

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 10 April 2024

The PRESIDENT (Hon. T.J. Stephens) took the chair at 14:17 and read prayers.

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

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (14:18): I bring up the 41st report of the committee, 2022-24.

Report received.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: I bring up the 42nd report of the committee, 2022-24.

Report received and read.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN: I bring up the 43rd report of the committee, 2022-24.

Report received and read.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Regulations under Acts—

Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016—Relevant Entities

Report of the Independent Review of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019
StudyAdelaide Charter

By the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Hon. C.M. Scriven)—

Regulations under Acts—

Electricity Act 1996—General—Planning and Forecasting Function

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—General—
Miscellaneous (2024)

Question Time

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): I seek leave to provide a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the Cross Border Commissioner.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: On 21 February this year, in this chamber, the minister was asked by the Hon. Michelle Lensink a question regarding the Cross Border Commissioner, and I quote: 'Has the recruitment process for the new Cross Border Commissioner begun?' The minister answered on that day, and again I quote: 'The processes are in place.'

It was revealed by the minister herself on radio last week that, after less than a year of operation, the role of Cross Border Commissioner is being reviewed. This comes only eight months after the government first appointed the inaugural commissioner. It was also revealed by the minister

herself during the same radio interview that the government had not, and were not currently, advertising for the role. Given the minister's previous answers in this chamber when asked about the recruitment process on 21 February, my questions to the minister are:

1. Exactly what processes were in place for recruitment, not review, of the Cross Border Commissioner as of 21 February this year when the minister answered the Hon. Michelle Lensink's question?

2. Given the reports to the opposition that the Cross Border Commissioner office in Mount Gambier remains physically closed—that is, the doors are locked—will the minister apologise to cross-border communities for failing them?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:25): I thank the honourable member for her question. The vacancy created by the resignation of the previous Cross Border Commissioner presented the government with an opportunity to consider some of the operational and administrative arrangements and potential changes to the position prior to the recruitment process being undertaken for a new Cross Border Commissioner.

On 21 February, I would expect that probably what I was referring to was looking at the selection criteria at the time, it was something around that kind of part of the process, but given that there was a vacancy it seemed like an appropriate time to look at what had worked well and whether there were opportunities for continuous improvement. I think that is something that is pretty standard in most organisations—I would certainly hope—to be constantly looking at whether operational or administrative changes can improve the position.

The process is now at where a recruitment company has been engaged, a chair of the recruitment panel has been appointed and I might also take the opportunity to mention that the recruitment panel will certainly include a regional representative. I am advised that the advertising for the position will be distributed within the next week and feature across a range of platforms, including regional and national publications. I remind the chamber that the act requires that the commissioner reside in a cross-border community and have a detailed understanding of the issues affecting cross-border communities.

That is the substance of the answer to the question, but I can't help but reflect what a remarkable backflip this is from those opposite. They go from leading up to the last election, when Labor announced that it would establish a Cross Border Commissioner—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —and saying that it wasn't required—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —they certainly didn't commit to having a Cross Border Commissioner, and they have done everything they can since to undermine the role. Suddenly, they put out a media release saying, 'Oh my goodness'—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —according to the opposition this is the most urgent thing facing them, and yet this is something that they did not support—they have never supported—and clearly they don't really support now.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): Supplementary: given that recruitment is the process of actively seeking out, finding and hiring, did the minister mislead parliament in her response to the question on 21 February this year?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28): Is the opposition seriously considering that selection criteria is not part of a recruitment process?

The Hon. K.J. Maher: That's how they do it.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: Unbelievable.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): I seek leave before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the office for the Cross Border Commissioner.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: On 12 March, my office received a transfer of multiple freedom of information applications from PIRSA to the office of the Cross Border Commissioner on the basis that such documents were not held by the department. However, the department then proceeded to state that within the office of the Cross Border Commissioner, and I quote:

There is no officer who may currently lawfully deal with Freedom of Information applications made to the commissioner, and therefore, the legislative timeframe may expire before a new Commissioner is appointed.

So my questions to the minister are:

1. Given that the service level agreement between the department and the office of the Cross Border Commissioner includes providing secretariat services, which include freedom of information processes, why has the department refused to make a determination on such applications?
2. Has this decision been at the minister's discretion?
3. Does the minister concede that, given there has been no progress by the department in over three months in appointing a new Cross Border Commissioner, the office of the Cross Border Commissioner has been unable to fulfil its obligated duties as a result of her lack of leadership?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): I thank the honourable member for her question. It is not unusual that in a small agency there is not an FOI officer directly within that agency. The Cross Border Commissioner consists of the commissioner and one staff member. In terms of responses to FOI requests, my understanding is that the responses were made according to advice received about the most appropriate action.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Supplementary: why is her department unable to provide the relevant information that was requested by my office, as she is the minister in charge of the Cross Border Commissioner?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): Those opposite should be aware that the freedom of information—

The Hon. N.J. Centofanti: You're the minister in charge.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: If the honourable member is not interested in an answer, then I am not sure why she asks the question.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: The Freedom of Information Act, of course, has specific requirements within it. My understanding is that the department is abiding by those specific requirements.

CROSS BORDER COMMISSIONER

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Further supplementary: is the minister aware of the service level agreement between her department and the office of the Cross Border Commissioner?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:31): Yes.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs regarding the State Voice to Parliament.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: A number of successful candidates for the State Voice currently work for or advise government on issues regarding Aboriginal affairs. One of the elected Voice members for the central ward is listed on their LinkedIn profile as currently employed as a senior policy officer with Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation at the Attorney-General's Department. My questions to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs are:

1. What advice does the Attorney-General believe this person will give that he doesn't already give as part of his senior role in government?
2. Does the Attorney endorse giving particular people within Aboriginal policy development effectively two roles and therefore two voices?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her question. The honourable member points out that there is one public sector employee who was elected to the Voice. I can inform the honourable member there were, amongst the 46, 13 public sector employees who were elected to the various South Australian Voices.

I am proud that we have a diverse representation of Aboriginal people, from the Wirangu and Mirning country in the far west, the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara country in the far north, Boandik and Ngarrindjeri in the far south and all points in between, providing advice to the South Australian government, the parliament, on a whole range of issues.

I am further very pleased that just today I think 44 of the 46 elected representatives who could make it were not just in Parliament House but have been on North Terrace at various institutions having orientation roles and initial discussions about their roles. I particularly want to place on record my thanks to other members of this parliament, this chamber and the other chamber, who met with elected members of the Voice, spoke with elected members of the Voice and had a chance to be there this morning when they all got together for the very first time.

As I have explained in this chamber before, there are members of many government boards and committees who have roles in the public sector. If there is any possible conflict in what they do in the public sector and any role that they have on one of the various boards and committees or, in this case, on an advisory body called the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament, the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment has and will continue to provide advice on how to deal with that.

AGRIFUTURES RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister inform the chamber about the recent ceremony event held to present the 2024 South Australian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:34): I thank the honourable member for his question. On

26 March, I had the honour of presenting the 2024 South Australian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. This is a fantastic award because it recognises the significant contributions that women make across many different industries and community activities in regional Australia.

Since the award's inception in 2000, it has highlighted and supported the contributions of more than 300 women who lead the development and implementation of diverse and innovative projects, businesses and programs in regional Australia. The award also boasts an enthusiastic and growing alumni network of previous finalists, many of whom I am glad to say were present at this year's award presentation and who continue to support the award and its applicants.

On the night, I was able to offer my congratulations to the South Australian award finalists for reaching that part of the competition and for each pursuing innovative and worthwhile projects. Suzi Evans from Mantung is a mental health first aid trainer and founder of the resilience building program Workbench for the Mind, a groundbreaking program endorsed by Suicide Prevention Australia. Suzi says she has a firm belief in the power of knowledge over merely toughening up and has emerged from the tragic loss of her son in 2018 to become a highly sought after speaker and trainer specialising in positive psychology, mental health first aid and grief support.

Susie Williams is an entrepreneur from Willunga and developer of the Fleurieu App, an online platform that celebrates local businesses, events, places and achievements that define the region. Using her technical expertise, Susie has developed the Fleurieu App since 2019 to address evolving media trends, providing free accessible local news and updates through both a web app and from February 2024 a full-colour magazine as well. The Fleurieu App stands as both a business service offering cost-effective advertising and a community asset providing vital information and promoting local amenities and events.

These projects are just some which represent the work that innovative women are leading right across regional South Australia using their skills and talents to meet community needs and build social connections. But there can be only one winner and that was Nikki Atkinson. Nikki is the founder and designer of Horrocks Vale Collections, a sustainable merino wool wedding dress and special occasions wear brand based in the Flinders Ranges.

Through Horrocks Vale Collections, Nikki has combined her 25 years of experience as a wedding dress couturier and her advocacy for fine merino wool. Nikki's ambition is to champion fine Australian merino wool as a new alternative for wedding dresses, embracing its drape, feel, comfort and environmental sustainability. Her passion is to showcase fine merino wool in an innovative way, revolutionise the wedding industry and make it more sustainable using an environmentally friendly and versatile fibre and take it on a journey from Australian farms to couture fashion.

Nikki aims to highlight Australian wool graziers, pastoralists and families. She understands all the work it takes to develop the extra fine merino fibre and flock, which can take generations, and she believes they deserve to be recognised for their efforts in creating a world-class premium product.

After having been presented with the South Australian award, Nikki trumpeted her ambition to take her wedding dresses to the prestigious London fashion shows. To help her achieve this ambition, or other professional development opportunities, Nikki will receive a \$15,000 grant from Westpac and she will also attend a three-day workshop with other state and territory winners to focus on further professional development and to refine her winning project.

