

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

The PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens) took the chair at 14:16 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 Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (Hon. K.J. Maher)—

Regulations under National Schemes—

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 National Regulations—

No. 1 of 2023

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law National Regulations—

No. 2 of 2023

Ministerial Statement

ICAC REPORT

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:18): I table a copy of a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Treasurer on the topic of the ICAC report.

Question Time

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MARITIME, MINING AND ENERGY UNION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): My question is to the Attorney-General regarding the CFMEU. Can the Attorney-General rule out cost increases to the north-south corridor and Women's and Children's Hospital due to CFMEU involvement?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:19): I thank the honourable member for her somewhat strange question. There are budgets for these projects, and there will be contractors that are used who will comply with those budgets.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding the South Australian Sheep and Goat Traceability Steering Committee's business plan. Why won't the minister and the Malinauskas government adhere to calls from Livestock SA to make the South Australian Sheep and Goat Traceability Steering Committee business plan publicly available?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:20): I thank the honourable member for her question. From my recollection, the statement that I have seen Livestock SA make in publications is that it is up to the government whether they release the report or not, so I am not quite sure of the basis of the question.

However, in terms of the basis of the question, the report that has been provided by Livestock SA as a result of funding from the state government to look at the way and the various processes needed to progress the implementation of electronic identification for farmed sheep and goats is the first phase of the agreement. There's still a lot of work that needs to be done around that. I think it's in the interests of the industry to know what it is that will be happening in terms of the plan and the steps, rather than what the different options are which may or may not come to fruition.

SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): Supplementary: what does the minister have to hide?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, you can answer the question, if you want to.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:22): One can hardly help but roll one's eyes, as the member opposite interjected, when I've just answered the question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Industry is keen to know the process—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: They are. They want to know. They want to see the report.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —for developing the plan. Livestock SA is now commencing phase 2 of the project, which is part of determining what the steps will be.

SHEEP AND GOAT ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries regarding traceability.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: In the media on 23 February, the CEO of Livestock SA noted that it 'shouldn't be up to industry to speak on behalf of government'. My question to the minister is: when will she stand up as a leader, stop hiding behind industry on this important matter and provide clarity and transparency to sheep and goat producers in South Australia?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:23): I thank the honourable member for her question. Whilst I don't have the article in front of me, I also recall that in an article, I think on that date, Livestock SA also stated there is a lot of work that needs to be done, and that is true.

PREMIER'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector. Will the minister update the council on the Premier's Excellence Awards for the public sector and winners in the service delivery category?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:23): I thank the honourable member for his excellent question and his interest in excellence in public service delivery. During the last sitting week, I updated the council on the Premier's Excellence Awards for public sector employees and units, which were due to be presented in a ceremony at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Wednesday 1 March.

As I outlined at the time, it's exceptionally important that we recognise excellence in the work of the public sector to show that we value and appreciate the hard work, dedication and commitment that goes into public service and reward those who have demonstrated outstanding performance and service to the community.

It gives me great pleasure to update the council on some of the excellent work done by the winners of this year's awards now that they have been delivered. The Excellence in Service Delivery award recognises exemplary service which has had a far-reaching and positive impact on the South Australian community. This award is given in both an individual and a team category.

The finalists in the individual category award were: Di Moncrieff, from the Women's and Children's Health Network, for her work on the Palliative Care Peer Mentor Program, which recruits and trains bereaved parents to guide and support other parents who are caring for a child with a life-limiting illness; Shirley Smith from the Department for Child Protection, who heads up the investing in their futures initiative, a cross-government program which provides priority access to services for children who are in or who have left care; and the third finalist was Thao Hoang from the Department for Child Protection, who has worked to ensure children from cultural and linguistic diverse backgrounds, particularly in the Vietnamese community, are placed with carers who can maintain their cultural identity and connection.

I am advised that the finalists in the group category were: the Department for Education ICT Services Team, who implemented a program that has seen massive improvements in the provision of high-speed internet technology in schools across the state, including in our remote and regional areas; the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network and SA Ambulance Service for the complex and restorative service, providing alternative high-level care to older patients, diverting them away from hospital emergency departments; and the third finalist and winner of the group category was the Department for Correctional Services, for their reducing reoffending by 10 per cent by 2020, a program that significantly cut the rate of prisoners who were reoffending by engaging them in meaningful behaviour changing programs. This led to the department not only meeting the target but surpassing it.

I am advised that the winners of each category were provided with certificates to congratulate and recognise their work. I sincerely congratulate both the finalists and the winners for their outstanding work and contribution to the South Australian community. I note that the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment will publish interviews recorded with many of the finalists and updates about the winners. It is very encouraging that there are so many areas of public service in which there is increasing innovation.

CRIME IN PORT AUGUSTA

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:27): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing a question to the Attorney-General and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on crime in Port Augusta.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: Reports of escalating crime and antisocial behaviour in Port Augusta are widespread, with concerns raised by a local business owner and councillor that the town's youth crime will become a similar situation to Alice Springs. Businesses in particular are being targeted and large groups of kids as young as 10 are reported to be loitering around shops and committing low-level crime and causing intimidation to residents.

I understand an outreach program was set up late last year and that a coordinated approach between the Department of Human Services, SAPOL and the Department for Child Protection is being considered to address this. The local member for Giles is reported as saying that more resources and coordination are required in order for residents to feel safe and secure. My questions to the Attorney-General and Aboriginal affairs minister are:

1. Has the Attorney-General met with concerned residents and business owners of Port Augusta to discuss escalating youth crime levels in the town?
2. Has the minister met with Aboriginal leaders in Port Augusta this year to discuss these concerns and, if so, what actions is he taking in response?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:28): I thank the honourable member for her question. I have not met in Port Augusta with community leaders in relation to these issues this year. I certainly did last year and I certainly will be intending to into the future as well, meeting with Aboriginal

community leaders in Port Augusta—not just on issues that the honourable member has outlined but a whole range of other issues that community members are interested in.

I am aware that there is a cross-government effort in relation to concerns that are facing Port Augusta—some are seasonal concerns as people move around the state. I am also aware that there are some lasting impacts from the last few years of COVID where people have moved from more remote areas of our state into centres like Port Augusta. I am happy to get further information from, I believe it is, the Department of Human Services, which is coordinating this work, and bring back further information if it can be supplied.

AUTISM

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Assistant Minister to the Premier (the parliamentary secretary) a question in relation to autism.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: Labor's autism plan for schools election policy document included a commitment that Labor in government will increase autism-qualified staff in preschools by making a qualification in teaching students on the autism spectrum a preferred criterion for appointment to preschools. My questions to the parliamentary secretary to the Premier are:

1. How many extra staff have been placed in public preschools with qualifications in supporting students with autism since the election?
2. Has the department delivered any aspects of Labor's promise that autism qualifications will be a preferred criterion for appointment to preschools?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (14:30): I thank the honourable member for her question and her great interest in these portfolios. As the member knows, I am not the Minister for Education or early childcare support, so I am happy to take those questions on notice.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I am responsible for advocating for the autistic and autism community. I am happy to redirect that question to the appropriate minister. I am really grateful for you asking this question today, because we should be focusing on where we are going with this policy and making sure that we have a start on what we are doing to support this community—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —because we know in South Australia—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members on both sides! Parliamentary secretary, sit down, please. Members on both sides, I can't hear the parliamentary secretary's answer.

The Hon. H.M. Girolamo: She's not answering it anyway.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please continue, and I would like to hear the answer.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: As I was saying earlier, it is important that we do find ways to provide that early support. We know there is a gap in knowledge outside the autistic and autism community about what autism is. If we don't start to bridge that gap, we can't make a difference in our community. We know—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti interjecting:

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I dare say we are doing a fair bit more than you ever did. You guys don't even believe in the portfolio.

The PRESIDENT: Responding to interjections is out of order.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Opposition!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: I am happy to take that question on notice, but while I have the opportunity to share some important statistics about autism, we know, through surveys undertaken by the autistic community—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: —that 84 per cent of people know the word 'autism' but only 29 per cent of people have a great understanding and knowledge of autism, and that is why we have created these policies to make sure that we can start supporting kids at an earlier age.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (14:32): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister inform the chamber about the contribution rural and regional women make to the state to mark International Women's Day?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:33): I thank the honourable member for her very important question; it is a very appropriate day to be asking such a question. To mark International Women's Day, it is a privilege to be able to talk about the contribution that rural and regional women make to South Australia, in particular in terms of the primary industries sector. In South Australia women make up more than 30 per cent of the workforce in agricultural, forestry and fishing industries. Furthermore, in the food and beverage manufacturing industry women make up more than 40 per cent of the workforce.

It is fitting for the state government to identify opportunities and initiatives that can support the pivotal roles women play in rural industries, businesses and communities. One such way is the program Women Together Learning (WoTL) Stepping into Leadership course that is specifically aimed at women in agriculture and agribusiness. I have attended several WoTL events since being appointed as minister, and I am always struck by the breadth of talent and experience of the participants, both past and present, who are involved in the program.

WoTL is a supportive and collaborative network that creates opportunities and helps enable women in agriculture to thrive. I am pleased to advise that 15 women from diverse South Australian primary industries are currently enrolled in the program. These women will benefit from initiatives, such as professional development and networking, which will ultimately assist in elevating their own positive influence within their regional and rural communities. Participants also receive individual coaching and mentoring and they take part in workshops, both in person and through webinars. This year's group will graduate in October 2023, and by that stage it will mean that more than 120 women have completed the program since it began in 2012.

The government is also proud to support the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award in South Australia, which both supports and acknowledges the essential role women play in rural industries, businesses and communities. I have spoken in this place before about the 2023 finalists, who are five women from across various parts of South Australia, representing a cross-section of regional industries. This year's award recipient will be announced in May and will receive a \$15,000 Westpac grant. The successful recipient will also represent South Australia at the national AgriFutures Rural Women's Award event in Canberra later this year.

At a global level, women have always been major contributors to agriculture and food production. According to the United Nations, almost a third of women's employment worldwide is in agriculture, forestry and fishing. We must also acknowledge the significant contribution that women make to primary industries and, more broadly, in their regional and rural communities, and that includes both paid roles but also very important unpaid roles.

Best wishes to the finalists in the Rural Women's Award and the talented group of women participating in the Stepping into Leadership class of 2023. You all represent just a few South Australian women who are making a difference every day in your regional and rural

communities and in primary industries. To women in agribusiness, to women across our regional and rural communities, and indeed to all women across the state: happy International Women's Day.

VALO ADELAIDE 500

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:36): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Premier, about the supercar motor race.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: When I visited the well-attended and well-received VALO 500 motor race at Victoria Park last November, I was astonished to see several helipads—I counted at least four—in a confined area at the Halifax Street entrance for several helicopters, which were providing joy rides over the course of the four-day event. I did have some concern at the time about the safety, with the number that were frequently coming and going, and the noise level for residents in nearby East Terrace and Halifax Street. My questions to the government are:

1. Did the Motorsport Board or organisers receive any reports from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority about the helicopter flights?
2. Were there complaints from residents about the additional noise levels from the motor race and the frequency of the helicopters?
3. Considering the tragedy involving two helicopters which collided on the Gold Coast in January, will the government, through SafeWork SA, undertake a review of the use of helicopters for the purpose of joy rides at this year's event?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:38): I thank the honourable member very much for his question. In relation to the involvement of the Motorsport Board in the authorisation or the organising: I will be happy to refer those questions on to the minister in another place who is responsible for the Adelaide 500.

In relation to the honourable member's question about SafeWork: that is an agency that reports to me. I am not aware that a concern has been raised, but I am happy to follow up and if there has been a concern raised that has been brought to the attention of SafeWork, I certainly will bring that back for the honourable member.

I might just say, too, I am pleased that the honourable member enjoyed the event. It is probably—and I think a number of my colleagues have found the same thing—almost the single most commented upon thing that I get from people, often when I meet them for the first time, who are commenting on what the new Labor government has done. It certainly is something that, in my experience, has been wildly appreciated by the public of South Australia, by many businesses and by people who enjoy the race.

VAPING

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (14:39): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding vaping.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Videos have surfaced in the media of a child in regional South Australia being given a vape by someone who is believed to be a relative of the young girl. The child appears to be very young, as a dummy can be seen in the footage. It has been reported that the Department for Child Protection is investigating this matter accordingly. Given the serious risks of vaping for children, such as poisoning, seizures, addiction and impacts on brain development, health experts are now calling for tougher vaping legislation in our state. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Has the adult featured in the videos broken any South Australian laws?

2. Is the state government reviewing current legislation to determine whether existing vaping laws can be strengthened to deter parents, guardians and caregivers from allowing and, indeed, encouraging children in their care to vape?

3. What is the status of the department's investigation into this particular case?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:40): I thank the honourable member very much for her question. The laws surrounding vaping and the laws surrounding nicotine products and cigarettes generally are regulated under legislation regulation that is committed to the health minister.

I certainly know that the health minister is very interested in areas to do with reducing the incidence of the use of nicotine and nicotine products and the far-reaching and very detrimental health effects that has. I am very aware that this is something that is on the radar of the health minister and something that he takes very, very seriously and that he is constantly looking at ways to make sure South Australians are safer and healthier.

In relation to an image that the honourable member referred to, I haven't seen that, but I certainly will inform myself of that and, if I suspect there are areas not just the most likely in terms of child protection laws that may come into play here, I am happy to look at that image and bring back some information in relation to what is able to be done across the various areas of government and what may be done without breaching privacy in a particular case.

STEALTHING

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:41): Happy International Women's Day, Mr President. My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney inform the council about the upcoming commencement of laws regarding the offence of stealthing and changes to the rules of evidence in sexual assault matters?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:42): I thank the honourable member for his question. I am pleased to advise that the Statutes Amendment (Stealthing and Consent) Act 2022 has taken effect as of today through a private member's bill passed through parliament at the end of last year. As members would recall, this bill was introduced by the Hon. Connie Bonaros from SA-Best and follows a very, very long campaign and advocacy from her on issues of consent generally but particularly as it relates to stealthing.

The legislation addresses several aspects of sexual consent laws, including clarifying ambiguity around the criminal offence of stealthing, the practice of deliberately and without consent removing a condom before or during sexual activity. These laws mean stealthing is explicitly an offence and it is importantly clarified in the law not just for possible prosecution but for the education and awareness that follows around the changes of laws, particularly laws to do with sexual consent.

Last year, I had the chance to meet with Chanel Contos, who is the founder of the Teach Us Consent campaign and has long been a staunch advocate for positive sex education in Australia, including raising awareness around stealthing. At the meeting I had last year with Chanel and her colleagues, they made it clear that, as well as making the law expressly clear, a critical part of this sort of legislation is to educate people on what stealthing actually is.

I am advised that only 3 per cent of a survey of 2,000 respondents of Australian youth in a study said that their school taught them about stealthing. In the same study, I am told that one in three women and one in five men who took part in this research at Monash University in 2018 said they had experience with stealthing and this needs to change.

