** —if you could stick to your bill. I have given you latitude. You are speaking about a bill that is not even before the house as yet, so speak to your bill.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Well, Mr President, I fear that what is being proposed is going to divide communities, particularly in the Adelaide Hills. How can you trust councils to represent the wishes of their communities when there is likely to be conflicts of interest from members who are also primary producers? The Premier came out loud and clear himself and said it was the stupidest idea he has ever heard, and I will even quote him directly, 'I've heard of some pretty stupid ideas in my time'—

**The PRESIDENT:** Again the Hon. Mr Pangallo, you are not talking about your own bill.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** No, I am talking about what your government is proposing.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr Pangallo, speak to your bill, please, and sum up.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** Okay, I will finish it off.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you.

**The Hon. F. PANGALLO:** It is disappointing that we have a situation here today where I have proposed a bill. I think what has probably happened in this is there has been some backroom deal done to get to this point, and it probably needed to score a few brownie points because they are suffering from relevance deprivation syndrome. Judging by the nature of the bill yesterday, the minister was snookered by my bill, which I flagged two weeks ago I would bring to a vote. Politically, it would have been awkward and uncomfortable for the government had it voted to defeat a lowly crossbencher's bill which would actually lift the moratorium on GM. That is likely to happen with Labor's support now they have their insurance tucked away in their back pocket.

However, rather than withdraw the bill, I think it is important that it be put on the public record that SA-Best did and still does support the introduction of GM. I flag that we intend to move amendments from elements contained in this bill when the government's bill eventually hits committee stage.

The council divided on the second reading:

Ayes ..... 2  
Noes ..... 17  
Majority ..... 15

AYES

Bonaros, C.

Pangallo, F. (teller)

NOES

Bourke, E.S.  
Franks, T.A.  
Hunter, I.K.

Centofanti, N.J.  
Hanson, J.E.  
Lee, J.S.

Dawkins, J.S.L.  
Hood, D.G.E.  
Lensink, J.M.A.



NOES

Lucas, R.I.  
Parnell, M.C.  
Scriven, C.M.

Maher, K.J.  
Pnevmatikos, I.  
Wortley, R.P.

Ngo, T.T.  
Ridgway, D.W. (teller)

Second reading thus negatived.

**COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE (BAIL) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS MANAGEMENT (DESIGNATED AREA) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND IMMUNISATION) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The House of Assembly agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**PUBLIC TRUSTEE (PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND GUARDIAN) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

At 18:21 the council adjourned until Thursday 30 April 2020 at 14:15.