Nikki will also go on to represent South Australia at a gala dinner in Canberra in August and be in the running for the National AgriFutures Rural Women's Award and a further \$20,000. The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award provides a focal point to celebrate the achievements and contributions of some exceptional female role models, who in many ways represent so many other regional women who perform critical functions at the heart of rural communities.

Through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, the South Australian government is a proud sponsor of the award. I once again congratulate all the finalists and wish Nikki Atkinson all the best when she represents South Australia at the National AgriFutures Rural Women's Award later this year.

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:39): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question without notice to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector on the topic of incentives for regional nurses.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Earlier this month, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) launched a campaign to implement rural and remote incentives to assist with attraction and retention by addressing improved relocation allowances, better assistance with removal costs and improved support with HECS/HELP repayment options. Their website states that during the 2022 public sector nursing and midwifery enterprise agreement, DHW agreed to such incentives; however, they have not yet been delivered.

My question to the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector is: when does the government intend to honour the agreement reached with the ANMF to provide rural and remote incentives to nurses and midwives, and what is the government doing to attract and retain nurses and midwives in regional South Australia?

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 for his question. It is a matter that I am aware of and I know it is primarily being dealt with by the line minister, in effect, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What I can say is that we as a government are aware of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation's views and petition and calls in this area.

I am aware that Health are actively reviewing rural and remote service payments for nurses and midwives to enable appropriate incentives and tailored support. I am also informed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing that there are relocation reimbursements that have been introduced of up to \$15,000 to attract healthcare professionals to South Australia who work for SA Health.

As the member has indicated, it is difficult to attract professionals to regional areas, and it is difficult to attract professionals generally. It is a very tight labour force market. As I have said, I know that the Department for Health are actively reviewing these sorts of incentive payments.

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:41): Supplementary: has the minister been engaged in discussions with the ANMF in his capacity as the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector?

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 regularly engaged with not just public sector unions but other unions. I have, I think, a very good working relationship with many unions, including Liz Dabars and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

I think the last time I would have had a discussion this issue wasn't raised. I had a meeting with a number of union leaders in only the last couple of weeks. Certainly, there are very open channels of communication and I regularly am very happy to have phone calls, have meetings and have discussions about a whole range of issues that affect many unions.

RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:42): Supplementary: is the minister concerned in his capacity as the Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector that an agreement that has been reached with the union has not yet been delivered?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:43): Again, I thank the honourable member for his question that may have come out of the original answer. As I have said, I know this is a matter that is being discussed and worked on between the Department for Health and the union.

QUORN WATER SUPPLY

The Hon. J.S. LEE (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:43): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about animal health and water safety in the regions.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: On 12 March 2024, an ABC News article highlighted the plight of residents in Quorn with regard to its water quality. It was reported that locals in Quorn pay the same price for their water as Adelaide residents, but the mayor says their water is undrinkable. Resident Janet Nisted was quoted as saying, 'The dogs don't like the water here. They won't drink it.' On the use of water for showers, another resident commented, and I quote:

Soap doesn't lather, shampoo doesn't lather, your hair feels like straw and your skin is dry and itchy.

Quorn is known to be a tourism town with movies such as *Gallipoli* and *The Tourist* being made on location there. However, businesses are facing significant challenges and hardship with the water quality. Local business owner, Deryck Carruthers, is considering closing one of his businesses due to the corrosion caused by the high sodium levels in the water. The article also states that Quorn is the only regional town putting up with poor quality water. My questions to the minister are:

1. What action will the minister undertake to address adverse effects of water quality in regional towns which impact on community health, animal health and also regional economic development?

2. Has the state government conducted an investigation into this matter to help affected communities with their water quality to maintain animal health, agriculture and tourism opportunities as the lack of clean water will drive people away from the region?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:45): I thank the honourable member for her question. To my knowledge, the issue of drinking water for animals hasn't been raised within this context previously, but I will certainly check with my department about that. In terms of the broader issue, which I think we are all aware of, I will refer that to the Minister for Water and bring back a response.

JUDICIARY AND LEGAL COMMUNITY IFTAR DINNER

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:45): My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the minister inform the council about the recent Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:46): I thank the honourable member very much for her question about the recent Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner. On 27 March, I was most honoured to attend and deliver a keynote address at the annual Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner. The first Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner was held just last year. At the inaugural dinner the Chief Justice delivered the keynote address and other speakers included Mr Kalil Shahin, Ms Marie Shaw KC, the President of the South Australian Bar Association, and Professor Mohamad Abdalla.

Iftar is the post-sunset meal eaten by Muslims to break the Ramadan fast. It is the most important meal of the day and the main meal for those who are fasting and observing Ramadan. The Law Society and the South Australian Bar Association partner with Pinnacle College and the McYess organisation to organise the Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner. An important aspect of Pinnacle College's work is their engagement with other faiths in projects designed to encourage interfaith and cross-cultural exchanges.

Certainly at a time of heightened global tension the Iftar dinner provided an important opportunity to focus on those fundamental values of respect, dignity and rationality, which are core values developed by the legal system and indeed the world's major religions. This year's dinner was an even larger event than last year's, and it was an honour to deliver the keynote address. The Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner is all about coming together, fostering connection and understanding across cultures and faiths.

As I said, this coming together is especially important in the turbulent times in which we live. In answer to this global turbulence, the South Australian government has recently announced a support package for new arrivals fleeing conflict, and it was a privilege to be able to outline those as part of my address. These supports include support for families to access private rental, waiver of public hospital costs, dedicated mental health funding, grocery vouchers and waiving international student fees for school-aged children in government schools. I am proud that, as a government, we have been able to put some of these supports in place and hope that they provide a small measure of comfort to those seeking a safe and secure place to call home.

Others present at the Judiciary and Legal Community Iftar Dinner included the evening's host, Dr Mehmet Aslan from Pinnacle College, Mr Ibrahim Karaisli and Ms Shanelle Franklin as emcee. The Chief Justice the Hon. Chris Kourakis delivered a vote of thanks and the Chief Executive of the Law Society, Ms Diana Newcombe, presented a reflection on the night.

Musical performances were a highlight of the evening. The Pinnacle College Junior Choir performed some fantastic numbers, including a song about Ramadan and a modern interpretation of *Keep On Movin'* by Five. In a more traditional vein, the feature musician of the night was Ms Maryam Rahmani, who gave a captivating performance on the dutar, an Iranian instrument similar to a lute.

After dinner, entertainment included a quiz where, amongst the trivia, many people who participated gleaned that the word Ramadan translates to 'scorching heat'. It was a very competitive quiz that saw a number of members test their general knowledge and their understanding of the world in a format that was very entertaining.

I would like to acknowledge those who made the evening possible, including the Law Society, the University of Adelaide, McYess and Pinnacle College, and members of the judiciary, particularly the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who has been a big supporter of holding these sorts of events for understanding. As Ramadan now concludes and we enter the post-Ramadan holiday of Eid al-Fitr, I would like to wish all Muslims Eid Fitr Saeed.

TRANSGENDER TREATMENTS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (14:50): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General, representing the Premier and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, about transgender treatments.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: A short time ago in the UK, a report by eminent paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass found that there was no good evidence to support the clinical practice of prescribing hormones, puberty blockers, to under 18s to stop puberty or transition to the opposite sex. It makes for some disturbing reading. This type of medical intervention for transgender young people is being actively practised and promoted in Australia and by SA Health. Hundreds of children have been prescribed these drugs without any credible evidence to support them, and they could be causing additional harm.

The UK Prime Minister, the Hon. Rishi Sunak, a short time ago indicated that his government was now moving quickly to address the many concerns raised by Dr Cass and also adopt her 32 recommendations. The UK Prime Minister says that the wellbeing and health of children must come first.

I was accused by the Premier and health minister and others of indulging in culture wars when I raised these very serious concerns in seeking an inquiry into the explosion of gender dysphoria and questions over the unproven medical treatments given to children as young as 11 years of age. My fears of a medical scandal are now being realised while this government shies away because of the pressure applied by transgender activists in the face of growing medical concerns being expressed globally by eminent medical professionals and scientists. My questions to the health minister and the Premier are:

1. In light of the Cass review, will they now appoint an independent medical expert and immediately order a review in South Australia of these practices and report it to the parliament?

2. Will the Premier and health minister now acknowledge that this issue is in the public interest and in the interest of the health and wellbeing of these vulnerable young children undergoing treatments that are little more than pseudoscience?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:53): I thank the honourable member for his question. I think one of the things that we rely upon with health professionals, particularly those developing policies that affect great numbers of people in the community as a whole, is to take into account a whole range of different views, take into account a whole range of different evidence that is presented and come up with the best prescriptions in terms of health policy.

We saw that at its highest during the COVID-19 pandemic, where you would have found a range of different views about how we would navigate the global pandemic, what was the best policy response, including vaccinations, but I am very fortunate that we listened to those professionals who make judgements about the various views that are put forward. That is exactly what the health professionals who help influence public health policy decisions do, and I am sure that will continue, but if there is anything further that either the health minister or the Premier wishes to add, I will see if they wish to do that.

CONVERSION THERAPY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:54): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to addressing a question to the Attorney-General regarding conversion therapy.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: In an article from February, when the Attorney-General was asked to respond about the Labor Party's promise on this, he said:

Labor remains committed to ensuring this practice does not occur in South Australia and is working to deliver on another election promise.