The changes from this legislation will also see the enforced requirement of the disclosure of expert reports to the prosecution where expert evidence relates to specific topics that are dealt with in the Evidence Act and also there are further changes that come into effect as part of this legislation that will see the broadening of jury directions that must be given in cases involving sexual offence where consent is an issue and to allow for the admission of expert evidence to address certain misconceptions about non-consensual activity.

These changes are an important step in the consent laws in South Australia and in increasing awareness and education about what free and willing consent to sexual activity looks like. I would like again to place on the record my sincere thanks to the Hon. Connie Bonaros for her longstanding advocacy in this area. It was a privilege for the government to work with the Hon. Ms Bonaros, as we do regularly with crossbenchers to make positive change for the benefit of South Australians.

POLICE COMPLAINTS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:45): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Attorney-General on the administration of the Police Complaints and Discipline Act 2016.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: As the Attorney would well know, he is assigned the Police Complaints and Discipline Act 2016. I imagine like most in this place he would also be aware that the so-called SAPOL anonymous letter, which we understand to be written by a serving officer critical of the current police commissioner, was announced by the SAPOL commissioner yesterday to be authored by a serving officer currently suspended under the Police Complaints and Discipline Act. I note also that in the act under section 45—Confidentiality, with a penalty of six months imprisonment or \$2½ thousand, the provisions are:

- (1) Except as required or authorised by this Act or by the Commissioner, the ICAC or the OPI, a person who is or has been engaged in the administration of this Act must not, directly or indirectly, disclose information in relation to or connected with a matter that forms or is the subject of a complaint, report, assessment or investigation under this Act.

I do know, however, that further in that particular section there is subsection (2)(c):

- (2) Despite subsection (1), a person engaged in the administration of this Act may disclose information...
 - (c) for the performance of the functions of the Commissioner, the ICAC or the OPI under another Act...

My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. How was police commissioner Grant Stevens yesterday able to go on ABC radio and announce that somebody had been suspended under the Police Complaints and Discipline Act despite the confidentiality provisions of that act?
2. Was this announcement subject to any formal process?
3. Was there any written direction or paperwork where the commissioner authorised himself to make this announcement on morning radio?
4. Can the Attorney please outline for the purposes of the council how this was established to be required for the performance of the functions of the commissioner in this particular case?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:48): I thank the honourable member for her important question. As she correctly points out, there are in the Police Complaints and Discipline Act 2016—as there are in a number of integrity acts that establish integrity bodies, such as the ICAC Act and the laws governing the Office for Public Integrity and also the Ombudsman—provisions about confidentiality, and for very good reason.

Many integrity bodies have quite extraordinary powers in terms of compelling the production of documents and in terms of witnesses being compelled to answer questions, and commensurate with those powers there are protections in place particularly to make sure that reputations are not unnecessarily tarnished in the course of investigations.

I think, as the honourable member pointed out, one of the people who can authorise the release of information under the police complaints process is the police commissioner themselves. I do not have any information about what the process is to do that, but I am happy to take that question

on notice and seek a reply from the police commissioner in relation to the matters the honourable member has raised.

POLICE COMPLAINTS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:49): Supplementary: as the Attorney undertakes to get that information, can he also ensure that the establishment of why this was necessary for the performance of the function of the commissioner was ascertained, assessed, and whether any other independent oversight was given to that particular resolution?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:49): I am more than happy to include that in the information that I will seek, and bring back whatever reply I can get.

POLICE COMPLAINTS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:49): Supplementary: given media reported on this—not just on the ABC where the police commissioner stated it but in *The Advertiser*—were any provisions made for the enablement of the media to report on this particular confidentiality clause being breached?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:50): I am happy to find an answer to that as well. Often, if one of the bodies or persons that are able to enable publication make such publication, it's allowed to be reported on, but I am happy to get clarification for the honourable member on that.

COERCIVE CONTROL

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:50): My question is for the Attorney-General regarding coercive control. Can the Attorney advise whether there is an exposure draft and whether that has been provided to stakeholders? If not, when can we expect to see a draft piece of legislation?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:50): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am happy to be able to inform the honourable member that, as she would be aware, this government has committed to criminalising coercive control and working with women's organisations—in particular, the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity—and SA Police in relation to this reform.

At present, the Office for Women, under the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, has the lead in developing the consultation strategy in relation to progressing this very important election commitment. My department—the Attorney-General's Department—has and will continue to provide assistance to the Office for Women in relation to the materials that are to be consulted on as they require it. The Attorney-General's Department has previously consulted on this reform generally.

I am advised that there has been consultation on this that closed in April 2022. There have been a range of submissions that are from a broad range of organisations. I am very pleased that my colleague the Minister for Women is progressing this matter, and we will see legislation in due course.

COERCIVE CONTROL

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:52): Supplementary question: can the Attorney advise when he specifically last met with the Minister for Women to be briefed on progress?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:52): There are constant discussions that occur between my office and the Minister for Women's office on this matter.

SPENCER GULF PRAWN FISHERY

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association and SARDI collaboration to reduce the bycatch of the prawn fishery in the Spencer Gulf?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:52): I thank the honourable member for his question. The Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association Innovation Month took place recently, in February, with projects and research undertaken in collaboration with PIRSA and SARDI on reducing bycatch as well as investigating efficiencies and other opportunities to improve the way things are done in the Spencer Gulf prawn fishery.

The fishery is already a leader in the commercial sector for its co-management arrangements, which have developed over time through careful and considered management of the fishery. The innovation month is a great example of the fishery getting on the front foot in tackling some of the issues it faces with bycatch, particularly of finfish species. It supports fishing trials to investigate improvements and concepts that could either reduce ecological impacts or improve economic efficiency, with February being identified as an ideal time to complete a trial without the limitations of a survey or using fishing nights during the fishery's peak times.

The six-night PIRSA-approved trial regarding reduced bycatch was conducted on one commercial prawn vessel and made use of LED lights on prawn nets to assess if the lights reduce the volume of finfish and other bycatch being caught during prawn fishing activities. It also assessed whether any prawn loss occurred as a result. The framework behind the trial specified that all fish, other than king prawns, southern calamari and Balmain bugs, that were taken during the trial were returned immediately to the water after capture. The trials took place within the current trawl footprint in Spencer Gulf.

It is great to see commercial sectors like the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association working with PIRSA and SARDI in leading efforts to improve their efficiency, looking for value-adding opportunities, promoting sustainability and reducing bycatch, all of which have a positive impact for their long-term future. I congratulate the association's executive officer, Kelly Pyke-Tape, and her team for their leadership and ambition to continually improve the prawn fishery.

South Australian king prawns are already highly sought after as another example of fresh, sustainable and high-quality South Australian seafood, and research and innovation like this serve to increase the social licence for the fishery in conducting its business in the most ethical and professional manner, which we know the Spencer Gulf prawn industry does very well. I look forward to reading a summary of the SARDI report on the trial and seeing the positive outcomes that this may have for the prawn fishery into the future.

CONVICTED ARSONISTS

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:55): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney a question about convicted arsonists.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Late last year, this parliament passed new laws allowing people who have already been convicted of lighting bushfires to be monitored around the clock by GPS tracking. Although all of us supported that legislation at the time, concerns were raised about the timing and haste with which the bill was passed, an election promise of the government that was only introduced just before parliament rose for Christmas for the government to pursue.

There were also concerns about the effectiveness of the bill's monitoring processes, with some legal experts asserting it may be winter before convicted arsonists on the police's radar would appear before the courts and have orders issued against them and that without interim order provisions the laws would be rendered virtually useless and certainly well after the fire threat had passed. My questions to the minister are:

1. Have the new laws been used over the summer period? If so, have any convicted arsonists been ordered to be monitored by GPS tracking or have any applications to that effect been made to the courts?

2. Is the Attorney committed to revisiting this issue with a view to addressing the issues raised and concerns raised by legal experts in time for the next fire season?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:57): I thank the honourable member for her important question and also note the important work that this parliament did to get this legislation through. I don't have at hand figures of whether applications have been made or not and if any have been successful, but if they are available I am happy to bring them back. Certainly, we were keen to have legislation in place as soon as possible, to make sure that this was another tool in the arsenal to prevent bushfires occurring.

We know that the police, during the fire danger season through Operation Nomad, often are able to pay attention to those who might be at the very highest risk of endangering the community through setting bushfires, so we were keen as soon as we could to have laws in place to allow a further tool in that ability to try to keep the community as safe as possible, but in relation to whether applications have been made or not I am happy to bring back a reply.

Of course, it is a necessary balancing act between making sure that there are the strongest possible laws in place and making sure that individuals have rights through a court process when they are subject to things that do restrict their liberties. I will see if there is information to bring back on if there have been applications or not.

CONVICTED ARSONISTS

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:58): Supplementary: taking into account that fine balancing act, is the Attorney still open to revisiting this issue, with a view to addressing some of the concerns around interim orders?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:58): I thank the honourable member for her question. I am always open to addressing issues and making improvements and making sure the South Australian public is as safe as they possibly can be.

MCKENZIE, MR I.B.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:59): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding the imminent release of Ian Bruce McKenzie from prison.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Ian Bruce McKenzie received a life prison sentence for the prolonged torture and murder of a teenager back in 1996, with Justice Kevin Nicholson referring to the acts perpetrated by McKenzie and four other offenders as 'cruel and inhumane'. McKenzie will now be eligible to apply for release on parole in just two months' time. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Is the Attorney-General convinced that it's safe for McKenzie to be released back into the community?
2. Is the Attorney-General satisfied that someone who has been found guilty of torture and murder should ever have the opportunity to be released back into the community?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:59): I thank the honourable member for his question. Certainly, in decades gone by it was executive government, through cabinet, that determined the release of those sentenced to life terms for parole. That was changed some time ago—and I think rightly so.

It is the Parole Board that makes those determinations. I think the Parole Board, with the experience that the Parole Board holds—and I think all members will know just how well-respected the Parole Board is, particularly under the very long-term stewardship of Frances Nelson KC—is in a better place than elected politicians to make decisions with the information that they have, as had been the case in decades gone by.

These decisions are, under our legislation, matters for the Parole Board to consider, taking into account all the information that the Parole Board has in terms of the rehabilitation of a prisoner and the safety of the community, should the person be released. I am confident the Parole Board will

take the relevant matters into consideration in this, as they do in other matters when they consider parole.

ADELAIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL, INDIGENOUS PERFORMERS

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister please inform the council about some of the First Nations artists performing at this year's Fringe Festival?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:01): I thank the honourable member for his important question and his interest in all things artistic and also in Aboriginal affairs and the achievements of Aboriginal people in South Australia. The Fringe is certainly an exciting time for many South Australians, and is not only an opportunity to see some of the best performers from right across the world share their skills and talents but also an opportunity for our local performers to have a platform to do so as well. It's with great pleasure that in years gone by I have seen some exceptionally good Fringe performances from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during Fringe season in Adelaide.

The acts involved in this year's Fringe from First Nations performers range from film, digital, comedy, interactive storytelling, visual arts and design, cabaret, theatre and music. A few of the acts of particular note to highlight are the Garden Sessions, in which a curated musical program features emerging First Nations talents, including Katie Aspel, Vonda Last, Tilly Thomas, Bec Gollan and Hannah Yates. This event is on from 25 February to 18 March in the Garden of Unearthly Delights.

Yarnin Pangari (Talking Spirit) is a festival led by Uncle Moogy Sumner and centred around the sharing of culture and healing the spirit, where people can participate in cultural workshops including dancing, weaving, painting, wood carving and boomerang and spear throwing, and sit with and listen to storytelling and yarning in circles with elders. This particular event is on 18 March at the main oval and pavilion in Belair National Park.

First Nations Voices is an opportunity to see some of Australia's leading First Nations musicians: Glenn Skuthorpe, Nancy Bates and Getano Bann, amongst others. It's an event that is an expression of cultural stories and life through the infusion of urban street blues and rock and is held at Sinclair's Gully Winery and Eliza Hall.

Unfortunately, one of the things that I was particularly keen to see but couldn't make this year, as I was unable to make last year, was the drone performance to music. This year, Electric Skies was held on 24 and 25 February. I'm told it was an extraordinary success that thousands of people enjoyed. Electric Skies is a multisensory light and sound experience that launched 500 drones over 100 metres into the sky and featured music specially made from Electric Fields duo Michael Ross and Zaachariaha Fielding from Mimili in the APY lands.

Many of Zaachariaha's paintings informed the inspiring drone animations in the sky. There was a similar event that was unable to be held in the city but was in McLaren Vale during last year's Fringe that the whole of my family attended—including my brothers and all of my cousins—which happened to be on the Friday before the last state election, which ruled me out from attending. I am sure that one day I will get to the drone performances which, by all accounts, are an amazing performance and I hope continue into next year's Fringe.

I commend many of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performances, acts, music, sharing of culture, storytelling and yarning that are occurring during the Fringe and congratulate each and every one of them.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:05): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Regional Development on the topic of regional rail.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Last month, the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport handed down its report. Two of the recommendations contained in the report, recommendations 2

and 3, relate to regional rail. Under recommendation 2, the committee recommended that the state government—and I quote from the report:

...as a high priority conducts a trial of passenger train services from Mount Barker to Adelaide, with a view to adopting similar trials of services from Roseworthy to Gawler, Aldinga to Seaford and Adelaide to Port Augusta.

Under recommendation 3 the committee recommended that the state government:

- (a) considers reactivation of regional rail for freight (particularly grain) and passenger services;
- (b) in regards to regional rail, considers the environmental, health and wellbeing benefits of rail versus roads; and
- (c) reports on expenditure on public transport in regional versus metropolitan areas per capita.

A story in yesterday's *Stock Journal* reports that grain producer Viterra is pushing for reinstatement of rail freight in Eyre Peninsula. Over the last five years, groups such as the South Australian Regional Rail Alliance have been calling for investment in rail infrastructure in areas including the Limestone Coast for passengers and freight. My question to the minister therefore is:

1. Has the minister read the report of the Select Committee on Public and Active Transport?
2. Does the minister support the reactivation of regional rail?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:07): I thank the honourable member for his question. I haven't read the report that the member refers to. In terms of supporting regional rail, I think what is needed when we look at any infrastructure is a cost-benefit analysis.

The benefits to industry, the benefits to passengers, the economic impacts—both positive and also the costs—all of those things are appropriate before any decision is made. I am happy to refer details to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure in the other place and if he has further information to add I am happy to bring that back to the chamber.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:07): Supplementary: given the focus on the regions, why hasn't the minister read the report of the committee and will she do so?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:08): The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport is the minister who is responsible for that type of matter—transport, funnily enough—so I am sure that he is being briefed by his department on all appropriate literature that is available on the subject.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:08): Supplementary: does the minister not consider regional rail—and in particular regional freight—to be relevant to regional development?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:08): Of course, every aspect of regional living is relevant to regional development, but that is different from being directly responsible for that. If I was to take a different view then I would potentially become minister for regional health, minister for regional transport, minister for regional education, the list would go on.

I am very fortunate that, as a regional member, I am able to have input when those discussions come up around the cabinet table as well as, of course, other discussions with my cabinet colleagues and my caucus around so much of this. Stakeholders who I meet with—which I do of course on a very regular basis, both here in Adelaide but importantly out in their own areas as well—do bring up issues which intersect with all areas of regional life. I am very fortunate to be able to have input into those discussions, but in terms of direct responsibility we of course have appropriate ministers for that.

REGIONAL RAIL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:09): Supplementary: as part of the input into these discussions that the minister has, will she be advocating for regional rail?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:09): I advocate for a wide range of issues. As I mentioned in my original answer, a cost-benefit analysis has to be appropriate for any type of decision that is made.

LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:10): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding live exports. As Minister for Primary Industries, does she support the federal government's position to ban live sheep exports?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:10): I thank the honourable member for her question. I hope she is aware that the then Labor opposition (federally) went to the last election with an election commitment to ban live sheep exports. That is obviously a matter for them. In South Australia we—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition!

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, sit down for a minute. Are we ready for the answer?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I am not going to reward him.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Stop wasting question time.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I would encourage those opposite to perhaps apprise themselves of the difference between federal and state responsibilities, not just in regard to this matter but repeatedly in question time we see from those opposite two particular scenarios: one, which state minister is responsible for this particular federal responsibility; or, two, which state minister in the other place is responsible for a particular matter, but it should be answered here.

In terms of responsibilities, those opposite should take to heart their responsibility to apprise themselves of federal and state jurisdictions, to apprise themselves of who has direct ability to make decisions. In terms of live sheep export, that is a federal matter. They might also be interested to—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —apprise themselves of how much live export happens from South Australia when it comes to live sheep export, because I think they might find that particularly interesting reading.

LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:12): Supplementary: can the minister please update us on what became of the Weatherill inquiry into live export, undertaken by the previous Labor government?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:12): I am happy to take that question on notice and bring back a response.

LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:12): Supplementary: given the minister doesn't deal with issues to do with transport, banks or live exports, can she explain actually what is her responsibility?

The PRESIDENT: No, that is not a supplementary question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:13): I am happy to answer. I appreciate the question in terms of what I am responsible for, because I think I have the best portfolio in the state. We know that primary industries are the backbone of our South Australian economy. That includes everything from fisheries to forestry. It includes so much in terms of our grains and horticulture. It includes our seafood. It includes so much in terms of—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, please conclude so we can move on.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Alright. Clearly, those opposite are not interested in the most important portfolio economically to regional South Australia—that is a shame. I am glad to say that those on this side are interested in regions, they are interested in primary industries and they are interested in supporting regional and rural South Australia.

LIVE SHEEP EXPORT

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:14): Supplementary: does the minister concede that her department is hopelessly conflicted and that it is akin to putting the fox in charge of the henhouse to have the agriculture industry in charge of animal welfare?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:14): No.

KANGAROO ISLAND WEED EQUIPMENT SUBSIDY

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:14): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. T.T. NGO: Will the minister—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Sit down, the Hon. Mr Ngo. The Hon. Mr Hunter, you are not helping. The Hon. Ms Girolamo, you are not helping. The Hon. Mr Ngo, I would really like to hear—

The Hon. K.J. Maher: The honourable leader has been doing it all question time, sir.

The PRESIDENT: Leader of the Government, I don't need your help. The Hon. Mr Ngo, ask your question, please.

The Hon. T.T. NGO: Will the minister update the chamber about the recent announcement relating to the Kangaroo Island weed subsidy and how it will benefit local landowners?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:15): I thank the honourable member for his ongoing interest in Kangaroo Island, and I know that interest is shared by other members in this place as well. The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to supporting our regional communities and ensuring that we can respond—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —to ongoing challenges and opportunities, where they arise.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order, the honourable Leader of the Opposition!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: After the 2019-20 bushfires on Kangaroo Island, funding for a range of programs—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Government and the Hon. Ms Girolamo! Please continue. Let's go; come on.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: I am sorry to hear that those opposite are not interested in what is happening on Kangaroo Island. After the 2019-20 bushfires on Kangaroo Island, funding for a range of programs was made available through both state and commonwealth disaster funding arrangements. This resulted in the \$3.8 million to the Biosecurity Rebuild Project and \$2.67 million for the Kangaroo Island Feral Pig Eradication Project, which have shown to be extremely successful programs that have benefited the community and the environment.

Kangaroo Island is a unique and precious part of South Australia, with stringent biosecurity restrictions in place to ensure that we can protect this pristine local environment. As minister, I have been fortunate to visit Kangaroo Island several times over the past 12 months to speak with industry about supporting initiatives that will continue to help the island recover from devastating bushfires.

During my visits to the island, organisations such as Agriculture Kangaroo Island (AgKI) have always made time to speak about some of this important work that is required post-bushfire and they often emphasise the importance of ensuring the government continues to support biosecurity efforts on the island. I would like to particularly thank Jamie Heinrich and Tim Buck for their ongoing work in helping the island recover.

The Weeds After Fire component of the Biosecurity Rebuild Project assists landowners to manage weed threats and build resilience against weeds in the future. The project does this in a number of ways, including by assisting landholders to identify new weeds on their properties through free site visits and workshops, by having contractors and government staff control weeds on their properties, and through the provision of training and equipment subsidies. Some of the weeds identified by the Kangaroo Island weeds advisory group as a priority to be destroyed and managed include: Cape tulip, watsonia, bluebell creeper, Montpellier broom, Cape Leeuwin and tree lucerne.

I was delighted that \$110,000 in funding for a second weed equipment subsidy has been made available to the Weeds After Fire component of the Biosecurity Rebuild Project until 30 April 2023. After the fires in 2020, PIRSA provided the first weed control equipment subsidy to assist farmers build capacity to control one-leaf Cape tulip (*Moraea flaccida*) on their properties. When this was initiated, 26 landowners accessed the subsidy to purchase equipment. The additional funding for the second equipment subsidy will continue to create resilience and ongoing capacity for landowners to control problematic weeds on their properties.

I strongly encourage both new and existing Kangaroo Island landowners to apply for the grants, if eligible, and take up this opportunity to utilise the subsidy. The subsidy is currently open and applications close on 30 April this year. Landowners who are battling against problematic weeds are each able to secure up to \$5,500 to help with the cost of equipment to manage those weeds. I am advised that in order to qualify, landowners must have evidence on their properties of pasture weeds, fire-responsive weeds or declared weeds.

Weed management is an extremely important issue on the island and that's why programs like this are so valuable. I look forward to being able to further update you on the outcome of weed management on Kangaroo Island once we have seen the results of this subsidy in action.

BIOSECURITY, KANGAROO ISLAND

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:19): Supplementary: how is the department checking travellers to Kangaroo Island to ensure restricted items are not brought on to the island?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, I thought it was a pretty broad-ranging answer, so I will invite you to answer it. If you choose not to, it's okay.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:19): There are a range of biosecurity matters that we have addressed and increased in terms of going onto the island, some of which I have already outlined previously in this place.

Matters of Interest

CRADDOCK, MRS R.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:20): Today, I rise to speak about another legendary woman, Rosemary Craddock AM. Rosemary played an essential role in her local community and broader South Australia. She was born in Curramulka on the Yorke Peninsula as the only child of Eric and Pat Hamilton-Smith and spent her early years at Georgetown. She was a typical country girl—very sporty, down to earth and with an irreverent sense of humour. She enjoyed many sporting pursuits throughout her life, including tennis, golf and downhill skiing.

She did her schooling as a boarder at Wilderness, where she maintained strong ties, including as president of the Old Scholars' Association, and served as a member of the Board of Governors for seven years. On completing school, she studied law at the University of Adelaide and was admitted to practice in 1972. Throughout her legal work, she had a very diverse career, but of most note was her work in native title on behalf of local governments on the De Rose Hill Station claim in the Far North, which became a test case for native title claims in South Australia.

Upon moving into the Walkerville council area, Rosemary became an active community member and was elected to council in 1989. She was then elected mayor in 1995 and subsequently became president of the Local Government Association in 1997. Rosemary was a fierce advocate for local government and the tone of some of her letters to the editor was elegantly dry and to the point, such as this comment following coverage in *The Advertiser* that she clearly had not agreed with and I quote, 'I should note the headline on your editorial did not match its content.'

Her time in local government coincided with Liberal governments being in power at both a state and federal level and Rosemary had no hesitation in letting various ministers know publicly and no doubt privately when she disapproved or disagreed with them. These included subjects such as the economy of the state, proposed changes to the Local Government Act, which she labelled 'big brother', spending on the emergency services levy, whether South Australia was getting value for money on the sale of Telstra in 1999, the GST deal, the time she publicly questioned the value of the 12 Senate representatives from South Australia to the federal parliament, opposition to council amalgamations, ownership of council assets in relation to ETSA and concessions for ratepayers.

Rosemary retired from council in 2000, but after her retirement she continued to be very active in the Walkerville area commenting on council issues, such as proposed amalgamations, which she vehemently opposed. I note that no amalgamations have yet occurred with the city of Walkerville.

Rosemary was elected as state president of the Liberal Party in 2000. She was the second female president, following the election of Vickie Chapman previously. This coincided with some challenging times for the Liberal Party, but under her leadership significant reforms went through that established residency requirements for anyone voting at preselections. Rosemary was always a strong advocate for ensuring fairness for all. She served three terms as president and in her final term she delivered a characteristically blunt message after the 2002 election loss about the need for the parliamentary team to get on with the task and look to the future.

In her legal and community service work, Rosemary was a trailblazer. She was a strong supporter for other women, both in local government and politics, and she received a number of awards for her service. In 1999, she received a Ministerial Citation for Outstanding Service, particularly for her leadership of the sector in the negotiations on the 1999 Local Government Bill.

In 2000, she received the Premier's Award for Outstanding Community Achievement. She was a recipient of a Centenary Medal for service to local government and in 2017 she became a

member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to local government in South Australia and to the community of Walkerville.

Sadly, she passed away last year. She was a friend of mine. We all miss her sense of humour and the twinkle that she had in her eye and for her bluntness and strength.

AUTISTIC WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:24): Thank you, Madam Acting President, for the opportunity to speak on International Women's Day. One of the themes for International Women's Day this year is 'Embrace equity'. That theme has been chosen to highlight the difference between equity and equality, which are terms that are often used interchangeably. While equality means that everyone has access to the same resources and opportunities, equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and so should be provided the specific resources they need to be equal.

While International Women's Day is all about raising awareness for women's equality, we need to acknowledge women's diversity when we are striving for equality. Not all women come from an equal starting place, and women in marginalised communities are particularly affected by inequality. Women who are culturally diverse, LGBTQIA+ women, women who are economically disadvantaged and women with disability face hurdles that often other women do not.

This is the case for women and girls in the autistic and autism community. Since taking on the role of Assistant Minister for Autism, I have met with many autistic girls and women who have shared with me the ways in which they have often faced additional barriers and challenges in relation to their experiences with autism. Rates of autism often show that boys are on average four times more likely to have autism than girls; however, many have now come to realise that this number may be wildly inaccurate.

There is growing research that shows that autism presents differently in girls and therefore is often unrecognised and undiagnosed. Girls with autism are often better at camouflaging their sensory needs and reactions in order to fit in. I have heard time and time again from autistic women and girls and their parents how difficult it has been to get a diagnosis. For example, autistic girls will often receive a mental health diagnosis instead of an autism diagnosis, leading many autistic girls not to receive an autism diagnosis until well into their adulthood.

This late diagnosis is critical to people understanding who they are and should have been given to them earlier in life. Many autistic women have shared with me the frustrations they feel at having missed out on an earlier diagnosis and how they feel their whole lives could have been shaped differently had they just known and had access to support services earlier in life. For Laura, an earlier diagnosis might have meant she was able to finish school instead of dropping out in year 10. For Shekinah, having an earlier autism diagnosis could have better addressed her sensory needs instead of them being characterised as general anxiety disorder.

This International Women's Day, I would like to recognise how girls and women often face additional barriers accessing health services. The underdiagnosis of autism in girls and women is just one such example. I am so proud to be the nation's first Assistant Minister for Autism—and possibly, as my girls like to say, the first in the galaxy—and to have the responsibility of ensuring that autistic and autism communities are represented.

As part of our commitment to this, the Malinauskas state government is developing a range of initiatives to support autistic girls, including \$28.8 million over four years to fund access to an Autism Inclusion Teacher in every public primary school from the beginning of term 1, which started in this term in week 1. I was proud to join many of the Autism Inclusion Teachers today at the Convention Centre for some of their training. We are also investing \$50 million to fund speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and counsellors in the public school system. We are developing a state autism inclusion strategy that operates to support our community and will be part of developing an autism charter.

We are also establishing another nation first, an Office for Autism, which will be staffed by autistic people and based in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, placing inclusion at the heart and centre of government. The Office for Autism will be tasked with supporting the implementation of the autism strategy and charter, which will not only help build knowledge about

autism in general but knowledge about how autism often presents differently in girls and women, making real, lasting cultural change in our community for autistic women and girls for the future.

On this International Women's Day I am excited to continue to work with the autistic and autism community as the autism strategy and charter are developed and implemented in our schools and government agencies, creating a more equitable society for autistic women and girls.

HELLENIC AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:29): It was a great personal pleasure, together with the other co-conveners of the Parliamentary Friends of Greece and Cyprus, to co-host the VIP launch of South Australia's Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HACCI) in Parliament House last week.

The event was an outstanding success with more than 80 people from throughout the Greek and local business community attending. Guests and speakers included the Chief Justice, Chris Kourakis SC; prominent developer Theo Maras; newly appointed Property Council of SA Executive Director and philhellene, Bruce Djite; and well-known Adelaide businessman and philhellene Francis Wong OAM.

We got off to a great start with the Premier, Peter Malinauskas; the Minister for Small and Family Business, Consumer and Business Affairs and the Arts, Andrea Michaels; the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Energy and Mining, Tom Koutsantonis, who jointly hosted the event for the group; and others speaking on the night about the influence Greek migrants have had in South Australia's history and how that will continue with their sons and daughters—the next generation of dedicated, hardworking South Australian Greeks. I thank also the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, who attended in her capacity representing the opposition leader but also as a philhellene.

As many in this chamber know, South Australia has a proud history of Greek migrants contributing strongly to its development and growth. This has motivated a group of emerging Greek South Australian business leaders to revive HACCI SA, which is dedicated to supporting the Hellenic business community diaspora in the state.

Among other things, HACCI SA plans to host networking and other events, offer mentoring and develop a business directory and app—all designed to build strong connections between Greek Australians within the state, interstate and overseas. On a personal level, I am really excited to be working with HACCI on the formation of a Greek Women in Business network.