More recently, the Premier was quoted as saying that 'he thought some work had been looked at in the Attorney-General's Department'. My questions to the Attorney-General therefore are:

1. Can he advise whether there is a draft bill in relation to this election commitment?
2. Can he confirm that the Premier's comments were accurate?
3. When will a bill be tabled in this parliament?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:55): I thank the honourable member for her question. She has made some commentary and given some quotes, which I suspect largely are accurate. Certainly, conversion practices are something we are looking at as a government and the best way to stop the harmful effects they entail. It is work that is ongoing. The honourable member pointed out that the Premier had commented that the Attorney-General's Department is continuing that work, particularly looking at what other jurisdictions have done and where they are at, and I can confirm that work will continue.

CONVERSION THERAPY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:56): Supplementary question: who is the lead minister on this issue?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for her question. As with a range of areas—it spans a number of areas—the Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Nat Cook in another place, and I are both doing work in this area.

SNAPPER RESTOCKING PROGRAM

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the chamber on the progress of the snapper restocking program underway at SARDI?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for his question. Following the extension of the closure of snapper fishing announced in late 2022 and the associated \$8.8 million support package announced at that time, there has been a lot of activity at PIRSA and SARDI in advancing some of the key programs that will help to bolster snapper stocks and improve our knowledge about the species.

A few examples include a new research program that consists of multiple projects, co-designed by a snapper science stakeholder group formed specifically to ensure that all relevant stakeholders contribute to the research, a technical science group and providing additional educational resources to recreational anglers on snapper handling and barotrauma to increase post-release survival rates, all of which can be found on PIRSA's snapper hub website.

One of the exciting projects underway to assist snapper stocks is the \$1.2 million restocking program that got underway shortly after the extension to the ban was implemented. The program sees snapper broodstock that has been collected from Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent moved to SARDI's West Beach facility where they reproduce, producing the next generation of juveniles in captivity. They are looked after by SARDI staff and released back into the wild when they are approximately 90 days old and 50 millimetres long.

One thing that is particularly interesting is that the broodstock collected from Spencer Gulf is then used to reproduce the fingerlings that will be released into Spencer Gulf, and similarly the broodstock collected from Gulf St Vincent enables those to be released back into Gulf St Vincent, thereby I am advised increasing the likely outcomes of those fish. So far, approximately 150,000 snapper fingerlings were released into the Spencer Gulf in April and May last year and January this year and another 150,000 were released into Gulf St Vincent over the past few weeks.

Excitingly, in the upcoming school holidays, on either 15 or 16 April—depending on the weather—a community release event involving members of the public will take place at Black Point boat ramp on the Yorke Peninsula. It is hoped that scheduling the community release during the school holidays will allow as many community members as possible to get involved in releasing the fingerlings, with up to 20,000 juvenile snapper being carefully transferred from the transportation tanks to the shallow water using hand-held buckets. Children are encouraged to participate—under adult supervision, of course—and no registration is required to attend. Details about the event are available on the PIRSA website. I encourage anyone with an interest to head over to Yorke Peninsula in these school holidays and take part.

Having visited the fingerlings myself at West Beach just a week or so ago, with Crow Ned McHenry for his fishing segment on 7NEWS, it certainly appears that all is in readiness for thousands of snapper to make Gulf St Vincent their new home. Though we are a little over a year into the extension of the closure, there has been much work going on in the background to give the best possible opportunity for a rebound in snapper stocks to occur and for the most up-to-date scientific research to be considered as part of the decision-making process, leading up to mid-2026 when the current ban expires.

I look forward to continuing to update the chamber on the progress of the programs now well underway as part of the \$8.8 million snapper support package.

GREYHOUND INDUSTRY REFORM INSPECTOR

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:00): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to Minister Scriven, representing the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, a question on the appointment of the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: Last year, former Victorian police commissioner Graham Ashton was charged with reviewing the governance and operations of the greyhound racing industry in South Australia. In December, he released his independent inquiry into the operations, culture, governance and practices of that industry. The state-commissioned inquiry was indeed prompted by revelations of multiple greyhounds being kicked and punched on a property, as well as the instances of live baiting, but also other revelations made in this parliament.

Mr Ashton, in his report, makes 86 recommendations for change in the industry, including 10 that were sourced from the RSPCA and five from the Animal Justice Party. Significantly, the report notes that if the sport is to retain a social licence into the future it will only be achieved if the reforms recommended in this report are immediate and widespread. At a press conference, the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Premier stood by Mr Ashton and committed to a Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector—to oversee two years of review of this industry, should it be able to continue into the future—commencing by Easter. Easter was last week. Where is the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector? My questions to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing are:

1. What preparations are being made for the appointment of a Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector?
2. How many of the 86 recommendations that the Malinauskas government has accepted have begun to be implemented, and how many have already been effected?
3. Is there legislation coming to this parliament, as the government indicated last December there would be, to ensure that this two-year process that was meant to commence in Easter is taken seriously?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:02): I am happy to refer that to the minister in the other place and bring back a response. It certainly is something that is very important and that the government is taking seriously. In terms of the specifics, I will bring that back once we have had a response from the minister.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:03): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General on the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, better known as SACAT.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: The opposition has been approached by a mother whose son is living with a disability. Ms Tricia Neagle has won an appeal in the Supreme Court to have her son returned to her care from being under state guardianship. Ms Neagle, who has given permission for me to discuss her situation, has raised concerns about the extreme length of time taken to address her case, which is currently with SACAT, and the concerns about the current care of her son.

The Supreme Court decided in her favour in June 2023, and Ms Neagle has been waiting for over 10 months for SACAT to finalise a decision for her son to ideally be returned to her care. Ms Neagle has reached out to both the office of the Attorney-General and the Premier's office, to no avail. She struggles to gain access to her son, including birthdays and Christmas Day. She also has concerns regarding limited access to information and details of her son's case, which includes what he is eating, what medication he is being prescribed and why he is regressing in his capacity building. Tomorrow marks three years since her son was removed from her care. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. What are the current wait times for cases to be heard by SACAT, and why is this case taking over 10 months?
2. Why does SACAT and the Office of the Public Advocate not provide files and details of proceedings, including the reasons for removal of individuals from home care to parties participating in SACAT proceedings?
3. When did the Attorney's office last contact Ms Neagle, and what advice was provided in response to her concerns?
4. How will the Attorney ensure fairness and timely accountability for people navigating SACAT, so that mothers like Tricia don't have to wait so long for results?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:05): I thank the honourable member for her question. I don't have all the details, but I am aware of matters very similar to this that MPs raise. It might be

that the matter the honourable member has raised has been raised with my office by one of her colleagues in the lower house.

I am not going to go into details. There are, of course, confidentiality provisions within the SACAT Act that I don't intend to breach, even with parliamentary privilege; however, what I can say is that SACAT is involved many times in some of the most deeply personal ways in people's lives. Appointing a guardian or appointing an administrator to make decisions about life, about medication, accommodation, or as an administrator with financial decisions, are indeed very grave ones that go to people's fundamental liberties.

SACAT has been in existence almost exactly nine years and in that time have made somewhere around 270,000 orders across all jurisdictions, including those that deal with guardianship and administration. I think on this particular matter—but certainly it is raised with me by people who have raised their own particular views about who should be appointed administrators or guardians. As I said, it is a difficult area when a tribunal has to make judgements about who is best placed to look after not just the financial needs but needs that include decisions about medical care and accommodation of individuals.

I think SACAT are generally quite well regarded in terms of how they handle these decisions, as the Guardianship and Administration Board that preceded the establishment of SACAT nine years ago were as well. I am always happy when people raise it with me confidentially, as I think there are provisions in the act that require to look into the circumstances of individual cases, and it is certainly something I have done when quite a number of MPs have raised issues because, as I have said, it is a pretty fundamental intrusion into the way you live your life, to have someone appointed to make these fundamental decisions for you, and it can be difficult and traumatic, particularly for family members, but I am always happy to answer questions as best I can, given the confidentiality that applies.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (15:07): Supplementary: is the Attorney happy to take on notice and potentially follow-up Ms Neagle's situation to look into that further, and also whether you are able to take on notice what the current backlog of cases sitting with SACAT is and what actions could be taken to further address these issues?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:07): I am happy to see if that is possible. I suspect it would be difficult to look at exactly how many cases are awaiting a decision and what the time frames are. As I have said, I will check to make sure that the matter that the honourable member is referring to is one that has been raised with me by one of her colleagues, and I have made inquiries and I think responded, but I am happy to follow that up.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:08): Supplementary: Attorney, are there any formal guidelines in place with respect to the timeliness of SACAT decisions?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:08): I think SACAT, as I have said, over their nine years of existence have made some 270,000 orders, which—when I was visiting SACAT just Friday last week and informed of that—on some very quick maths I reckon is somewhere between an order every three or four minutes of their existence. It is a very high-volume jurisdiction but, in terms of guidelines, I know that they do things as speedily as they can. I am not sure if there are specific guidelines for a whole range of different matters, but I know that they are pretty well respected and do things in a timely manner, as timely as possible.

CERULEAN CREATIVE STUDIOS

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Can the minister please update the council on his recent visit to the Cerulean studio?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:09): I thank the honourable member for his question.

It's a question about an IT creative studio, Cerulean studios. I know the honourable member is very well regarded for his digital skills and is very interested in this area. Members may smile, but I think it was one of the areas of study of the Hon. Reggie Martin at university—matters relating to IT—so if anyone has questions about that for their office, Reggie is generally pretty good at being a helpdesk. So just go to Reggie. Tell him I sent you, and you will be fine.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Adelaide-based Cerulean Creative Studios, which is a First Nations Australian digital development studio and exists to assist businesses navigating their digital visualisations from concept to reality. Founded in 2020 by two Aboriginal men, Arthur Ah Chee and Brenz Saunders, Cerulean excels in the creation of augmented reality, virtual reality and video game projects across a diverse range of industries.