While a Greek Chamber of Commerce was established in SA in the late nineties, it was dormant for almost 10 years, so the decision by this young, invigorated group was made to relaunch it. We have some young, inspirational people on the board including chair, Kosta Koutsonas, from Samaras Group; Alex Demetriou from KPMG; John Tsianos from the Adelaide 36ers; Dr Sylvia Villios, Associate Professor of Law at Adelaide Law School; Vas Marinos, Principal at Norman Waterhouse; Alicia Tsolis, Executive Manager at Suncorp; and Peter Panas, Relationship Director at Bank SA.

The local HACCI branch forms part of a federation of chambers operating across the country whose aims are to support greater collaboration between businesses and professionals within Australia and, as I said, help facilitate trade opportunities between local businesses and partners in Greece and Cyprus. Talking about HACCI, Mr Koutsonas said:

Creating a stronger business community and establishing these connections means we can leverage each other's successes, so we can grow and prosper together.

Our vision of success would see our community transacting with each other in SA, nationally with our partner chambers, and exporting our goods and IP to Europe through Greece.

We met with the trade commissioner in Sydney and were overwhelmed by the opportunities that exist for businesses in our state. This includes sourcing a highly skilled and competent labour force to migrate to South Australia, and work remotely from Greece.

My parliamentary colleagues and I who are of Greek Australian background I think are a walking testament to the first generation of Greek migrants who have left an indelible mark on SA. It is the

perfect migrant story and one that each and every other wave of migrants has strived for since coming to this place, and it is one that I am exceptionally proud of.

Our families, like many other migrant families, came here and worked really hard to pave a future for their children. They contributed to building successful businesses. They contributed to helping shape our state and our communities. I think that our community, the broader South Australian community, continues to benefit from that contribution. Many of their sons and daughters who attended the launch event last week have become extraordinarily successful members of our business community and, as I said on the night, if the board's commitment to HACCI is anything like their strong work ethic then HACCI will be in very good hands for years to come.

ANDREW RUSSELL VETERAN LIVING

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:34): I rise to speak about the Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) housing program. The ARVL program, run by RSL Care SA, is named in honour of Sergeant Andrew Russell. Sergeant Russell was a South Australian born SAS soldier who was killed in Afghanistan in February 2022 when the long-range patrol vehicle he was travelling in struck a suspected anti-vehicle mine. Sergeant Russell's death was the first Australian military death in action since the Vietnam War.

The ARVL program aims to ensure that any veteran in SA who is homeless or at risk of homelessness can secure ongoing and stable housing. So far ARVL has provided over 20,000 nights of emergency accommodation places to South Australia's homeless veterans. In the past two years, 51 veterans have left the emergency accommodation program, of which 45 (88 per cent) secured long-term stable housing.

I will share some examples of ARVL's success. A veteran couple recently found themselves homeless, and they were forced to live in a caravan and a car. The husband, a Vietnam veteran who has health issues, and his wife, who is hearing-impaired and is also his carer, were forced into this situation during hot summer weather. ARVL intervened and housed the couple in its long-term accommodation program. The couple has expressed their profound appreciation for the opportunity, which changed their lives significantly.

Another example is of a young woman, a Navy veteran. After six years' service and multiple deployments, she struggled for several years with homelessness and mental health challenges. After a seven-month stay at ARVL, she said:

RSL Care gave me back my independence. I'd jumped from hospital to hospital, with very limited family support. Mental illness is difficult enough without the added burden of trying to find somewhere you can afford to live.

I consider myself extremely lucky. I was offered a lovely unit with ARVL, it was clean and private, yet I was surrounded by more help and care than I have ever experienced. I finally felt safe and began to live again.

Other ARVL residents said:

I am certain I wouldn't be alive now without ARVL as I was at my lowest, and recently attempted to end my life just prior to receiving the support. Thank you all so much.

They were there when I was at the bottom of the pit...and because of everyone that helped...I'm a lot better.

The blankets and suitcase mean so much to me and I want to thank you all, even those in the background, for most definitely giving me not only accommodation but hope.

I would like to thank RSL Care SA, which is a not-for-profit charitable care provider supporting the ex-service and wider community of South Australia for over 100 years. They fund the ARVL program from donations. They are making an important difference for our veterans and our community.

Some service members give their lives for our country. Veterans who return from service with enormous trauma may not give their lives, but too many have sacrificed the person they were before. They sacrifice their wellbeing and they sacrifice their future for our country. For them to return home only to find themselves without a home is a disgrace we cannot accept.

I commend the RSL Care SA board for their leadership, its CEO, Mr Nathan Klinge, who is with us here today, and the many dedicated staff and volunteers for their crucial work in helping some of our community's most vulnerable people, veterans who so greatly deserve the excellent support this program provides.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:39): I do not normally speak on matters of my personal religious faith in this place very often, but I saw something so compelling the other evening that I feel that I must. It is for that reason that I rise today to condemn the deeply offensive comments made by a guest on the television program *The Project* on Tuesday 28 February.

As some members may be aware, comedian Reuben Kaye made an incredibly crude so-called joke about Jesus Christ which was so tasteless and offensive that I will not repeat it here. Put simply, it was in very bad taste and would have offended a lot of people, and certainly did offend me—and I must say, completely unnecessarily.

The comments made by Kaye were so blatantly offensive that they elicited immediate backlash from Australians who were not only of the Christian faith but also of the Muslim religion, and indeed of no religion at all. I am aware that the Australian Communications and Media Authority promptly received hundreds of complaints after the program aired, with an impromptu protest erupting in Sydney—just on the streets, apparently.

Another protest was planned for shortly afterwards, and a petition calling on Channel 10 to in fact cancel the show now has close to 40,000 signatures (indeed, maybe more, as I got that figure a few days ago). I wish to stress that I am not calling for the show to be cancelled, but such a strong reaction demonstrates how offensive it has been to so many people, including me.

Appropriately, *The Project* hosts Waleed Aly and Sarah Harris issued an apology for what was said by Kaye, acknowledging how profound the offence was to both their Christian and Muslim viewers. This was, of course, absolutely necessary. It is, unfortunately, commonplace for Christianity to be ridiculed in our society with complete disregard for people of faith, and there are usually no consequences. The use of Jesus' name in vain, for instance, is simply part of the mainstream media's vernacular in modern Australia, and yet I cannot ever imagine the use of Muhammad's name in such a manner.

There is a gentleman by the name of Makarios Griniezakis, the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia. He has released a poignant statement in response to this matter, and I would like to quote from him. He said:

It is with a deep sense of sadness that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia expresses its profound discontent and denounces the extremely distasteful and rather deplorable content aired on *The Project*...relating to Jesus Christ and the contemptuous derision of His suffering and crucifixion on the cross.

It is well known to all who believe in Christ—and indeed have done so throughout the centuries, with countless Christians suffering martyrdom and death for their faith—that the selfless sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is the most striking and compelling reminder of God's boundless love for the entire world.

At a time when all people seek equal rights and justice—and do so rightly—it is equally important to be reminded of our common responsibilities, our common efforts and goals, as one human race, which are far more congruous than our differences. Indeed, it is quite unfortunate, in our day and age, that many are quite happy only to lay claim to their rights but neglect their requisite responsibilities. Everyone is free to believe in Christ or not, but no one has the right to disparage the Christian God, Christian teachings, and sacred symbols—or in fact those of any other religious faith. Rather, it is incumbent upon all of us to foster a culture of peace and solidarity, creating bridges and opportunities for dialogue; promoting ways in which all people can have the right to exercise their religious beliefs in a spirit of amity and fraternity without fear of violence or ridicule. Anything less can only be a negation of our human dignity, nobility and mutual self-respect.

I could not have articulated my position on the issue any better than he has, and I am sure many Christians would feel exactly the same way. To conclude, the airing of such material in the media is deplorable and offensive to many, many Christians, including myself. It simply is not funny. It must stop. Many millions of Christians would agree with me.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:44): I note with great optimism recent statistics showing that South Australian tourism is rapidly returning to pre-pandemic levels. Of course, the ongoing growth of tourism in this state, as it is everywhere else in this new post-COVID world, depends on the continued recovery from a once-in-a-lifetime viral outbreak.

History shows us that Labor is far more proactive on matters of tourism than the other side. We are a party that has actively supported not just tourism, the arts and sports, but also got the Festival Theatre off the ground. We also saw Adelaide Oval upgraded to a world-class stadium and have backed so many events in the state that we have lost count.

In fact, prior to the Adelaide Oval becoming a national football stadium, Football Park was also a Labor initiative. Now, enough chest beating: this is about the state and I am greatly encouraged that now we can look forward to the future knowing that more tourists will be coming to South Australia and spending their money here.

In April last year, the state welcomed almost a quarter of a million interstate visitors, who spent \$274 million here, a figure that is up 18 per cent on the most recent pre-pandemic corresponding month in 2019. Add to that the 450,000-odd overnight tourists from within the state and the increasing number of international visitors and we are well on our way back to regaining our position as a tourism success story.

From the 12 months to March last year, according to the National Visitor Survey, our market from interstate visitors amounted to \$1.8 billion. These are the best figures since COVID hit. In fact, we have returned to pre-COVID levels: great numbers, but we do not have to limit ourselves to achieving 100 per cent. With all that we have at our disposal, we should be aiming a lot higher.

During times of Labor government, and with its support, many of the structures and venues that accommodate tourism and bring it here were created. The long list includes the Adelaide Casino, which was opened in 1985; the upgraded Casino; the world-class Convention Centre; the Adelaide Festival Centre; the Entertainment Centre; and more hotels and cafes and restaurants.

These were encouraged by Labor governments that had a vision for the future. An announcement was made last July for two new international hotels to further accommodate tourists: one on Victoria Square and the other on the Whyalla foreshore. That sort of commitment alone shows the appeal this state is offering, not just to tourists but also to investors.

It is quite remarkable how many tourism initiatives have occurred under Labor. Investment in this state, and particularly the tourism sector, has historically happened at a far greater rate in times of Labor governments. The \$350 million Convention Centre upgrade and extension is a prime example, making it a world-class convention facility that attracts businesses from around the world.

Labor governments in this state have a record of cooperation with tourism and development groups, while remaining faithful to the landscape. As Minister for Tourism, almost a decade before becoming Premier, Mike Rann introduced legislation to establish the SA Tourism Commission in 1993. It was Labor once again in 2017 that created the Riverbank Entertainment Precinct Advisory Committee, which has become so vital to our city landscape.

Tourism SA is committed to growing the visitor economy to \$12.8 billion by 2030. It is an ambitious target but one that we should all be excited about. It should also remind us that, when planning a holiday, there is plenty to see in our own state. Whether it is a weekend on the Murray, a Kangaroo Island getaway, a night on the town in Adelaide itself, a trip to the Adelaide Hills, or perhaps a drive up north to find out the reasons Whyalla is about to get a world-class hotel, the state has a lot to offer its own people.

I am proud to say Labor has supported a lot of the initiatives that have turned Adelaide and South Australia from a very pleasant place to live to a vibrant, exciting destination. With the money tourism brings into the economy and the jobs it creates, the tourism rebound is good news for us all.

FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:48): I rise to speak today about the future of our children. I want to share my views about education in this state and why we owe it to our young people to do better. Education is one of the most important aspects of any society. It is the foundation on which we build our future and it is essential that we ensure that our children receive the best possible education.

Unfortunately, the state of education standards in South Australia has been declining in recent years. According to the latest data, South Australia ranks below the national average in both

literacy and numeracy. This is a worrying trend and we need to take decisive and immediate action to reverse it. The breadth of the curriculum in schools and how it is impacting the depth of learning and understanding is part of the challenge our teachers and students face—also, a left-wing agenda is playing a significant role in the decline.

In recent years, there has been a push towards a wider range of subjects, with schools incorporating more subjects into a child's day. Whilst this approach may seem well intentioned, it is causing a significant impact on the depth of learning and understanding. When we focus on teaching a large number of subjects, we run the risk of spreading ourselves too thin. The result is that students end up with a superficial understanding of each subject rather than a deep and meaningful understanding.

Children are taught that everything is about race, gender and sexuality. They are taught to view the world through the lens of identity politics rather than as individuals with unique experiences and perspectives. This narrow-minded view of the world is not only harmful to the individual but is also detrimental to society as a whole.

I call on this government to strike a balance between the breadth and depth of the curriculum. We must focus on teaching a smaller number of subjects in greater depth; and we must teach them to think critically, to value diversity and to respect others, regardless of their identity. Only then can we create a truly inclusive society that values individuality and promotes understanding.

We need a much stronger focus on early childhood education. Research has shown that early childhood education is critical for a child's development, and it can have a significant impact on their academic performance later in life. We need to ensure that all children in South Australia have access to high-quality early childhood education, particularly in the regions where families are not always able to access early childhood education and long day care facilities.

I call on this government to ensure we are providing our teachers with the resources and support they need to do their jobs effectively. Children should not be disadvantaged because of where they live and what their parents can afford. As a wealthy state we should be ensuring that all children receive a quality education, regardless of the circumstances they are born into. Labor has been in government for much of the last 20 years and the education system has suffered at their hands.

I call on this government to consider another small but significant way to see an enormous improvement in our schools, to take pressure off families that are buckling under soaring power prices, inflation and rising interest rates. Providing healthy snacks or lunch to kids at school, particularly in low socio-economic areas, is one thing we can do for the young people in our state. It is well known that good nutrition plays a crucial role in a child's overall development, including their physical and mental health and their academic performance. However, not all children have access to nutritious food at home, and this is where governments can step in to help.

By providing healthy lunch or snacks at school, children from low socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to receive a nutritious meal that they may not get at home. This not only improves their physical health but also helps to level the playing field for academic performance. When children are well fed and not hungry, they are more likely to concentrate better in class, retain information and are more capable of moderating their behaviour.

We must work towards creating a more equitable education system, where all children have access to the same opportunities regardless of their background. This, coupled with a back-to-basics approach to our curriculum and the end of the politically-fuelled indoctrination of our young people, should see South Australia lead the charge in our country in terms of education standards.

It saddens me to think that Australia was ranked 39 out of 41 OECD countries by UNICEF. I call on this government to make the changes needed in South Australia to ensure we lead by example, so that we are not at the bottom of the rankings any longer than we have to be.

Motions

END YOUTH SUICIDE WEEK

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:53): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that 13-17 February 2023 marked End Youth Suicide Week;
2. Notes that one in four young Australians experience a mental health issue each year;
3. Notes that suicide is the leading cause of death for young people aged 14 to 25 and that approximately nine young people die by suicide every day; and
4. Recognises the valuable work of the Youth Insearch Foundation to reduce the incidence of crime, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm, and suicide in young people.

This motion seeks to acknowledge that 13 to 17 February 2023 was End Youth Suicide Week, and notes that one in four young Australians experience a mental health issue every year. It notes that suicide is the leading cause of death for young people aged 14 to 25, and that approximately nine young people die by suicide every day. It recognises the valuable work of the Youth Insearch Foundation to reduce the incidence of crime, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and suicide in young people.