Cerulean differentiates itself through Arthur and Brenz bringing a unique perspective to their work, championing cultural diversity and storytelling in digital media. Arthur has experience in the gaming development industry, which includes project credits to well-known games like the Call of Duty franchise. He is also the co-founder of the Adelaide game development Discord, which assists the community of over 1,000 developers in South Australia to stay connected and facilitate networking and share events. Brenz Saunders is an up-and-coming Aboriginal leader in South Australia and has extensive experience in the technology space. Many would know Brenz as the current chair of Tauondi Aboriginal Community College.

Cerulean is currently operated out of a shared space and is part of the Adelaide Coordinate Labs (ACOLAB). This arrangement enables collaboration and partnership with other South Australian independent game development studios. This has led to a partnership to provide a range of project governance, execution, training and capability growth to a wide range of clients.

Cerulean's potential has already been recognised in the industry and is shown by their recent success in winning a grant from Screen Australia's Emerging Gamemakers Fund. This funding will enable Cerulean to move into the next stages of game development with their game Crimson Cutlass. Built in-house, Crimson Cutlass is a two-player cooperative multiplayer game and is set in a post-apocalyptic ocean thousands of years into the future. If it sounds difficult to explain, it is even more difficult to play, as I found out having a very poor go, trying to relive my long distant childhood by playing Crimson Cutlass.

I would like to thank Cerulean Creative Studios on the opportunity to visit their workspace and get an insight into the current project. I congratulate them on all they have achieved to date, and I look forward to seeing them progress to become the premier First Nations gaming and visualisation studio not just in Australia but across the globe.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:12): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health, regarding the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: The research component of the new Women's and Children's Hospital will make it one of the most expensive buildings, having already blown out from \$3.2 billion to \$3.6 billion. This 400-bed facility will come in at \$9 million per bed compared to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, which costs \$3 million per bed.

We have become accustomed to public projects blowing out, and with the research component of the new Women's and Children's Hospital making up the bulk of the cost it raises the question there has to be a better way. The medical precinct on North Terrace already houses several state-of-the-art research facilities, including the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and the Australian Bragg Centre.

My question to the Attorney-General is: instead of adding to the growing cluster of research facilities already in the vicinity, will the government consider adding more beds instead of what could be considered a surplus research component?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:13): I thank the member for her question. I will refer those to the minister in another place and bring back a reply.

REPEAT OFFENDERS

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:14): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding repeat offenders.

Leave granted

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: Last week, on ABC Radio Adelaide in a discussion on youth crime, police commissioner Grant Stevens expressed a level of frustration over the fact that SAPOL were having to deal with the same repeat offenders. The police commissioner said:

If there are offenders that are being released on bail or receiving relatively light sentences, as long as it's not the fault of the police officer having not done their job properly then we just need to accept that.

Aside from the Attorney-General's announcement today to introduce legislation to punish adult ringleaders who recruit children to commit crime, my questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Considering the comments from the police commissioner, does the Attorney-General believe that repeat youth offenders often receive lenient sentences and bail agreements to the detriment of the safety of the community?

2. Has the Attorney met with the police commissioner to directly discuss concerns over repeat youth offenders being released on bail or receiving light sentences?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (15:15): I thank the honourable member for his question and certainly it is one that is worthy of consideration. I thank the honourable member for his plaudits for the announcement that the government has made today in relation to legislation we will bring forward that will seek to create the toughest standalone offence of its kind anywhere in Australia for adults who seek to engage children in criminal activity.

They will create a new standalone offence with a maximum jail period of 15 years, or if the offence that they are recruiting children to commit has a higher maximum penalty it will be that penalty, whichever is greater. That offence will be regardless of whether the child is actually convicted of the crime. In the end, it will be the recruiting of the child to commit the crime that carries that offence. We think that will send a very strong message to those sorts of thugs and criminals who would seek to have children commit their crimes.

I regularly have meetings with the police commissioner. I think the honourable member would understand that I will not detail, and it would not be expected that I detail, what we speak about in those meetings and the results of those discussions; however, I do appreciate that I have that avenue to raise issues that are of concern to the police commissioner as I have that avenue also of raising issues with the police commissioner that I hear about from people in the community.

There is further work to do I think in terms of children who find themselves in contact with the criminal justice system. One of the things we are doing at the moment as a government is a discussion paper that we have released that is looking at other ways we can intervene in children's lives. A criminal justice response may not always be the best way. We are looking at therapeutic interventions, particularly family supports, for young people to try to stop the very young children who find themselves in contact with the criminal justice system becoming the older children and then the young adults who find their way into the criminal justice system. It is an issue that we are taking seriously and looking at addressing.

AG TOWN OF THE YEAR

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:17): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister tell the chamber about the recent community event held in Wudinna to mark the town's award as the Ag Town of the Year for 2023?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:17): It was a real privilege and pleasure to head over to

Wudinna a couple of weeks ago to mark that town's achievement as the 2023 Ag Town of the Year. This is a very important award for regional South Australia. The award highlights the vital role that agriculture plays in the regional landscape, recognising towns that are supporting advanced agricultural practices, thriving primary industries and regional development. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is the award's major sponsor, which is also strongly supported by Solstice Media, publishers of InDaily.

There is no doubt that Wudinna is a resilient town, filled with people with a can-do attitude, brimming with community pride. For a town of just 548 people, the community turned out in good numbers for the event to mark the town's achievement. There were, perhaps, 200—that was one of the estimates—at the local Apex Park on the Wednesday night leading up to the Easter long weekend. Displaying their community spirit, the local football club prepared a delicious gourmet barbecue, as well as refreshments to mark the occasion.

It is clear that dry land farming is at the heart of the town's economy and community. It is apparent within the town through its huge 70-tonne sculpture, The Australian Farmer statue, embellished with grain crops and sheep, symbolising the lifeblood of the region. Agriculture employs 43.8 per cent of the town's workforce and makes up 73.5 per cent of the town's exports and Wudinna is the hub for the Eyre Peninsula's grain, cattle and sheep industries. Major agribusinesses, farming machinery, and earthmoving suppliers are based in the town, which is also home to the farmer-owned research, development and extension organisation AIR EP, and Eyre Peninsula Cooperative Bulk Handling, which supports grain storage, handling and supply chain logistics.

One of the things that is so remarkable and impressive about Wudinna is how integrated its industries are with the broader community. At the community event, I was joined by the chair of Primary Producers SA, Simon Maddocks, a member of the award's judging panel, who reinforced how impressed the judges were by that integration of agriculture into the local area school's curriculum. Each year level, from reception through to year 12, delves into aspects of plant and animal production.

The next morning I, too, was given an extensive tour of the school's facilities and saw firsthand how engaged the students were with agriculture and how this interest brought other elements of learning to life. I heard, for example, how students are not just taught about the practical elements of cropping and livestock management, they are also thinking ahead to how ongoing technological advancements in areas such as drone and sensor technologies can improve dryland farming practices into the future. This generates enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects among both girls and boys. It also augments the resourcing of the school, as local industries and parents of the students volunteer their time and often their equipment to facilitate this learning.

This can-do attitude extends to the local council as well. As part of my trip I was accompanied by Mayor Eleanor Scholz to view and climb the Pildappa Rock formation, with its impressive wave formations which rival and possibly surpass those that feature at Western Australia's famous Wave Rock. The Wudinna District Council is in the process of developing this site as a major tourist attraction, with amenities provided and situated in a manner that preserves the natural beauty of Pildappa Rock.

As part of the prize, Wudinna has received town signage noting their achievement as the Agricultural Town of the Year for 2023, as well as promotion through *SALIFE* and InDaily. Once again, I would like to thank all of the 49 regional towns who nominated for the award last year. I thank the judges and all involved in the program, and particularly recognise the efforts of the three finalist towns. Well done.

AG TOWN OF THE YEAR

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:21): Supplementary: will the minister, on behalf of the government, rule out a special enterprise licence in and around the Wudinna area given, as the minister has pointed out, it is surrounded by prime agricultural land?

The PRESIDENT: The only correlation, I think, is Wudinna. Minister, you can choose to answer, if you want.

SNAPPER FISHERY

The Hon. C. BONAROS (15:23): I seek leave to ask the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development a question about snapper fisheries.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I refer to the minister's previous question and answer earlier today and note that the snapper fishery has been and will be predominantly shut, except the South-East region, until at least July 2026. Following the enormous investment in understanding and rebuilding the snapper stocks in South Australia, which has been strongly supported, will the minister confirm that upon reopening the snapper fishery PIRSA will have an explicit take for all stakeholders, given the need for management of this stock to be carefully considered and especially given the pain and hardship that has been caused as a result of current closures for commercial fishers and recreational fishers?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:24): I thank the honourable member for her question. In the lead-up to the ending of the current ban on snapper, PIRSA will be taking into account all of the available evidence to see whether reopening is possible and, if it is, under what conditions. All of the matters in regard to allocations would be for consideration at that time.

Matters of Interest

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (15:24): I rise today to speak about Autism Awareness Day and month. For those who do not know, 2 April is celebrated worldwide as Autism Awareness Day, and April as a whole is recognised as a month where we celebrate autism awareness and seek to build knowledge. Last Tuesday, on World Autism Awareness Day, we reached another important milestone in our state's journey to become the autism inclusive state. We launched the state's first ever Autism Inclusion Charter, a resource that will now be rolled out across all government, and also include training resources to enhance knowledge and understanding, wellbeing, connection and belonging, employment and opportunity.