Many young people in Australia today are impacted by the problems stemming from poverty, broken and dysfunctional homes, domestic violence, sexual, physical and emotional abuse, death and grief, substance addiction and other traumatic events. As a consequence, many of these young people can struggle with education, employment, homelessness, and mental illness and find themselves turning to self-harm, suicidal ideation, drug and alcohol abuse, crime and violence.

But, also, we know that many young people take their own lives despite receiving significant support from family and friends, and that is a truly shocking and devastating thing for our community. Sadly, in Australia, suicide is the leading cause of death among those aged 14 to 25, and over one in three deaths of young people aged 14 to 25 are by suicide. In fact, approximately nine young people die by suicide in Australia every day. What is most heartbreaking is that this number continues to grow year by year.

I know, within my own social circle, I have seen the terrible effects that can flow from death by suicide, the terrible effect that has for family and friends left behind. Youth suicide in Australia disproportionately affects Indigenous, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the LGBTIQ+ community, and young people living in rural and remote areas. These are truly awful statistics.

Fortunately, there are organisations, like Youth Insearch, that shine a light on this issue and provide early intervention and support. Established in 1985, Youth Insearch is an independent not-for-profit peer-led youth intervention organisation dedicated to supporting at-risk youth overcome trauma and mental health issues, protecting them against suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Youth Insearch runs one of the most successful youth intervention programs in our country. The program was developed together with young people back in 1985. The Youth Insearch program is an award-winning, proven, comprehensive early intervention program that consists of counselling, support, mentoring and empowerment for at-risk young people who are aged 14 to 20 and is delivered through weekend workshops, support groups, peer support, leadership and individual care.

The program works by allowing young people to confront and deal with the reality of the pain in their lives. By drawing on the resources of other young people and their experiences, the organisation is able to address the real problems or the underlying issues that many of these young people may face. About 30 per cent of young people who have attended the Youth Insearch program are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and 10 per cent are culturally and linguistically diverse.

I understand that Youth Insearch leaders come from these diverse backgrounds and are all trained in cultural sensitivity as part of their work. In its 37 years of operation, Insearch has helped almost 32,000 young people rebuild their lives, and it has assisted a thousand young people across our country each year.

An independent external review commissioned by the New South Wales government found positive outcomes across multiple behaviour and wellbeing measures and found that the program had a sustained positive impact on these issues over time. Some of the reported positive outcomes included less trouble with police and crime, higher self-esteem, improved family relationships,

reduced suicidal thoughts and attempts, reduced alcohol and drug use, and better attendance and attitude towards education.

Youth Insearch run an End Youth Suicide Week, which is a campaign to encourage the community and young people to defy the stigma associated with mental health and to have supportive conversations about suicide with their friends, families and communities. End Youth Suicide Week this year ran from Monday 13 to Friday 17 February.

I commend Youth Insearch for their success in combating youth suicide and for moving young people from trauma to triumph, and I congratulate them on a successful End Youth Suicide Week. I do hope that the week has led people to have conversations within their communities and improved awareness around suicide and has led to young people at risk being connected to the support that they need. With that, I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I.K. Hunter.

NEURODIVERSITY CELEBRATION WEEK

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:01): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises 13 to 19 March 2023 as Neurodiversity Celebration Week;
2. Acknowledges Neurodiversity Celebration Week as a time to increase knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity and celebrate neurodivergent people, including members of the autistic community; and
3. Congratulates the Malinauskas government's commitment to start supporting neurodiversity through the establishment of the nation's first Office for Autism in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, placing inclusion at the heart and centre of government.

I rise today to speak about Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Neurodiversity Celebration Week will take place next week from 13 to 19 March 2023. Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a time to increase knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity and celebrate neurodivergent people, including members of the autistic community.

Listening to the experiences of the autistic and autism communities, I am constantly reminded of how difficult it can feel for autistic people when they have to navigate spaces where there is little understanding or knowledge of neurodiversity.

Just last month, at one of our community forums in Mount Gambier, I joined close to 100 members of the local autistic and autism communities to listen to the story of Shekinah, an autistic woman and member of our Autism Education Advisory Group. Today, Shekinah is a successful teacher and leader in the autistic community, but she was once a girl who spent much of her childhood mimicking others and writing social scripts just to fit in. This ritual of observing and practising social behaviours in order to be more like others is known as masking and it is a common practice amongst autistic girls and women.

By celebrating neurodiversity and neurodivergent people, we can reduce the need for autistic people, like Shekinah, to feel like they have to mask when they attend school, go to work or visit the doctor's office. As Shekinah said:

I had a really great childhood, but I often imagine what it would have been like if my neurodivergence was taken seriously right back at the beginning.

It is stories like Shekinah's that demonstrate why the Malinauskas Labor government has committed to start supporting and celebrating neurodiversity. We have started by funding access to an Autism Inclusion Teacher in every public primary school in South Australia so teachers can start building knowledge and understanding of autism.

We have listened to the calls of the autistic and autism communities who have long advocated for cultural change. Just a few weeks ago, the Malinauskas Labor government established the nation's very first Office for Autism in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, placing inclusion at the heart and centre of government. During our consultation, the autistic and autism communities stressed the importance of a centralised hub of information led by autistic people.

We are working side by side with the autistic and autism communities to bring about cultural change in South Australia. I am proud of what we have started, and this government will continue to celebrate neurodiversity and the neurodivergent people who make this state so very great.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. N.J. Centofanti.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (CHILDREN IN CARE) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:05): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and the Education and Children's Services Act 2019. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:06): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill tackles unfair educational inequity for children in state care. I am alarmed by the absence of reporting on the educational outcomes of children and young people in state care. This bill will cause tangible change to the current system.

The Statutes Amendment (Children in Care) Bill 2023 will cause the collection, reporting and tabling of statistical data pertaining to educational outcomes of children in state care, encompassing all levels of completed educational attainment from kindergarten through to SACE, all participation and attendance in any recognised educational program and the acknowledgement of any failure to attend or complete approved learning programs. It will also cause the Minister for Child Protection and the Minister for Education to meet at least every 12 months to discuss in exclusivity the educational outcomes of children in state care.

My understanding is that all this information can easily be sourced, de-identified and tabled. In fact, we have proof this can be recorded as we have NAPLAN results direct from schools as a minimum. Those NAPLAN results show that only 27.4 per cent of children attending year 9 studies while in state care met the standard of educational achievement for numeracy in 2021. The Department for Education itself notes in its NAPLAN reporting that:

Performance of children and young people in care is consistently well below the performance...against all three measures [literacy, numeracy and writing] and across all year levels.

I believe the educational achievements and aspirations of children and young people in care should be the responsibility of both departments. Members of this place will recall that I have previously called for a select committee to investigate causes of and solutions to chronic student absenteeism and school refusal. The education system is failing children from families already at a socio-economic disadvantage, and children in state care are disproportionately from these same low socio-economic households.

Students from low socio-economic households make up over 50 per cent of students temporarily suspended from school and 60 per cent of students excluded from school, despite being less than 30 per cent of the general school population. Category 1 disadvantaged schools have an absenteeism rate of almost 25 per cent compared with the category 7 school average of only 6.4 per cent absenteeism. We do not know what percentage of students suspended or excluded from school are in the state care system, and we do not know the academic achievements and failures of children and young people in state care. We do not know what percentage of year 12 students in state care complete SACE each year because none of this information is recorded in a way that can produce trends.

'Not the Department for Education.' 'Not the Department for Child Protection.' Education say it is not their responsibility and Child Protection say it is not their responsibility. The educational achievements and aspirations of children and young people in care should be the responsibility of both these departments. This Statutes Amendment (Children in Care) Bill is about mandating better

communication and clear reporting and outcomes. It is about transparency and targeted change. I believe it should be recorded, and One Nation believes in tangible outcomes.

Part 2 of this bill simply ensures that the educational outcomes of children living in state care are collected, de-identified, tabled and presented to the Minister for Education and to the Minister for Child Protection. Part 3 of this bill instructs both ministers to meet regularly, by legislation, to discuss the educational attendance and outcomes of children in state care. I would have thought this was already part of their basic remit and I find it disappointing that it must be legislated for it to occur. Surely, looking after our most vulnerable children should be one of our highest priorities.

The philosopher Confucius wrote: 'Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope.' If there are two things that children living in residential care need, they are confidence and hope: confidence in themselves and the systems around them, and hope for a brighter future whether that is as an independent young adult or reunited with their family.

I hope my colleagues in this place see reason to support this simple amendment as a tangible step to building better outcomes for children and young people who find themselves in the state care system. I commend this bill to the chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I.K. Hunter.

Motions

LYMPHOEDEMA

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (16:11): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 6 March 2023 is World Lymphoedema Day;
2. Notes that the message of World Lymphoedema Day 2023 is 'Lymphoedema: what we want you to know';
3. Acknowledges that lymphoedema is a chronic condition, which can often go undiagnosed and untreated; and
4. Expresses its support for people living with lymphoedema and the many organisations working to ensure that people with lymphoedema get the information, treatment and support they need to live well.

Monday this week marked World Lymphoedema Day, a day aimed at increasing understanding and awareness of lymphoedema worldwide. As well as this date, the month of March is recognised in Australia as Lymphoedema Month. So what is lymphoedema? Lymphoedema is a chronic inflammatory condition in which part of the lymphatic drainage system fails to work effectively. It can affect anyone at any age and, while there are treatments, there is no cure.

Lymphoedema results in significant swelling and fluid build-up that can have serious consequences. It can be difficult to move and lymphoedema can cause significant discomfort and pain. Unfortunately, the consequences of lymphoedema can be that it is difficult to be active and mobile, and yet this can be a bit of a catch 22, as staying active is one of the ways in which lymphoedema can be treated.

Lymphoedema can be either primary or secondary. Primary lymphoedema means there exists an abnormality of the lymphatic system that has been present from birth. However, in some people difficulties with the lymphatic system do not express themselves until later in life or following a traumatic event.

Secondary lymphoedema is caused when delicate lymphatic vessels or lymph nodes are damaged or destroyed. There are many causes of secondary lymphoedema, but one of the most common causes is as a result of surgery or treatment that removes or damages areas where there are a lot of lymph nodes.

Cancer is one of the most evil diseases and, even for survivors, one of the lifelong consequences can be the onset of lymphoedema. It is estimated that 20 per cent of survivors from breast, gynaecological or prostate cancer or melanoma are likely to experience secondary

lymphoedema. Lymphoedema can have a significant impact on a person's quality of life, causing discomfort, pain and limited mobility.

A variety of psychosocial issues may arise following a diagnosis of lymphoedema. These range from adjusting to a chronic illness to dealing with the day-to-day demands of self-management. This can have a serious impact on body image and quality of life, and depression and anxiety may result when there is a lack of support.

Whilst estimates of the incidence of lymphoedema vary and lymphoedema statistics are often not comprehensively recorded, conservatively it is estimated that there are approximately 70,000 Australians living with lymphoedema, but the actual figure is likely much higher. What we do know is that the earlier lymphoedema is diagnosed, the better the outcomes are, but unfortunately many people do not have their lymphoedema diagnosed for some time, which can lead to the condition becoming quite advanced as well as having increased infections and other complications as a result.

With early diagnosis, assessment, intervention and treatment, this chronic condition can be more easily managed and the quality of life improved. Lymphoedema is best treated through a holistic and multidisciplinary approach administered by qualified lymphoedema therapists. Treatment usually consists of education, skincare, exercise, manual lymphatic drainage and compression therapy.

South Australia is fortunate to have some of Australia's leading experts in lymphoedema practising from the Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit and the lymphoedema clinic at the Flinders Medical Centre. The current clinical trials being undertaken at the Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit include the efficacy of machine-delivered massage and a possible medication to help control lymphoedema. I sincerely commend the Flinders University practitioners for their work and efforts in supporting the South Australian lymphoedema community.

I am also grateful to Monique Bareham and the Lymphoedema Association of South Australia for bringing lymphoedema to my attention and for their continuing advocacy in this area. Monique in particular is a leading voice in the South Australian lymphoedema community and was recognised as the 2022 South Australian Local Hero for her work successfully lobbying the government to implement a compression garment subsidy.

Monique was diagnosed with lymphoedema after being treated for cancer. Finding that there were limited support options available, she has dedicated her life to supporting cancer survivors and those diagnosed with lymphoedema. Her work is commendable and anyone who has met her knows that she is a force for good. She does this without financial support and all from the goodness of her heart. Her work in delivering government subsidies for medical garments was an important first step, as what might look like a simple compression bandage is in fact a bespoke individualised garment that costs many hundreds of dollars and generally will only last six months.

Her next goals are to see better recognition of lymphoedema and the collection of statistics to better understand its prevalence, as well as a nation-leading framework for a model of care. With Monique's advocacy and leading research from Flinders University, there is no reason why South Australia cannot lead the way. When receiving the Local Hero Award, Monique said that her ultimate vision is for positive health outcomes for every single person living with lymphoedema, or at risk of lymphoedema, in South Australia. This is a notion that I believe everyone in this chamber can support. I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. N.J. Centofanti.

REGIONAL BANK CLOSURES

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.A. Simms:

That this council—

1. Notes with concern that:
 - (a) Westpac has decided to close their branch in Coober Pedy, leaving the community without a bank; and
 - (b) at least 22 regional towns have been left without a bank branch including Burra, Kapunda, Mannum, Maitland, Peterborough, Roxby Downs, Tailem Bend, Tumby Bay and Willunga.

2. Recognises the adverse impact of the closure of banks on regional communities and in particular the impediment it places on community and business activity.
3. Condemns the closure of bank branches in the regions and calls on Westpac to reconsider its decision to close its branch in Coober Pedy.
4. Calls on the Malinauskas government to formally raise the matter with Westpac and advocate for the retention of bank branches in the regions.

(Continued from 22 February 2023.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (16:17): I indicate that the government will be supporting this motion. I also note that this is a complex issue with no easy answers. Closures of regional banks have occurred while there have been governments in place of various persuasions, because private banking corporations have prioritised profits over social responsibility to their regional customers, even while some banks continue to record record profits.

Nevertheless, we cannot absolve banks from being called out when it becomes clear that they have abandoned regional communities, who have been often been longstanding and loyal customers. Changing the behaviour of profit-driven banks and the way they serve or fail to serve regional communities, however, is a difficult ask. When a regional bank branch closes, the consequences are significant. It means more than the loss of jobs within the branch and the loss of access for customers to face-to-face banking. It means that the on-costs, in terms of time and travel to the nearest bank to undertake tasks that could have been done locally, become a burden for the community.

The latest example of the bank closure in Coober Pedy will mean residents will need to drive over 500 kilometres to access similar services. It also means a loss of the sense of security that many people have from banking with their local branch. The retirees who spent their lives helping to build their regional communities or raise families and who are often loyal longstanding customers have all now been left high and dry. For some, there will be difficulties in accessing online services, whether it be through lack of confidence, lack of the technology required, or connectivity issues. Simply replacing face-to-face banking with online services in regional communities does not always work.