On the day, the Premier and myself joined over 130 government agency and private sector chief executives and their representatives to officially launch the Autism Inclusion Charter. From the Gold Foundation to Telstra, to Adelaide Oval, to autistic advocates, to Autism SA, and the department CEs, the room was filled with a variety of individuals all united by the same goal of improving life outcomes for autistic individuals by showing their support to build knowledge.

At the event on the stage there were two printed copies of the Autism Inclusion Charter pledge. On one of the copies that was displayed there were many members of parliament who had signed a pledge: members from the cross-bench in this chamber, for which I say thank you; members of the government in this chamber, for which I say thank you; and to members of the government and cross-benches in the other place who signed this pledge to build knowledge, I say thank you.

I am guessing it will come as no surprise to many in this chamber that the party that did not come to the table and sign a simple pledge to say that they wanted to build knowledge, understanding and opportunity in the employment workforce for the largest disability group was the Liberal Party.

An honourable member: What!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: 'What!'—exactly. Not the Leader of the Opposition, not the shadow minister for disabilities, who has stood in this chamber week after week after week asking questions about how to be more united and work together to build knowledge—quite unbelievable. It also comes as no surprise that I have also been advised that despite the fact that we have just gone through the largest consultation period—one of the largest consultation periods for the disability community with the creation of the draft strategy, where over 1,200 people could give their time, could rock up, could share their views, could share their values—the opposition could not be bothered rocking up and sharing their views.

It is disappointing because we are talking about the largest disability group in our community. We are talking about an opportunity for us to come together. As we have seen, the CEs of every government department gave their pledge that they want to make change. They want to change the statistics that show that if you are autistic, you are half as likely to complete year 10; if you are autistic, you are three times more likely to be unemployed than someone else with another disability; and if you get to age 50, you are an old autistic.

These are statistics we are seeking to change by doing something as straightforward as building knowledge in our community. We must start with the largest workforce, and that is the state government workforce. So I say thank you to the CEs who signed this pledge to start that very process. On the day, the CEs were trained by the autistic-led Office for Autism, who provided knowledge about what is autism and what we can do to support our colleagues who may be autistic or neurodivergent in our workplace, so that we can start to create a more inclusive workplace in our largest workforce: state government.

What are incredibly disappointing, as I have shared in this chamber previously, are the thoughts of the Liberal opposition leader that it is only virtue signalling to have a position of the Assistant Minister for Autism, and his comments about the autistic community in regard to the benefits of having such a role. It is not the government that I would advise the opposition to be apologising to but the largest disability community in South Australia: the autistic community.

FESTIVAL PLAZA

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:30): I rise to speak this afternoon about a matter that will be important to any South Australian who cares about the character of the City of Adelaide, and that is the decision of the Malinauskas government to green light a second tower on the Festival Plaza—38 storeys, no less, to sit alongside the 29 levels that have already been constructed on our public space. This is Crown land, land that belongs to all South Australians.

I must say that, when I heard this announcement, I was shocked and dismayed that the extent of the vision and imagination of the Malinauskas government when it comes to this premier site in the City of Adelaide is yet another office tower. We already have a vacancy rate in the City of Adelaide when it comes to office buildings of about 20 per cent. Why on earth is the government building yet another office tower? Why on earth is it giving the Walker Corporation the right to build another tower in that location?

I have heard some of the comments made by the planning minister in this regard, where he talks about this being an iconic building. This is not the Opera House, this is not the Taj Mahal, it is not the iconic Festival Centre, it is an office tower and it is one that is going to overshadow our historic Parliament House and obscure the view for the public and prevent the public from being able to enjoy this key civic space.

The government says that office space is going to be a key civic space, and I think the community is meant to be excited about the prospect of schoolchildren touring an office and checking out the remarkable office space. We are going to have four storeys made available to the public, yet there is no assurance that this will be anything more than just a food court for the office workers in that building. It is a disgrace.

Where was the tender process here? When will the community find out how much the Walker Corporation is going to be paying the people of South Australia to take control of that parcel of land? How do we know whether or not this is going to be a commercial deal? Will the taxpayer be asked to contribute to this, given the South Australian taxpayer has already forked out more than \$200 million to support what is in effect a private development? Who will be the tenants? These are all important questions that the Malinauskas government must answer.

I think it is outrageous that they have treated our public space with such disdain. This sends a very clear message to the people of South Australia around our planning system. It demonstrates that our planning system, of which the Labor Party is the architect, serves developers. It puts the interests of developers above the interests of the community and it is an absolute disgrace.

It is not just the Greens saying this. I was interested to read some of the letters to the editor today. I want to quote from my friend and former colleague Anne Moran, with years of experience on the city council:

If this had been announced before the Dunstan by-election, Labor would have lost. It shows who really runs this state—it's the developers!

C and D office space can be upgraded, but will now probably be left to rot because the demand has been met by this building on community land.

Bring on...the next election. Many will not vote for Labor after this betrayal.

John Irving writes:

What a great spot to house a major arts company!

That is in relation to the destruction of the Edmund Wright House, which has been able to fall into disrepair. I can quote from Barbara Ferguson, who states:

When is our...government going to show real leadership in the development of Adelaide?

People are up in arms about this. This is community space, it belongs to all South Australians, and the Labor Party needs to do much better.

Time expired.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (15:35): The great Voice debate in this country is surely over. First came the failure of the Federal Voice, with more than 64 per cent of South Australians voting no at the referendum. Now Labor's State Voice has failed before it has even begun. Labor's Voice was legislated in March 2023. The first elections have now been held, at which around 6 per cent of Indigenous South Australians turned out to vote.

Across the entire state just 2,583 formal votes were received. Some candidates were elected with as few as six and 11 votes after the distribution of preferences. Some received none, suggesting that they could not even be bothered to come out to vote for themselves—elected to the Voice with a mandate of as few as six votes, yet able to influence the Parliament, which is democratically elected to represent over 1.7 million South Australians.

In the push for gender diversity through quotas, we have seen a female candidate, who received more primary votes than three successfully elected male candidates in her region, not be elected because, well, that is equality Labor-style. Showing that while gender quotas may hope to ensure female representation around the table, it can have the unintended consequence of inhibiting women from being elected.

It should concern all South Australians that a body as unrepresentative as the Voice, where one can be elected with as few as six votes, can influence the outcome of a democratically elected parliament, the change so great to how the parliament will need to function that it will need to change its standing orders. It is a handbrake on our democracy and gives greater weight to a vote of one group over another, based on race. It is my view that it undermines the very premise of our democracy in that we are all equal—one person, one vote.

While members of parliament, both at a state and federal level, are not able to profit from the Crown, members of the First Nations Voice do not have that same requirement. We have seen people elected to this body—a body that gives access to speak on the floor of the parliament—hold roles where they are profiting from the Crown, from advisers in the Attorney-General's own department to the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. It again begs the question of the integrity of the body.

You would have thought that, when the resounding result of the referendum came back showing that over 64 per cent of South Australians voted no, the Malinauskas government would have repealed the State Voice, would have acknowledged that they got it wrong. Instead, we see a state government that has pushed ahead with the First Nations Voice elections, and a government that will not rule out the payment of reparations and compensation to Indigenous communities. How much will that cost taxpayers?

With over 64 per cent of South Australians voting no at the referendum, and with around 90 per cent of South Australia's Indigenous community failing to cast a vote at the State Voice elections, it is fair to say that most South Australians are not behind Peter Malinauskas' State Voice to parliament. It is time for Labor governments everywhere, especially here in South Australia, to recognise the overwhelming will of the people. Premier, it is time to repeal this frighteningly unrepresentative body.

AFL GATHER ROUND

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (15:38): I want to reflect on a few things that happened in our state last week. Unless you live under a rock, there was a minor couple of people in town kicking around some balls. Last Thursday, I had the great pleasure of taking my team from the office on an outing to watch the mighty Adelaide Crows at the Adelaide Oval and, although they were not quite so mighty that evening, they put on quite a show for an almost sold-out crowd.

This year's Gather Round built on the success of last year's event, with bigger crowds and an expanded festival of footy, if you like, that provided an opportunity for tourists to enjoy all that our state has to offer—and boy, did it deliver. Preliminary figures indicate that almost 40 per cent of all ticket holders were from interstate and beyond, which was up from the 32 per cent from last year. That is over 40,000 interstate visitors who filled our hotel rooms, filled our restaurants, filled the Adelaide Railway Station, if you were trying to get to the game like I was, and injected millions into our state economy.

Although the final economic impact of Gather Round has not yet been finalised, early indications have shown that there was around a 15 per cent increase for restaurants and hotels in revenue this past weekend.

On Monday, our government announced the next big step for Gather Round, with our world-famous Barossa Valley wine region set to host its first Gather Round match in 2025. Our government is partnering with The Barossa Council to deliver a jointly funded \$40 million full-scale redevelopment of the Lyndoch Recreation Park facilities, which I think will leave a lasting legacy for the iconic wine region.

It would be a misunderstanding, though, if we just looked at this in an economic context. We cannot just focus on Gather Round in terms of dollars because, in reality, it is a lot more than that. It is actually about resetting—or recasting, if you like—the way that the nation looks at our state. I can tell you that we are no longer the butt of jokes. A lot of my mates from interstate came over for Gather Round, and they had a great time at Gather Round. For some of them it was the first time they had ever actually been to our state, and do you know what they all said? They said, 'Wow, I'll be back.'

We are a source of envy around the country, and Gather Round puts that on display in a clear context. In that regard, I think it is also important to look at what it means to people who live here, local people. I will finish with some remarks by the Mayor of Mount Barker, David Leach, who I think summed it up pretty nicely. He said:

It's a big deal for this town to host an AFL match, and I'm reminded yesterday when I saw the Swans come into the centre of town. The young children are... what got me excited. They were there able to mingle with their heroes and have a kick around with them and get some autographs.

It means a lot to these small places and these communities. Gather Round is more than just about the economic impact. It is about changing how we see ourselves as a state and how others see our state. As the Premier said, we are a source of envy around the country, and Gather Round is the showcase for our state's potential. For anyone who missed out this year, do yourself a favour and get a golden ticket to next year's showcase. Do yourself an even bigger favour and buy a bottle of wine while you are out in the Barossa region. You will not regret it.

NATURE POSITIVE

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (15:42): I rise to talk about the current Nature Positive agenda being pushed by the federal government that, if successful, will have ramifications on businesses right across South Australia, and not in a good way.

'Nature Positive' is the terminology adopted by the Albanese federal Labor government through reviewing the previous Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The review was conducted by Graeme Samuel and delivered in October 2020. The Samuel review concluded that the legislation was no longer fit for purpose and would benefit from streamlining. Thirty-eight recommendations were included, including the development of legally enforceable national standards.

At face value, the term 'Nature Positive' sounds appealing—a global movement seeking to achieve many well-intentioned ecological outcomes, including the preservation of biodiversity, clean water, air provisions and the enhancement of nature. However, there are significant concerns about the way the Nature Positive agenda is playing out. The EPBC Act, at over 1,100 pages, is a complex piece of legislation that has an impact across many parts of Australian industry and society.

The Institute of Public Affairs notes that last financial year there were 214 decisions made under the EPBC Act across projects relating to renewable energy, mining, agriculture, aquaculture, public infrastructure, waste management, tourism, residential developments and water management.

The current progress towards Nature Positive has raised issues of concern, such as a noted lack of transparency. Consultation takes place behind closed doors with limited industry representatives and bureaucrats attending—a little bit like the wine industry working group. There has been no exposure draft, no impact statement, nor proper consultation with affected stakeholders, despite commitments being made that these measures would be included as part of the process.

Even Western Australia's Labor Premier Roger Cook has expressed concerns about this lack of transparency and the potential of more complex and unwieldy legislation having a negative impact on industry in his state. When a Labor state government is concerned about transparency, you know it must be bad, given their usual lax approach to transparency.

The proposed changes will take decision powers away from the relevant minister, which is a direct contradiction to recommendations in the 2020 Samuel review. There are real and significant concerns that these changes will enable Canberra bureaucrats to halt developments simply by claiming negative impacts.

This will impact not only mining and agriculture but also building, tourism and other sectors. The proposed changes will create a new environmental protection authority and an environmental information authority, along with more regulations. For development projects to be approved they will have to demonstrate that they are Nature Positive and not only comply with initial development criteria but also complete mandatory ongoing reporting against a range of assessment criteria.

It is difficult to see how this will result in processes being streamlined. Rather, I suspect what we will see is more bureaucracy, regulation and inefficiency, which is what we have come to expect with all Labor governments, including those opposite. It will be a handbrake on business, a handbrake on productivity and a handbrake on the economy, which not even a Gather Round will be able to fix.

While every reasonable minded person wants sound environmental outcomes, the current Nature Positive agenda will absolutely be industry negative. There is a worry within this state and across the country that there appears to be a growing trend against private business and a lack of appreciation for the importance of business. As Churchill said:

Some see private enterprise as a predatory target to be shot, others as a cow to be milked, but few of those see it as a sturdy horse pulling the wagon.

More recently, Bran Black, Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia, wrote in *The Australian* 'you need decent, dependable profit to create and maintain secure jobs.' Anyone who believes in the provision of sound public education, a viable and effective public health system and maintaining a safety net for those less fortunate in society should support the preservation of profitable businesses, for it is from profitable businesses that taxation flows to support these laudable social outcomes.

It is vital that measures to preserve nature are made in concert with, and not at the expense of, profitable business. Any other outcome would be disastrous for the South Australian economy and its people.

AUSTRALIAN SIKH GAMES

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:47): I rise to bring to the attention of the chamber the remarkable success of the recent Sikh Games, held in Adelaide over the Easter long weekend. The Sikh community worked together, almost like a military operation, but with a peaceful objective, of course, to leave no stone unturned in making Adelaide's 2024 Sikh Games the best ever. And they succeeded.

It was wonderful to see a community working so well together as young and old, men, women and children, stepped up to the plate to make the games work fluently and ensure that visitors were made welcome. The amount of visitors deserves special mention, as records were set. Around 80,000 people from right across Australia and overseas turned up on the long weekend to cheer home their local or adopted athletes in this wonderful event.

Over three days, more than 4,000 athletes from all over Australia, as well as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Canada, competed in 14 different sports. At least 80 per cent of the athletes came from interstate and overseas. Typical of the inclusiveness of the Sikh way, the games cater for men and women, boys and girls of all ages. From under 9s, the various sporting events run through the age groups to open competition, and even veteran's events for the over 40s and 50s.

Sports included cricket, rugby, tennis, hockey, soccer, athletics, netball and the sport that captured everyone's attention at these games: kabadi. Kabadi is something of a mix of rugby and wrestling, although that is an oversimplification. As it sounds, though, it is not for the faint-hearted. It is a full-on sport that gets the crowd involved from the opening minutes, and fortunately there are usually no serious injuries. In keeping with the Sikh philosophy, tens of thousands of meals were given out to those in attendance.

The Sikh Games are growing in stature every year in Australia. This is the second time in seven years that Adelaide has hosted the games. The financial numbers are not in yet, but the last time the Sikh Games were held in Adelaide, in 2017, they brought well over \$12 million in new spending to the economy. With attendance and participation numbers well up on last year, we can reasonably assume the economic impact has been even greater this time around.

But these Games, which drew some people to Adelaide for the first time and introduced a lot more to a whole new culture, are about more than money. The Sikh Games are important because they bring to our broader attention the contribution the Sikh community has made over many years all around the country.

Australia has a strong and growing Sikh community numbering more than 200,000 people, who are proud of their heritage and of their Australian home. They contribute a massive \$15 billion-plus to the national economy every year. In South Australia, there are more than 12,000 Sikh members in the community. This has grown from a handful of families settling here in 1978 to a thriving community.

I reiterate: this is about more than statistics and money. The Sikh Games brought communities and cultures together at a time when many people are also celebrating Easter, and it worked out perfectly. People got together, had a great time, watched some remarkable sporting contests and even learned some new sports. If you ever wanted to see the much talked about inclusiveness in action, you would have seen it on and off the sporting field at the Adelaide Sikh Games.

I would like to congratulate the Sikh community, who got behind the Sikh Games, and the Sikh Games committee for their tireless work. They are President Balwant Singh, Vice-President Sukhwinder Pal Singh, Mahanbir Singh Grewal, Parminder Singh, Harpreet Saini, Harjinder Lasara, Ishareet Nagra, Rajawant Singh and Jazmin Pangly. Their hard work, along with the support of the entire Sikh community, the state government and the Adelaide City Council, were vital in making the 2024 Adelaide Sikh Games the great success that they were.

LIVE MUSIC VENUE GRANTS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:52): I rise today to reflect on some much-needed good news that has recently been announced for the live music scene in our state: the major boost that many venues will get with the See It LIVE grant. Venues such as the Wheatsheaf Hotel, the Lion Arts Factory, Ancient World, UniBar, Grace Emily Hotel, Broadcast Bar, Jive, The Gov, Semaphore Workers Club, Arthur Art Bar, Rhino Room and Lowife Basement Bar, Woodshed and Murray Delta Juke Joint, Nexus Arts, the Three Brothers Arms in Macclesfield, My Lover Cindi, the Exeter Hotel in the city, Big Easy Radio and Prompt Creative Centre will all enjoy part of that \$14 million boost.

One venue that was awarded a grant to help South Australians really see it live will not be able to avail themselves of that grant, because unfortunately Port Adelaide venue Confession will cease operating after this weekend and become a private venue simply for hire. It is a wonderful venue and certainly, for those members who are not aware of it, it puts on an extraordinary array of not just live music but cabaret, burlesque and performance and really brings into the heart of Port Adelaide a much-needed non-screens community activity that is so much needed after COVID.

These live music grants are great, but they do not go far enough. Literally, since COVID, we have lost across this country 1,300-plus small and mid-sized music venues. That statistic comes from the annual report of APRA AMCOS last year. We should be very concerned about the future of live music and live entertainment and the arts in this country as we come out of COVID and the various impacts that that event has had. Indeed, the contribution of the arts and live music to our lives, to our communities and to our culture is irreplaceable once it is gone.

Venues like Enigma or the Tivoli Hotel—the Tiv where I turned 18 at a Hunters & Collectors gig—are now home to apartments and we see the Cranker (the Crown and Anchor) on the line with an obvious and quite understandable significant outpouring of support not just from those bands that got their start at the Cranker but of course from the punters themselves. They know that the cultural worth of the Cranker (the Crown and Anchor) on Grenfell Street is so much more valuable than yet another student apartment block that could be built almost anywhere in the city but will never replace the worth that the arts and live music bring to our city.

Indeed, the Cranker has not just been the home to live music; it is the home to comedy nights and other events. While working at the YWCA of Adelaide I certainly held all sorts of events and magazine launches and the like there back in the day. It has been part of our cultural life for so long.