There are many more ways that people are adversely affected by these decisions. In essence, it makes regions harder to live and work in when major sectors such as banking corporations should be doing all they possibly can to grow our regions sustainably. Despite being able to meet the needs of many locals, post offices often do not have the ability to offer like-for-like services as banks, with limitations on the amounts of withdrawals or deposits or other services.

I have informed the chamber previously that the South Australian government will be making a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Bank Closures in Regional Australia, and I encourage others to do so. We will also be advocating in other fora. Again, I indicate support for this motion.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:20): I rise on behalf of the opposition to signal our support for this motion. However, I do have an amendment to this motion, and I have liaised with the Hon. Mr Simms on this amendment. I move:

Leave out paragraph 1: subparagraph (b) and insert new subparagraph as follows:

'(b) Many regional towns have been left without a bank branch;'

This amendment really just simplifies paragraph 1(b), as there was some confusion in regard to the accuracy of the individual towns listed. I do not believe this amendment detracts from the sentiment of the motion and, again, I would just like to place on the record that the opposition is certainly supportive of the sentiments of this motion.

I would like to talk about the importance of banks to certain people in regional communities in Australia, and more specifically in South Australia, and the troubling trend of banks withdrawing their services from regional centres in this part of the country. In the last six months alone, 92 bank branches were either closed or were locked in to close in rural and regional Australia, including a number in South Australia such as Mannum, Tailem Bend, Kapunda, Kingston and, of course, Coober Pedy.

Banks are an essential part of our financial system. They provide crucial services such as savings accounts, loans and investments. However, their importance goes beyond just financial services. Banks are also essential for building and strengthening regional communities. They are often the backbone of small towns and rural communities, providing critical support to farmers, to small businesses and to families.

Unfortunately, we are seeing a troubling trend of banks withdrawing their services from regional centres in South Australia. This trend is alarming and it is having a devastating impact on many people who live in these communities. Recently, we saw an example of this trend in action when Westpac announced it would be leaving Coober Pedy. Westpac's decision to leave has had a significant impact on the people of Coober Pedy, who now have limited access to financial services. This is just one example of the many towns and communities across South Australia that have been affected by the trend of banks withdrawing their services.

A single bank—in this case Westpac—should not be blamed for the trend of closing banks in regional South Australia. This is an issue that affects all of the four major banks. Whilst I can understand the honourable member's focus on Westpac, given the recent decision in Coober Pedy, the opposition do want to make it clear that we do not think a single bank should be singled out, and that all of the major banks have played a significant role in the trend of regional bank closures around South Australia, and indeed around the nation.

The federal Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into regional bank closures, including the branch closure process, the reasons given, and the economic and social impacts of bank closures on customers and regional communities. It is our view that it would be far better for existing banks to hold off on moving out of regional areas until the outcomes and recommendations of this federal inquiry, which is due to report in December 2023—that is, the end of this year.

The opposition feel so strongly about the essential nature of banks within regional communities that we, unlike the government, have been proactive. I, as shadow minister for regional South Australia, have written on behalf of the opposition to all four of the major banks, urging them to hold off on any further bank closures until the outcomes and recommendations of this inquiry are known. In addition, we have also asked for the four major banks to consider reopening some of the branches that have been shut down in recent times across South Australia.

I do want to recognise and place on the record that recently Westpac, BankSA and the Commonwealth Bank have stated publicly that they will not close further branches, pending the completion of this inquiry. I believe that is a responsible and sensible approach and should be acknowledged, because the importance of these key services to regional Australia cannot be overstated. We must do more to recognise the critical role that banks play in our regional communities. This means making sure that banks are not allowed to withdraw their services without a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that the people of these communities are not left without access to financial services.

We must work together to find a solution that protects our regional communities and ensures that they have access to the financial services they need. But it is not just about the financial services; it is also about the impacts on regional communities. When banks leave, they take away jobs and economic opportunities from these regional communities. They leave people without access to financial services, which can be particularly challenging for small businesses and particularly challenging for farmers and producers that rely on loans and other financial products.

We call on the Malinauskas government to take our lead and formally raise the matter with the major banks to ensure they commit to no further bank closures in regional South Australia, pending the completion of the federal inquiry. Labor has shown time and time again that they are more interested in metropolitan Adelaide than supporting regional communities. The minister signalled in this chamber that she is happy to sit by as banks withdraw their services from regional centres without any real plan to support these communities.

It is time for the government to take action and protect the people of regional South Australia. We need a government that is committed to supporting regional communities, a government that will

not allow banks to withdraw their services without a comprehensive plan in place. Banks are essential for building and strengthening these communities and we must do more to recognise this fact.

The trend of banks withdrawing their services is troubling and it is having an absolutely devastating impact on many people in our regional communities. We need a government that is committed to supporting regional South Australia and protecting the people who live in these communities.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:26): I will start the speech by saying that it is my work and based on my research, although who knows where banking will take us in the future with the use of artificial intelligence, which is already being used in US courtrooms and where there is a push to actually have AI lawyers conduct limited proceedings for clients. So do not rule out having to deal with AI bankers to apply for loans, credit cards and to carry out other types of transactions.

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Good luck with finding an ATM.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I will explain that shortly, Mr Simms. How times have changed, and so quickly. Once upon a time in the last century, when I was a young cadet newspaper journalist, I did my banking at the Hindley Street branch of the National Bank, where I had a personal banker. I could pick up the phone and speak to him, pop in for a chat about getting a loan for a car or a house and advice on financial matters. I appreciated the convenience of having direct face-to-face contact with a real person who actually knew you.

In regional areas, banks were an essential part of the community fabric: a conduit for business and personal transactions. They would have supported sport and service clubs. Four things you would find in a country town were a pub, a bank, a post office and a general store.

The Hon. C.M. Scriven: And a footy club.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: And a footy club, yes, no doubt, and a tennis club and a netball club if you want to go on—but sporting clubs, yes, absolutely. Fast forward to 2023 and the digital age is transforming our lives and communities.

Banking has led the charge in shifting resources and investment from bricks and mortar facilities to online services and, in the process, steadily closing branches in mostly cities and also in regional areas. In the meantime, the big four—Commonwealth, ANZ, Westpac and NAB—continue to post record profits for their shareholders. Australian Prudential Regulation Authority data shows banks, building societies and credit unions have cut the number of branches across Australia from 5,816 in June 2017, to 4,491 in June 2021, with 575 closures being in regional areas.

Branches in regional and remote Australia fell from 2,471 in June 2017 to 1,896 in June 2021. Automatic teller machines are becoming harder to find: numbers have fallen from 13,814 in 2017 to 7,757 in 2021. There were only 5,292 ATMs in Australia's major cities in 2021, compared with 10,052 in 2017, including the removal of almost 3,000 since 2019. ATMs in regional and remote Australia dropped from 3,762 in 2017 to 2,465 by June 2021.

According to the Australian Banking Association, over-the-counter transactions at major banks have dropped up to 68 per cent over the past five years. A 2021 survey of banking habits found that 64 per cent of regional Australians did their banking online, compared with 32 per cent who visited the branch. There were more than 3,500 banking-at-postal services, including 1,800 in rural and remote locations that allowed customers to deposit cash and cheques, withdraw money, check their balance and conduct other minor banking services at Australia Post.

Westpac, which has a third of its branches in regional areas, says 96 per cent of its transactions are now done digitally, with 84 per cent of consumer and business digital banking taking place on a smartphone or tablet, compared with 68 per cent five years ago. We are moving closer to the cashless society. I have been told that one bank soon intends to announce the end of processing cheques.

Westpac plans to close another 20 regional and suburban branches in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, although they have been put on hold while a Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs continues to take evidence. Coober Pedy in the Far North of our state is one of them and, as the Hon. Robert Simms has highlighted, at least

22 regional towns no longer have a bank. Westpac's chief customer engagement officer, Ross Miller, told the Senate inquiry that its customers do not want to travel and prefer to do their banking business at any time of their day, in their homes or at work.

The NAB told the same inquiry that only 3 per cent of its customers used its branches (or what is left of them) in 2022. But what about the elderly, the disabled and other vulnerable groups who do not have or are unable to use internet and mobile phone services? Where does it leave customers in Coober Pedy, where communications are not up to city standards? The nearest branch would be hundreds of kilometres away.

Regional communities are feeling it the most, with the Finance Sector Union accusing banks of failing to consult with their communities before closing their doors. The South Australian and Northern Territory secretary of the Finance Sector Union, Jason Hall, said pushing customers to digital banking is hugely beneficial to the bank's bottom line. As one resident in a rural New South Wales town put it, branch closures are motivated by pure greed, accusing the Commonwealth Bank of having no loyalty to small regional towns.

A survey of more than 6,000 people by consumer organisation Choice found that farmers are forced to drive a five-hour round trip to access face-to-face banking services, older Australians are having to pay a \$3 fee every time they withdraw their own money, and people are having to take time off work and losing income to conduct their banking. Choice says the closure of bank branches had a knock-on effect, with people more likely to do their shopping in larger towns when they did their own banking.

Choice, financial counsellors and community legal centres want a moratorium on regional bank closures, fee-free ATMs, more mobile banking services and specialist assistance for First Nations communities. In its submission to the Regional Banking Taskforce, Choice said branch closures in regional Australia have created banking deserts where consumers, small business and community organisations are unable to conduct basic banking services in person, including establishing accounts, paying bills, depositing money or cashing cheques.

I saw the impact it is having when I visited Burra a couple of so years ago, just as they were losing their only bank, the ANZ. The people of Burra say coupled with the closure of regional rail passenger services decades ago, the town's population has dwindled and businesses have closed, while others are struggling to survive.

While modern banking might have its advantages, there is also a sinister side emerging, going almost unchecked. Sophisticated scams and cybersecurity breaches are draining millions from unsuspecting Australians. A day does not pass when I do not get an anonymous SMS message that bears all the hallmarks of a scam.

One constituent recently told me of their devastating experience that saw them lose their entire savings. They had received a phone call from a person sounding like a legitimate representative of their bank (Bendigo). They were able to provide some personal information, which initially did not make them sound suspicious. The scammer told the person that \$1,000 had already been taken from their Bendigo account and there was a risk the remainder would be drained.

The scammer persuaded them to shift their balance into another bank account, which they had created. Suspecting something was wrong, the customer quickly called the bank to halt the transfer—it was only a matter of minutes—only to be told it was too late. Sadly, the police, for some reason, would not even take their report, despite it being a criminal offence that was committed. The bank involved would not accept any responsibility, even though the money had been shifted through one of their own accounts.

I commend the motion and thank the Hon. Robert Simms for moving it and for highlighting an ongoing issue that is impacting on rural Australia.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:37): I rise briefly to speak in support of the Hon. Robert Simms' motion regarding regional banking laws, and in particular I wish to talk about the closure of the Westpac branch in Coober Pedy. As the daughter of an opal miner, I spent a good deal of my childhood there and it is a town that I love and know very well. I have been contacted by a lot of family, friends and locals in Coober Pedy asking, 'What are we going to do about these bank

closures?' and it is really difficult to try to tell them that as members of parliament we can apply pressure but we cannot make them stay there.

We have had those discussions, but I think it is lost on us a little bit—and other members have alluded to this—the impact that this has in towns like Coober Pedy. It is particularly concerning how that closure will disproportionately affect elderly and vulnerable customers. In Coober Pedy's case, the next local bank is 540 kilometres away in Port Augusta. It threatens the lucrative international buyer market for opal dealers, as buyers do not have ready access to cash money, and to the opal industry that is absolutely critical.

There are concerns residents will not have access to cash or online banking during power outages. Just recently, we had a situation where the town ran out of cash altogether in the ATMs. This is the opal capital of the world. It relies on international and interstate buyers and sellers and it relies on tourism. The alternative, frankly, of using the hybrid Australia Post model with a deposit of \$7,000 and withdrawals of \$2,000, simply does not work.

I can assure you there is a lot of investment made in cash in Coober Pedy in those transactions. Even at the tourist level, you might go in and buy a ring that is going to cost you well in excess of those two figures combined, so it simply does not work, and that is putting aside all the other issues the locals are confronting, in terms of losing their bank.

It has been relayed to me that they are anxious about travelling the long journey to Port Augusta with weekly takings or earnings, but, as we know and everyone has alluded to, this is one of many places where this is occurring. Between 2017 and 2022, 1,600 banks were closed, most in regional Australia. Since September last year, banks have closed, or signalled their intention to close, a further 90 regional banks.

I like the way they point the finger at online banking and the cashless economy, but we know that that comes with challenges and it is not as easy as we have it here in the city. If something goes wrong with our online transactions or our cashless economy transactions, we waltz into a branch. We find one—if you can find one as they are few and far between now, but you will find one—and we can address our issue. That is simply not a practical reality of living in a rural or remote country town.

I think we should be asking those banks who are clearly saving a motser in terms of profits by removing face-to-face banking why they are not routinely covering the losses to customers from internet fraud, which routinely raises as a result of those transactions. My colleague has pointed to scammers who are capitalising on that virtual world of banking, with Scamwatch reporting more than about \$53 million lost this year alone.

I am very grateful that there is the Senate inquiry underway. I am very grateful that a number of members of parliament, together with the Hon. Robert Simms, at a federal level and at a state level have spoken out in support of this in an effort to see what, if anything, can be done. With respect, the light at the end of the tunnel is not post office solutions. We join the Hon. Robert Simms and all members of parliament in calling on our state government to advocate on behalf of our regions to find a workable solution and make representations on behalf of our regional communities to that extent.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:41): I rise briefly to support the motion from the honourable member. Twenty-two regional towns have been left without local banking services. This motion addresses commercial banking in particular, but we know it is one component of many service issues affecting regional and rural towns. Many are already without post offices, the saleyards are under threat and the more bypasses we build the more small businesses lose out on passing trade.

This motion calls on a commercial entity to reconsider their departure from Coober Pedy. Our regions are resilient and the people in country South Australia know how to live through flood, drought and bushfire. Although resilient, hardworking and dedicated to growing the food and fibre utilised by us all, some regional clients may not have the digital literacy to shift to a purely online model of service.

The example given by the honourable member noted that Coober Pedy clients unable to use online or phone banking services due to digital literacy or simply through poor reception and

connection would need to travel to either Alice Springs or Port Augusta, a 500-kilometre one-way trip. That is a 10 to 12-hour drive round trip if the roads are good. That is absolutely unacceptable.

We need strong advocacy to promote and rebuild services in our regions. Towns deserve services. Our agricultural heartland deserves the same treatment as those eating the food and using the fibre produced from our rural communities. This government needs to prove it cares for our country constituents and put pressure on corporates to reinvest in our towns.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:43): I want to thank all my colleagues for their contributions: the Hon. Clare Scriven, the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, the Hon. Frank Pangallo, the Hon. Connie Bonaros and the Hon. Ms Game. I recognise that all parties and indeed all members in this place are supporting this motion and I really welcome that. It demonstrates the depth of concern that runs through the parliament and indeed through our community about the actions of these banks and it is one that crosses partisan divide. I think all members of this place are very concerned about the actions of the banking sector and the disregard they show for vulnerable members of our community.

It is worth noting some of the events that have unfolded over the last 24 hours. Yesterday, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate by 0.25 percentage points. This means the cash rate in Australia is now at an 11-year high of 3.6 per cent. This surpasses all the interest rate hikes that we saw since the 1990s, and this is the 10th successive interest rate hike in a row.

We know that the big banks are already passing these interest rates on to their customers. They are doing this despite the fact they are making enormous profits. The Commonwealth Bank made a profit of \$5.1 billion for the second half of 2022. The NAB made a \$2.15 billion profit for the fourth quarter of 2022. Westpac made a \$5.3 billion full-year cash profit in November 2022, and ANZ made \$6.5 billion in its full-year cash profits in October 2022.

They are making these huge profits, they are hiking up interest rates, and while they are making these huge profits and hiking up interest rates they are shutting down regional banks and they are dudding their customers in those communities of vital services. They are not recognising the role that these institutions should play in terms of offering a community service. I think it is outrageous. What we are seeing is corporate greed, and I welcome the clear message that this motion will send.

I indicate that we will be supporting the amendment put forward by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and I appreciate her speaking to me about that. The honourable member made a fair point in that she noted the fact that the motion mentions one particular financial institution. That was because the decision regarding Coober Pedy was imminent at the time the motion was originally crafted, but as all members have identified, this is a matter that extends beyond one institution. It relates to all four of the big banks.

Hopefully, this will send a very clear message that, as members of parliament, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the community and we will fight for their interests against these big institutions and their corporate greed. With that, I commend the motion.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Hon. I. PNEVMATIKOS (16:48): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that 8 March 2023 is International Women's Day and pays tribute to those who have fought, and continue to fight, for the advancement of the status of women and girls.
2. Notes this year's theme Embrace Equity recognises that each one of us can actively support and embrace equity within our own sphere of influence to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination and draw attention to bias.
3. Acknowledges that whilst much has been achieved, women still face entrenched inequality, violence and barriers to equal and active participation in our economy and in every aspect of community life.
4. Commits to doing whatever it can to work towards—

- (a) preventing and eradicating sexism, harassment, violence and abuse of women in all of its forms;
 - (b) challenging stereotypes, discrimination and bias against women; and
 - (c) continuing to advance the status of women and girls.
5. Commends the state government for its strong women's equality and safety policy and actions.

On 8 March every year, the world comes together to acknowledge the achievements, struggles and determination of women. As we know, this daylong celebration generally consists of flashy breakfasts, catchy slogans and brand promotions, and after this day, normality resumes and any meaningful discussion of women's liberation is put on the backburner once more. Much of the fanfare around International Women's Day attempts to convince us that gender equity is a paramount ambition for businesses, governments and society, yet despite this, the World Economic Forum states that it will take another 217 years to achieve this equity.

The commercialisation of International Women's Day grows every year, without much improvement to the reality of issues affecting women. The modern corporate rebranding of International Women's Day could not be further away from its revolutionary roots: 8 March was initially nominated as International Working Women's Day at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women. This was in commemoration of a large strike by women textile workers in America in 1908.

This was just one instance within a broader global campaign in the early 20th century, which saw millions of women take to the streets to fight for their basic human rights. This included the right to work, unionise, vote, participate in politics and access higher education, improved health care and welfare services. It is important that we acknowledge and honour those who have fought and continue to fight for the rights of women.

However, to make true progress towards gender equality we must acknowledge the continued struggle and abuse that women face globally. International Women's Day is a stark reminder that we have a long way to go. We cannot consider the issues that women fought against in the past as history. Many of the same struggles are still present today.

In Afghanistan, sixth grade is now the highest education level for Afghan girls. Afghan women are demonised and banned from the public sphere. They are no longer allowed to attend gyms, parks or secondary schools and are increasingly forced into marriages from the age of 13. They need a male chaperone for long road travel and to board a plane, and they are required to cover their faces and bodies. Perhaps most significantly, Afghan women are excluded from access to vital aid and health care, as women workers are banned in both non-government organisations and government itself. Under the deeply conservative rule of the Taliban, women cannot receive treatment from men and are therefore precluded from humanitarian operations.

In Iran, the regime brutally represses women. Women are targeted at protests and shotguns are aimed at their faces, breasts and genitals. Morality police detain women like Mahsa Amini for failing to wear the hijab, and later kill them in custody or sentence them to death for speaking out against the oppressive laws enforced upon them. Both countries effectively institutionalise misogyny in their constitution to ensure women's financial, social and political dependency on men.

Furthermore, women and children are often the worst affected by conflict and suffer disproportionately during and after war. For example, the brutal war waged by Russia against Ukraine saw 3.8 million people flee Ukraine by mid-April 2022. UN figures showed that 90 per cent of those fleeing were women and children. Rape and sexual violence have a long history as a weapon of war, frequently utilised by militaries to destroy the social fabric of communities. Numerous stories of women raped and killed in front of their children, or targeted and brutalised by Russian military officials, emerge at an alarming rate as the conflict continues.

This is not unlike conflict in other countries such as Myanmar, where, by the end of 2020, 77 per cent of people living in an internally displaced persons camp were identified to be women and girls. Uyghur women, forced into labour camps by the Chinese government, frequently recall surviving the horrors of rape, torture and forced sterilisation in the internment camps.

The West is not exempt in this victimisation and marginalisation of women in society. Just last week, hundreds of women took to the streets of central London to highlight the lack of action in addressing gender-based violence. The protest pointed to a former Met Police officer who admitted to a horrific campaign of rape and abuse against women throughout his 20 years in a position of power.

In the US, women are constantly fighting for the right to their own bodily autonomy as the abortion debate continues. In fact, to find institutionalised misogyny in the US we need not look much further than the term of the former President Donald Trump, who was exposed as a perpetrator of sexual assault by at least 10 women.

South Australia, even with its progressive history as the first state to grant women equal political rights to men, continues to have a gender pay gap of 7.4 per cent. This equates to a \$127.70 difference in weekly full-time earnings. Nationally, Australian men have an average superannuation balance at retirement of approximately \$345,000 compared to women, whose average super is \$279,000. In terms of gendered violence, we saw 60 women murdered in Australia at the hands of an intimate partner in 2022.

This speech has painted a bleak picture of women's position in society under the patriarchy, but it is my belief that in order to meaningfully improve the life of every woman, we must fully embrace the ugly truth. What we really want to see on International Women's Day is a sincere plan of action to tackle these struggles rather than empty celebrations.

In South Australia particularly, we want to see a focus on women workers' issues so that we can achieve economic equity. To do this, we must target the shameful fact that female-dominated occupations attract lower pay than male-dominated occupations. Recent data from the Bureau of Statistics also indicates that overall 70 per cent of part-time jobs are held by women and that they are twice as likely to be engaged in insecure work in comparison to their male counterparts.

I commend our government's commitment to a range of policy initiatives to tackle this. It is important that we stay committed to closing the gender pay gap by ensuring that the barriers to women's full and equal participation in the workforce are removed through systemic and cultural change. Discrimination, harassment, abuse and misogyny impact women at every stage of their lives, past, present and future. This International Women's Day, I will be keeping the women who have fought, struggled and continue to advocate for equal rights at the front of my mind. To quote the brave women in Iran, 'Women, life, liberty.'

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. L.A. Henderson.

Bills

INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:58): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce this bill, which will establish an independent office of animal welfare and a fit-for-purpose animal welfare advisory committee. This would be an independent statutory body which would undertake key regulatory and administrative responsibilities relating to animal welfare and protection. This office would ensure independent oversight and review of animal welfare in our state of South Australia in line with scientific knowledge, technological advances and community expectations.

Our community does care about animals, all creatures great and small. People care about animals, whether they be companion animals, whether they be sheep and cattle. They care about greyhounds, whether or not they are raced or resting on the comfy couch in their lounge. They care about marine life, and I could go on.

As it currently stands, however, animal welfare is managed by a complex web of government departments, charities, councils, police and industry groups. No single body has the broad range and ultimate oversight and, as a result, there are gaps and significant room for improvement in protecting

the welfare of animals in our state. We have a vacuum of strategy and leadership on this issue because of years of inaction. We see issues being handballed from one department to another, all while animals fall through the cracks and their welfare falls through the cracks.

Unlike other states, here in South Australia it is the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) that is largely responsible for administering the Animal Welfare Act. In some jurisdictions, animal welfare falls under the department of agriculture or primary industries. While it may seem here that PIRSA is not responsible for animal welfare in South Australia, that is simply not the case. PIRSA is responsible for the welfare of livestock. It is also responsible for those animals used for scientific or medical research. PIRSA was, of course, the lead agency in the response to animals that were caught in the most recent devastating floods in the Riverland. But, of course, they are not the only agency.

Recently, we have seen the heartbreaking examples of animals suffering in the floods. I have to say, over Christmas in particular I received many calls from those in the community watching animals trapped by the floods who were suffering: kangaroos with joeys in their pouches being left to slowly die by rotting, being left to drown, being left to die slowly and painfully because of a lack of departmental action. Fortunately for some animals, community groups activated, with individuals going out in tinnies to rescue the animals that they could, or that they were allowed to. Even with these efforts, thousands of animals were left to suffer and die. I note at times the numbers advertised as being able to be called over the Christmas break were left unattended.

PIRSA was responsible for activating the response to the floods. PIRSA is still responsible for monitoring the wildlife in the area as the waters recede. DEW has a role in advising on animal welfare issues, but there was a clear lack of overarching direction, which led to the death—the needless death—of countless animals. We do require an independent body with a focus on the welfare of the animals to look at issues like this and so many more. An independent body would be able to develop adequate disaster planning responses and ensure that the welfare of the animals was their priority and not an afterthought.

The recent report into the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary highlighted the impacts of a lack of clear responsibility and accountability in managing that dolphin sanctuary. While DEW has primary jurisdiction, animal welfare advocates are frequently required to contact a range of different departments: the Department for Infrastructure and Transport when boats are travelling too close to the dolphins, or PIRSA when it relates to the fishing, or the EPA or SA Water when it is a question of water quality impacting those dolphins.

It is an absolute quagmire, and it has become abundantly clear that this multidepartmental approach does not best serve the animals—and in this particular case, the dolphins. What people and the community do expect is, in fact, a one-stop shop, and not simply for our ease but to ensure that animal welfare is the priority of that body and that they are not conflicted in their decisions and their priorities.

We have also heard very much—mainly from the Greens in this state—about the lack of regulation in the greyhound racing industry. Already this year, two greyhounds have died and over 150 dogs have been injured (that we know of). You must remember, we are only in March. Those numbers are only going to get worse. One of the most egregious examples we have seen of an unwillingness of this industry to self-regulate appropriately is Greyhound Racing SA's hot weather policy. We allow Greyhound Racing SA to dictate when their races must be called off.

Given their races in this state have continued to run when temperatures have exceeded 41° at the time of the race, and with a most recent greyhound death in fact happening directly after they had been raced in the heat, it is clear that this industry prioritises the profits over the animals. That must change. There have long been calls that animal welfare does not belong in a primary industry department and that:

...public faith in Australia's animal welfare system had been undermined in recent years by revelation after revelation of cruelty to livestock...Departments of agriculture...are not widely regarded by the community or animal welfare groups as impartial when it comes to animal welfare. [It is] inherently conflicted...improvements in animal welfare are often not consonant with increased productivity and profitability and vice versa.

Those are the words of the Labor Party's own Melissa Parke. I thank her for those words and I remind the Labor Party that at federal level they have a policy and the support of an independent office for animal welfare.

PIRSA has been placed often in a difficult and, some would argue, insurmountable position. They have been asked to both promote the livestock industry and also to police it to protect the animals. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions describes itself as a key economic development agency in the government of South Australia and, indeed, I think those words were echoed by the relevant minister earlier on today in question time.

Given this, it is hardly surprising that priority is given to measurable economic goals over the welfare of the animals that are seen as the 'product'. The information on animal welfare on the PIRSA website is buried so deep that many would not even know it is the body responsible for so much of it. Some guidance documents, such as what to do if you find a 'beached, stranded or sick marine mammal' simply do not work in terms of being able to be linked at all. Obviously, if the website is any reflection, it is clearly not a departmental priority to provide this information.

It highlights the need for a central body that has accessible, consistent and clear information on the state's animal welfare policies. An independent office for animal welfare would act as a liaison for all bodies responsible for animal welfare policies not just in our state but, of course, nationally. It would be able to focus on educating the community on animal welfare issues.

The community does care about animal welfare. Animals should not just be a commodity. Indeed, I refer members to the 2019 report, 'Commodity or sentient being? Australia's shifting mindset on farm animal welfare', which was commissioned by the federal Department of Agriculture. This report made it clear that community expectations around the regulation of the agricultural industry were changing when it comes to animals.

Unless we create an independent body, not focused on industry, distrust of both government and the agricultural industry will grow. It is clear that the creation of an independent office of animal welfare is not only best practice but it would also be very popular within the community.

I now turn to the specifics of the bill. Section 4 sets out the objects of the act, highlighting the focus on promoting knowledge of animal welfare issues and improving animal welfare outcomes. There is also a focus on the independent review of our animal welfare codes, requirements and standards to ensure they take contemporary scientific knowledge, advances in technology and community expectations and values into account.

Section 5 establishes the independent office of animal welfare. It lays out its functions, which include liaising with bodies responsible for national policies, reviewing and monitoring, conducting inquiries and preparing reports on our state animal welfare laws, including compliance, enforcement and effectiveness. It also gives the independent office the power to inquire into the treatment of animals in particular industries. This includes, but is not limited to, greyhound racing, horseracing, agriculture and animals used in all medical and scientific research.

Section 11 creates the independent office of animal welfare advisory committee and the minister to appoint the following people to the independent committee: three representatives of non-government animal welfare organisations, two representatives from approved charitable organisations, two animal welfare scientists, one animal welfare ethicist, one representative of the commercial animal industry, one government representative and one local council representative.

The make-up of this committee will ensure that their advice is in line with scientific knowledge, technological advances and community expectations. This replaces the current process, which provides representatives from the livestock industry and PIRSA the opportunity to review and comment on enforcement proposals and codes of practice relating to animal welfare before changes are made.

This bill presents us with an opportunity to make real change for the animals in our state. The review that is currently taking place into the Animal Welfare Act is specifically asking the South Australian community whether they agree that the administrative arrangements and functions of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee support the promotion of animal welfare. We shall see what the community view is on this, but I believe that an independent advisory body, free from

industry interests—or should I say conflicts of interest—would best support the promotion of actual animal welfare.

The current review asks for community views on the model of shared enforcement that has DEW, PIRSA, RSPCA, SAPOL and councils all sharing responsibility for animal welfare. This model creates confusion and inconsistency and treats animals differently, and it has allowed for some animals, such as fish, to be forgotten entirely. It is a historical oversight, which should be rectified in the current review.