In this state, we have lost The Bakehouse Theatre, which began its life as The Red Shed, and Theatre 62 has suffered multiple robberies of its equipment and is really struggling. As these cost-of-living pressures really put the pinch on people, on families and on our community, it is the arts that are suffering and of course it is not just bread that we need but roses, too.

I warn the government not to take their eye off this issue because, unless we protect these cultural venues, unless we ensure that places like the State Theatre Company and the State Opera have appropriate venues to operate in, unless we have people able to tread the boards and the sticky floors at all levels of the arts ecosystem, we will really see a lack of our state being able to really truly call itself the festival state and have homegrown arts emanating here.

In the Dunstan how-to-vote line, I met Tracey Marsh, who runs Cue Bar. She spent tens of thousands of dollars fighting council rules that sought to close down the operations of her venue from running live music because of people dancing, apparently against the law, near those pool tables more than three times a week. The Cue Bar is just one of so many stories here. We need a round table, we need a task force and we need a serious minister to take this arts crisis seriously.

Motions

ZONTA CLUB

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (15:57): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that 2024 marks the 55th year of the Zonta Club of Adelaide;

2. Recognises the significant contribution the Zonta Club has made to empowering the women of South Australia; and
3. Congratulates all those who have contributed to the work of the Zonta Club over the last 55 years.

This year, 2024, marks the 55th anniversary of the Zonta Club of Adelaide. Zonta International is a global service organisation of professionals empowering women and girls worldwide through advocacy and service. Zonta's vision is to realise a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

Over a century ago, Marian de Forest of Buffalo, New York, conceived the idea of an organisation that would bring together women in professional positions. This was at a time when women rarely occupied leadership roles across business and professional landscapes. In November 1919, Zonta was founded as a service organisation of professional women working to improve the status of women and girls worldwide.

The name 'Zonta' is derived from a word in the Lakota language, a language of the Sioux First Nations people of North America, meaning 'honest and trustworthy'. The word was adopted in 1919 to symbolise the combined qualities of honesty and trust, inspiration and the ability to work together for service and world understanding. There are now more than 28,000 Zontians across more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 63 countries. The Zonta Club here in Adelaide was chartered 55 years ago in 1969. It was the first Zonta Club established in South Australia.

Members of the Zonta Club of Adelaide come from all parts of the metropolitan area. Currently, the membership comprises more than 40 Zontians of all ages, from all walks of life, and hailing from many different professions. Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Adelaide advocate across a broad range of issues affecting women and girls both locally and globally. They do this through advocacy, through service, through scholarships and awards, and through supporting international projects.

Time will only permit me to briefly outline some of the important work undertaken by the Zonta Club of Adelaide. One key priority is to end violence against women. For many years, Zonta has been involved with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, a global campaign led by UN Women that runs each year from 25 November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until Human Rights Day on 10 December. The Zonta Club of Adelaide takes part in this campaign each year, running programs and events to raise awareness about gender-based violence, and all year round the club takes an active role in advocacy for measures to reduce and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Zonta also advocates and raises awareness around homelessness, especially among the fast-growing group of older women. The Zonta Club of Adelaide runs forums to inform members on the issue, as well as inviting guest speakers, including people within the human services sector and members of parliament, to engage in discussions around the issue of homelessness in our community.

The Zonta Club of Adelaide runs the Zonta Young Women's Leadership Program, a program initiated by the club in 2019 as a partnership between the club, the Leaders Institute of South Australia and two schools: Adelaide High School and Mitcham Girls High School. The program comprises two days of training followed by project work over a period of eight weeks, undertaken in small groups with a Zonta member as a mentor. The culmination of the program is the presentation of the projects by the students at their graduation and to their peers, to mentors, to Zonta members, to teachers and their family and friends.

The club also runs scholarships and leadership programs and offers awards for young women. Each year, four scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded to two girls at both Adelaide and Mitcham Girls high schools. Criteria for selection include academic effort and achievement as well as personal commitment to community service.

They also run the Zonta Club of Adelaide Community Development Award at the University of South Australia. This grant of \$3,000 assists full-time women students at UniSA to contribute to community development projects in Australia and overseas, especially to projects in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities, in South-East Asia or in a Pacific Island nation.

This is only a sample of their truly commendable range of work, and I congratulate the Zonta Club of Adelaide, its executive, its board and its membership on 55 years of service. I wish them all the best for continued success and achievement into the future.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. B.R. Hood.

CROWN AND ANCHOR HOTEL

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:03): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes that Singapore-based developer Wee Hur Holdings Ltd has made an application for partial demolition and adaptive reuse of the site of the Crown and Anchor Hotel, which was first licensed in 1853 and has been a cornerstone of Adelaide's live music scene for over three decades.
2. Acknowledges an online petition signed by over 15,000 people opposing any attempts at demolition or change in the use of the Crown and Anchor Hotel.
3. Recognises that Adelaide is a designated UNESCO City of Music for the vibrancy of the city's music culture, including its live music venues.
4. Calls on the Malinauskas government to:
 - (a) oppose any partial demolition or adaptive reuse of the Crown and Anchor Hotel;
 - (b) make a submission to the State Commission Assessment Panel indicating that position; and
 - (c) move to amend state heritage laws to ensure that cultural and social value is considered in the development assessment of heritage sites like the Crown and Anchor Hotel.

I rise today to speak about the proposed redevelopment of the Crown and Anchor Hotel. The Crown and Anchor was first licensed 171 years ago and is one of the oldest pubs in Adelaide. Its long and colourful history has included everything from coronial inquests to election forums. For the last 30 years it has been a stalwart of Adelaide's music scene, hosting live and loud music acts almost every night of the week.

The Cranker proudly calls itself the home of cold beer and amplified music. Countless local and touring independent bands have entertained South Australian audiences on the Cranker's stage, and many South Australians have enjoyed a pint or two at the Cranker after work before watching their favourite band play a gig. Indeed, I remember enjoying a few drinks myself at the Cranker during my uni days. It is a pub that has earned a good reputation as being an inclusive and queer-friendly venue, and there are not many of those in our city.

Last month, Singapore-based developer, Wee Hur Holdings Ltd, applied for planning construction for a multi-student level accommodation at 188 and 196 Grenfell Street. That is currently home to the venues Roxie, Chateau Apollo and Midnight Spaghetti, as well as the Cranker. The application proposes partial demolition and adaptive reuse of the Cranker site.

The Greens are not opposed to more student accommodation in the city but the question must be asked: why this location, when we have an abundance of vacant sites in the CBD? There is a site on Gouger Street that has been vacant for years, there is another on Sturt Street, there are a number of areas in the city that could house student accommodation. We do not have to be destroying our historic pubs and our historic icons.

It would be a huge loss to Adelaide's cultural heritage if this proposed development leads to the Cranker closing its doors. It is no surprise that news of this development application has prompted a huge groundswell of community support to protect the Cranker. So far, over 15,000 people have signed a petition against any attempts at demolition or a change in the Cranker's use that would rob South Australians of this iconic pub and music venue—and I expect that many more South Australians will soon add their names. I want to praise all those who have been campaigning on this issue and the great work they are doing in terms of activating the community.

Last night, the Adelaide City Council passed a motion calling on the Lord Mayor to write to the Premier asking for state support for the Cranker and for a change in the planning code for better

protections for living cultural heritage. The community is sending the Malinauskas government a very clear message, and that is: save the Cranker.

The proposed redevelopment of the Cranker hotel is especially concerning given Adelaide has the honour of being Australia's first and only city to be a designated UNESCO City of Music. It was Adelaide's vibrant live music and pub rock culture which has produced some of the Australia's most successful and best-loved bands like Cold Chisel and The Angels, as well as up-and-coming artists like Bad Dreems and West Thebarton, who contribute to our city being recognised in this way.

However, the sad reality is that the Cranker is one of the few survivors of a once thriving live music scene in the CBD in the East End. We have seen the closure of many of our historic pubs and music venues in recent years. The Producers on Grenfell Street and Pirie Street's Tivoli have both stopped operating. The Austral on Rundle Street has declined as a music venue because it has been required to build a soundproof bunker over its beer garden due to the construction of an apartment block directly behind it. The loss of the Cranker would be yet another blow to Adelaide's proud music history and tradition.

The Cranker has survived two world wars, 33 US Presidents, 31 Australian Prime Ministers, and so far all 47 Premiers of South Australia. But will it survive the Malinauskas government? This is a test for the Premier. Will he step up and support Adelaide's live music scene and support our local heritage, or will he sit back, remain silent and let the axe fall on yet another iconic Adelaide pub? This is a real test of leadership for the Premier, and he and his government need to step up.

The Premier is passionate about putting Adelaide on the map, and his government is doing much to promote Adelaide as a tourist destination. I commend him for that. It was great to see so much energy and activity in the city over the weekend for Gather Round, but the only thing that will be gathering in Adelaide in the future is dust, if we lose iconic pubs like the Cranker.

We need to ensure that Adelaide is a dynamic place to live and to work all year round, not just during major events and festivals. We simply cannot afford to lose more of our historic pubs and live music venues. The state government must listen to the community and unequivocally oppose the demolition and reuse of the Cranker and make this position clear to the State Commission Assessment Panel when it considers Wee Hur Holdings development application later this month.

If the government allows this development to go ahead without adopting any position then there is no way that they can claim that they are truly committed to creating opportunities for South Australian artists, preserving our cultural heritage or ensuring that Adelaide maintains its status as a UNESCO City of Music.

This saga has shed serious light on a significant flaw in South Australia's heritage protection planning laws. These laws focus almost entirely on our built form and exclude consideration of our state's cultural and social heritage. The result is that heritage places like the Cranker, which are of huge social significance to the community, can be bought by developers and gutted with only the facade remaining.