I would like to thank those numerous animal welfare organisations and individuals who have had longstanding relationships with my office for the tireless work they have put in to highlight the plight of animals, which has seen this bill come forward here today. It is a bill that has had similar incarnations moved in other states and at a federal level and is a longstanding policy of the Greens; it has been an election commitment of the Labor Party; it has been moved by Independents, such as Andrew Wilkie; and, of course, it is a policy of the Animal Justice Party and, in jurisdictions where they have MPs, they have been able to progress this. It is also what the public wants.

It is also something done elsewhere. In fact, you can look to New Zealand, the UK, Canada or the EU to see where they have similar bodies operating at a national and also a supranational level. The current review that the minister has announced and that the Department for Environment and Water is conducting is an opportunity for generational change in our attitude to animal welfare in this state.

We are lagging, as a legislative body, far behind what the community expects. The community cannot understand how we have allowed, for example, the greyhound industry to set their own hot weather policy that is so loose it allows animals to be run in temperatures of 41° if they are a racing greyhound, whereas a person with a pet greyhound, should they walk their dog in that same temperature, would rightfully be reported to the RSPCA.

It is time this parliament came into step with community expectation and recognised that animal welfare is something that has been significantly lacking in importance with far too many governments, and I commend the Labor Party for their suite of promises around animal welfare that they have come into this term of parliament with. I look forward to working with them on a range of them, and I commend to them an independent office of animal welfare to help get this job done. With that, I commend the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. I.K. Hunter.

GENDER EQUALITY BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 May 2022.)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (17:13): The government acknowledges and thanks the honourable member for bringing this bill forward, a bill that aims to drive action towards gender equality in workplaces across our state. As committed in our pre-election policy, our government is committed to developing and introducing an equality bill in this term of government. As such, we will not support this legislation at this time. However, we look forward to working collaboratively with the member towards future legislation.

Our government plans to introduce this legislation, following consultation with key stakeholders and to ensure a range of voices are heard in determining key positions on the proposed new legislation, including the size of organisations that would be captured by the requirements of the bill and how benchmarking and reporting would be arranged.

The government's equality bill would be pursued in alignment with our other ongoing commitments towards economic equality, including: progress towards grants and procurement processes increasing gender equity; a review of all legislation and government policy to ensure it is

inclusive and it enables equality of opportunity; and setting up a Gender Pay Gap Taskforce, which has now been established, with their work now progressing.

Within the sport, recreation and racing portfolio, we have re-established the Women in Sport Taskforce and are progressing linking funding for state sporting organisations to the diversity of their decision-making boards. We understand that this bill does align in part with the government's objectives; however, it presents new structures, such as a commissioner for gender equality, that at this point have not been tested with stakeholders and may in some cases duplicate existing activities undertaken through other structures.

Further consultation and work will be undertaken ahead of the introduction of the government bill to identify the scope of future legislation and we look forward to working with the honourable member in terms of future directions.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (17:15): I rise to make some remarks, which are consistent with the Liberal Party's previous position in relation to the bill that the honourable member introduced in 2021, unlike the previous speaker, but anyway I am sure that others will have comments on that as well.

The bill before us proposes to establish a discrete office of commissioner for gender equality and place positive obligations on relevant agencies to set and meet gender equality targets. The aim of the bill is to improve gender equality in the public sector. The intention and objectives of the bill overlap with existing gender equality strategies and the work undertaken particularly by the equal opportunity commissioner and the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.

While I will place on the record the Liberal Party's strong support for gender equality and, indeed, our record in government speaks for itself, I do note that, unfortunately, the latest figures from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency show that South Australia's gender pay gap is actually going in the wrong direction, having dropped in South Australia from 8.5 per cent in 2020 to 7.1 per cent in 2021, which is the lowest in Australia. It crept up to 7.4 per cent last year and has now gone up to 7.8 per cent, which is going in a different direction from the rest of Australia. Indeed, I do commend that the government needs all the help that it can get, and I am sure the Hon. Ms Pnevmatikos, in her chairing of the Gender Pay Gap Taskforce, has her work cut out for her under this new Labor government.

This particular legislation is modelled on the Victorian bill. We do note that in the South Australian public sector employment is skewed towards females; however, it has always, in the past, had the problem that is entrenched in many workplace areas in that the management roles do tend to favour males. However, I note that in the South Australia public sector these days, women are represented well, with 57 per cent of executives being female.

The public sector, I think, needs to be commended for being a frontrunner on gender equality in leadership in South Australia and is in a position—unlike a lot of small businesses, of course, because of its size—to have appropriate policies that ensure that women are supported throughout their roles. Commissioners can be very expensive beasts and they can often duplicate each other's work, and for that reason we consistently continue to not support this bill, although we do strongly support its intent.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (17:19): I rise on behalf of the Greens to support this bill as the spokesperson for women for the Greens. I thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros for her continued advocacy in this area. Certainly, this bill is no surprise to us; it has been a long-held body of work. Sometimes we have to wait seemingly longer than we expect, but I reflect that in 1923 Virginia Woolf wrote that 'in a hundred years from now, women will cease to be the protected sex'. This marks, of course, the 100th year from that quote and I think many of us can probably agree that it has failed so far to be the case and tonight we are being told we must wait a little longer again.

In 2021, Australia fell from a rank of 44th to 50th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, continuing the steady decline that this nation has suffered from the 15th position we once occupied in 2006. Despite being the 10th richest country in the world, we rank behind almost all the top 30 wealthiest countries. In translation, Australia fares particularly badly on gender equality when compared with countries with the same levels of development as our own.

The ABS reported that one in five Australian women experience sexual violence after the age of 15 and only outright denialists would be surprised to know that the Women's Gender Equality Agency found that Australian women suffer from a full-time total remuneration gender pay gap of 20 per cent. This means, of course, in translation, that Australian women will have to work an extra 56 days a year to earn the same pay as men do for doing the same work. The obvious question at this point is: why are we not doing more and why are we not doing it now?

Gender inequality in the workplace is systemic. No matter where you come from, there is no denying its presence. The gender pay gap exists not only across the economy but continues to be a global concern, including in the Public Service. The belief that there is no gender pay gap, because if men and women are doing the exact same job they should be getting the exact same pay, is unfortunately mistaken. Research continues to show that salaries for men and women continue to diverge even when the exact same job has been done earlier on in their careers.

But the pay gap is more than just exact moneys. It is also a reflection of the reality—our reality—that industries dominated by women, including child care, nursing and primary education, are paid less than the areas of work dominated historically by men. This is regardless of the nature of the skills required and that women are concentrated in jobs that pay less. Addressing this inequality requires the rebalancing of the value of work usually performed by women, and the public sector is not immune to such inequalities.

The bill before us is about improving gender equality in the public sector, applying to the South Australian Public Service, as well as to the South Australian Courts Administration Authority, local councils and other public entities, with over 100,000 employees to be covered. The bill acknowledges that:

...gender inequality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience on the basis of Aboriginality, age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes...

The Greens' approach to achieving gender equality must always be intersectional, where we understand that all different aspects of a person's identity overlap, contributing to distinct types of discrimination and disadvantage. It is refreshing to see that this bill acknowledges the range of barriers women continue to face in the workplace, outlining gender equality targets to meet workplace gender equality indicators.

We are pleased to be supporting this bill today. We are disappointed that the government is not, but we continue to acknowledge that we do have a long way to go to fully address gender inequality in our state, in our country and of course across the world because equality goes beyond targets or quotas for government departments. It also means addressing cultural and structural barriers that prevent women and gender-diverse people from participating to the fullest in the workforce and in their community. To quote my Greens' colleague from Victoria Dr Samantha Ratnam:

It is acknowledging that women still retire with significantly less superannuation than men do. It is acknowledging that women are working more but continuing to do the bulk of a family's housework and childcare. It is acknowledging that women over 50 are the fastest growing group at risk of homelessness. It is acknowledging that women remain under-represented in parliaments and in our decision-making bodies. And it is acknowledging that women continue to be the main victims of family violence.

It is our responsibility here in this council to use our voices to speak on the things that are not only core to an equal society but that embed those values in our society. Along with more equal representation, we need legislators who are willing to step away from neutrality and use the law to help transform decades of discrimination against women.

We need those protections that Virginia Woolf noted. I note another quote of hers: 'Nothing has really happened until it has been recorded.' In a very simple way, that is what this bill would effect. In another way, the way we vote on this bill tonight will record what happened on International Women's Day 2023 when Labor was given a chance to lead.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:25): Can I start by thanking those honourable members who have made a contribution: the Hon. Clare Scriven, the Hon. Michelle Lensink and particularly the

Hon. Tammy Franks. I look forward to working with all those colleagues and others, not just the government but everybody in this place, on the issue of gender equality until we get some results.

To suggest that I am bitterly disappointed today, as I am sure my colleague the Hon. Tammy Franks is, is an understatement. We should be leading by example once again, but here we are. After having supported the proposed bill in opposition, we have missed another opportunity to make headway on the gender equality debate. With respect, it is an insult to the whole gender equality discussion for the Labor Malinauskas government. They talk the talk, but here we are, asking them to walk the walk in terms of their progressive agenda on gender equality, and they have done a backflip of significant proportions and are now opposing the bill.

It makes a complete mockery, in my view, of that so-called commitment to gender equality and that debate. It is not enough to fill this place with female MPs. It is not enough to have more female members on your front and backbenches. We actually need some decisive action on this issue, and this bill was intended to provide a constructive way in terms of creating equality in South Australia. We know that South Australians support that because they voted for it at the election.

I do not know how many more reports and how much more consultation is needed before we are proactive about this issue in this place. I can tell you this: I have a pile of reports and publications in my office on gender equality that stands taller than I do, and they all say the same thing. I have stood next to them just to see how high they do stand, and I can assure you, even with heels on, they still tower above me in height.

We have been told that we need more consultation, that now is the time to do a deep-dive consultation into the need for this legislation. Nothing could be further from the truth than that statement; in fact, as I found out today, Australia as a nation has consulted more extensively on gender equality than any other nation in the world. That is our record on consultation. Experts will tell you we do not need to consult more on this: what we need to be doing is having a conversation with women about what they need and what they want in their workplace. Two of the simplest things that they need and want in their workplace are job security and respect at work, and this bill aims to move forward in terms of achieving those ends.

Not just I but everybody should be disappointed that here we are on International Women's Day and we had the opportunity to have another historic occasion. Earlier today, I stood shoulder to shoulder with my Labor colleagues as the stealthy bill was passed with the unanimous support of this parliament. I was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Attorney-General and the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and say, 'What a great moment this is in South Australian parliamentary history.' Here we are today with another such opportunity and we are being told, lo and behold, 'We are not going to support this bill today.'

I am going to say this again for the record: I have a great deal of respect for the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the work she has done in this space. I note that there are two bills already in parliament that we are debating at the moment that go to the heart of the same sorts of issues that this bill attempts to address in terms of gender equality. We will always give credit where it is due.

I have worked with the minister on many such projects around gender equality, as I know my other colleagues in this place have. I know she is deeply committed to gender equality. I know she does and continues to do amazing work in this space that we have all sometimes shared with her on the multifaceted fronts of the impacts of gender equality, including family violence, but I am bitterly, bitterly disappointed in terms of this position, which is nothing but a backflip and a cop-out.

There is nothing in this bill that prevents the government from introducing its own standalone gender equality bill, which I know the minister intends to do at some point, but we do not have to wait. We do not have to keep waiting. Everyone has had at least two years' notice of this bill. We have supported it in opposition. Here we are now, and the position has changed. Our tune has changed. Do whatever you want with it. Amend it, do something to it, but do not just come in and say, 'We are not going to support it because we are doing our own thing,' when we have had notice of this bill and it is something we could be doing right now to take decisive action on gender equality.

I know the minister has been quoted as saying she is disappointed with my assessment of the Labor government's newly formed position, especially because we have shared a strong record of working together on these issues. With respect to the minister, her disappointment pales into insignificance compared today with mine and, I am sure, with that of the Hon. Tammy Franks. For the record, I am going to point out that the objects and principles that this bill was based on include:

- that all South Australians shall live in a safe and equal society and have access to equal powers, resources and opportunities and be treated with dignity, respect and fairness;
- that gender equality benefits all South Australians regardless of their gender;
- that gender equality is a human right and precondition to social justice;
- that gender equality brings significant economic, social and health benefits for South Australia;
- that gender equality is a precondition for the prevention of family violence and other forms of violence—the exact same thing that we are trying to prevent in other laws in this place;
- that advancing gender equality is a shared responsibility across all South Australian communities;
- that all human beings, regardless of their gender, should be free to develop their personal abilities, pursue their professional careers and make choices about their lives without being limited by gender, stereotypes, roles and prejudices;
- that women have historically experienced discrimination and disadvantage on the basis of sex and gender; and
- that gender equality may be compounded by other forms of disadvantage, including discrimination, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and other attributes.

That is a small snippet of the list of things that this bill is intended to address. I do not know what part of that the Labor government, all of a sudden, does not agree with. It is beyond me. It baffles me that these are all of a sudden the principles and objects that we do not agree with. We could be passing this bill today. I am going to say it again because it is important: we could be passing this bill today and you can continue with the amazing work that I am sure you are doing in the background with your task force, your equality bill and everything you are planning on doing in terms of equality.

But this would indicate to the South Australian public that you are taking decisive action and you are taking it right now. Instead, you are opposing the bill in this chamber. So yes, to suggest I am disappointed is an understatement, and the disappointment of my colleague in the other place does pale into insignificance.

The Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos pointed earlier to some figures around gender equality globally. With respect, we will all be dead before we reach gender equality. On current figures and trends, the UN now puts that figure at 300 years globally before we reach gender equality, and here we are discussing whether or not we need a gender equality bill in this jurisdiction.

Addressing the United Commission on the Status of Women, the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, just yesterday told delegates that gender equality was growing increasingly distant and that progress won over decades is vanishing before our eyes. It is not about cupcakes and scones and breakfasts and champagnes; that is right. It is about taking decisive action and doing all we can right now.

We can and should celebrate the achievements of women in this jurisdiction and everywhere, but we should also, at the same time, take every opportunity to advance gender equality in a meaningful way, and I am bitterly, bitterly disappointed that that opportunity is being lost in here today.

The council divided on the second reading:

Ayes4
Noes.....17
Majority13

AYES

Bonaros, C. (teller)
Simms, R.A.

Franks, T.A.

Pangallo, F.

NOES

Bourke, E.S.
Girolamo, H.M.
Hood, B.R.
Lee, J.S.
Martin, R.B.
Scriven, C.M. (teller)

Centofanti, N.J.
Hanson, J.E.
Hood, D.G.E.
Lensink, J.M.A.
Ngo, T.T.
Wortley, R.P.

Game, S.L.
Henderson, L.A.
Hunter, I.K.
Maher, K.J.
Pnevmatikos, I.

Second reading thus negatived.

At 17:41 the council adjourned until Thursday 9 March 2023 at 14:15.