It is absurd to think that our laws allow a developer to hollow out a pub like the Cranker and convert it into the foyer of an apartment building and leave some of the exterior untouched. Cultural significance and ongoing social use should not be cast as being of lesser importance compared to the architectural or aesthetic significance in our planning and development processes.

Heritage is not simply about bricks and mortar; it is about the beating heart of our city and our state. The growing campaign to save the Cranker is living proof of this. It is clear to all that our planning laws simply are not fit for purpose. This motion is for the government to amend our laws, to plug these gaps by ensuring that the social and cultural value of heritage places is considered as part of any development assessment process. We need to do this before SA's heritage is lost forever.

The Labor Party is the architect of this failed planning regime. They are the architect of this failed planning regime which so often excludes community views and is blind to our city's cultural life, but Labor also has the power to fix this. The Labor Party has been in power for 18 of the last 30 years in South Australia. They own this failed planning system, they own this planning mess, they own the consequences that flow from it. They need to take action and they need to step up and fix it.

We need a planning system that actually serves the interests of the community, not developers. It is time for the Cranker and other pubs like it to finally get the protection they deserve. Save the Cranker! I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.B. Martin.

GREYHOUND RACING

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:12): I move:

That this council—

1. Notes:
 - (a) the 86 recommendations arising from the extremely critical findings of the Ashton Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry report;
 - (b) the consequent December 2023 pledge by the Malinauskas government to appoint a Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector by Easter 2024; and
 - (c) that Easter 2024 has now passed with no appointment having been made.
2. Condemns the Malinauskas Government for its inaction to ensure greyhound racing integrity and animal welfare.

I rise today to observe the findings of the Ashton review into the governance of greyhound racing in this state, a review made public in December 2023, a review where 86 of the recommendations of Mr Ashton, the RSPCA and the Animal Justice Party were accepted in principle by the Malinauskas government, a review which recommended that greyhound racing have an independent inspector for the next two years commencing in Easter and, with that two years, the greyhound racing industry being put on notice that they will not have a social licence unless they comply and clean up their act.

Last week was Easter. Last week was when the Malinauskas government and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing promised the South Australian people, in light of the horrific findings of the Ashton review, that greyhound racing would have an independent inspector overseeing integrity, the industry and animal welfare from Easter 2024.

What did we see last Easter, last week? We saw a lot of Gather Round and nothing about the greyhounds. We saw a Premier and a minister very keen on a photo op, but not so keen on the follow-up, the hard work that needs to be done to ensure that this state is not overlooking, is not endorsing, animal cruelty. The recommendations—the 86 recommendations of former Victorian police commissioner, Mr Ashton—are really practical, but one would say should have been already in place in this state. This is what happens when a government takes its eyes off the ball and says that the racing industry, an industry that makes profit from gambling on animals, can somehow regulate itself and be expected to do the right thing.

The most crucial part of the Malinauskas government ensuring that this industry does clean up its act, that this industry does not continue to harm animals, that this industry does have integrity, that it is not open to corruption and maladministration, is to appoint the recommended independent inspector that former commissioner Graham Ashton has recommended, that the Malinauskas government and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing said would happen by Easter.

They have failed at the first hurdle. They have failed to ensure not only the social licence for those who support this industry but to convince those who have been calling out the cruelty in this industry for year upon year upon year that this industry has any future in this state. The Malinauskas government may well need legislation to ensure this independent inspector, which is what they stated in December last year. Where is that legislation? Where is the inspector?

How can we trust, when the Premier tells us in all seriousness, in all graveness, that he was lied to by this industry, that he is gravely concerned about the horrific instances that have been uncovered in this quite extensive and thorough report that all members of this place should read? How can we believe the Premier when they have not even bothered to keep their own promise to ensure an independent inspector was in place by Easter 2024?

I will not go into detail, because members should read the governance inquiry of Mr Ashton for themselves, see the photographic information in there, see the examples time and again, note

the words of the RSPCA, which indicates it is not resourced to undertake the surveillance necessary to ensure that animal welfare issues and live baiting offences are properly investigated and prosecuted, including the striking and kicking of a dog that horrified South Australians when it was shown on the ABC and was enabled in some ways, in terms of the other photographic imagery, by parliamentary privilege that had to be used to expose this cruelty.

How can we be assured about these things that were uncovered, not as an aberration by Mr Ashton but, in his own words, which I paraphrase, as being far too common in this industry—not as an aberration, but as something that was going on unchecked and unaddressed and far too often in this industry? How can we believe a word the Premier or the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing says when they could not even be bothered to keep their very first promise on this incredibly important inquiry?

This inquiry was a long time coming, an inquiry that I first moved for as a parliamentary select committee of this place back in, I believe, 2016, which had the support of the Liberal Party until the greyhound racing industry convinced them otherwise and made promises about reducing breeding numbers, doing better and being more transparent, an industry that continues to rail against freedom of information requests into it, which I note is another recommendation of this report that must be implemented urgently.

This industry should not be exempt from freedom of information requests by any member of the public or indeed members of this parliament. Unless the Malinauskas government can get on and provide us with an independent inspector for greyhound racing in this state—someone of the highest integrity, someone who has the confidence of the community—then this industry has to end and it has to end now.

With that, I commend this motion to the council. I note that I will be bringing forth legislation soon to ensure that at least one of the recommendations is implemented, namely, that this industry in South Australia, the greyhound racing industry of SA, should be subject to freedom of information requirements and become more transparent in that way. If they will not do it voluntarily this parliament can make them, where this Premier has currently failed to do so.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R.B. Martin.

Bills

RETURN TO WORK (POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 October 2023.)

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (16:21): I rise today on behalf of the Greens to stand in firm support of this bill put forward by the Hon. Frank Pangallo. There is no denying that our first responders are often faced with difficult and potentially traumatic circumstances during their service for our community.

This bill provides for a rebuttable presumption of a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by first responders and volunteer first responders as work related for the purposes of workers compensation legislation. Reversing that onus of proof in this way is a simple step that our parliament can take to help those who help us. Claiming workers compensation can be a daunting, traumatic, challenging and stressful process in itself, particularly if the claim is related to mental health. I am sure some members will remember that this is an issue that I have raised in this place before.

Post-traumatic stress is a complex condition to diagnose, particularly where it is the result of cumulative exposure to incidents, which can be and is most likely the case for many first responders. We know as well that amending our legislation to include a presumptive clause in a material way, in which we can help those who have experienced significant harm while protecting us from harm, can be done. It is not the first time that this has been done in our state; indeed, I was proud to be part of

campaigning, for many years, with others in this place, to win a similar presumptive clause for firefighters to access compensation should they develop certain cancers.

Importantly as well, I note that this bill includes transitional provisions that extend components in this bill to claims initiated before the commencement of the proposed amendment bill, unless that claim has been determined. This is an excellent step to ensure that first responders can have access to workers compensation in a manner that is less stressful for them and in a way that recognises their service and experiences.

Workers compensation laws have a very long way to go before they are fair and fit for purpose in this state, but amendments like these go a long way towards ensuring that workers can access the compensation to which they should be entitled, without undue stress and prolonged uncertainty. I commend the Hon. Frank Pangallo for bringing this bill before the council. As Greens in this place, we will be proud to support its passage.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:24): I rise briefly to indicate my support for this bill. This bill will help to reduce the barriers first responders face when seeking support for post-traumatic stress disorder. By easing the burden of proof, the bill aims to ensure first responders receive the necessary compensation and treatment they need without undue delays or added stress.

The primary purpose of this legislation is to make it easier for first responders diagnosed with PTSD to access workers compensation benefits. It addresses the challenges faced by first responders in proving that their PTSD arose from their work-related experiences. The bill creates a presumption that if a first responder is diagnosed with PTSD, the condition arose from their employment, unless there is evidence to the contrary. This shifts the burden of proof from the worker to the employer or insurer.

Our first responders face a challenging work environment. They experience traumatic events where they apply their training to save lives. They witness carnage and the loss of life, and are often the target of violence and abuse. If this bill can ease that burden, then I am pleased to support it.

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (16:25): I rise briefly to speak on behalf of the government on the Return to Work (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Amendment Bill. The government is currently going through its initial process to obtain necessary financial advice on the potential impacts of this bill across the public sector.

The need to understand the financial implications of this change is an unfortunate reality of any work injury insurance scheme, and we acknowledge that this has been a long process. We thank the unions representing South Australia's first responders for their forbearance while the government works through these issues.

While we have not yet determined a final position on this bill, given the importance to the many stakeholders present here today, the government will not oppose its passage through the Legislative Council.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the thousands of first responders who work throughout the public sector keeping our community safe and healthy. Their work is immensely valued, and we are committed to working with them on issues of importance. I understand some stakeholders have raised some drafting concerns about the bill in its present form. I can commit that the government will have a further discussion with these groups, and the Hon. Frank Pangallo, about the bill once we have received necessary advice.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:27): I would like to thank all the members who have spoken on this very important bill: the Hon. Tammy Franks, the Hon. Sarah Game and the Hon. Emily Bourke, for expressing their support for this piece of legislation that will greatly assist and support the mental health and wellbeing of our most trusted and respected emergency frontline workers and others who, by the very nature of their job, face traumatic and confronting situations almost on a daily basis.

It will make PTSD diagnosed by a psychiatrist a presumptive condition for first responders, emergency workers, volunteers and others involved in time-critical, dangerous, life-threatening and traumatic events and situations. This covers a range of professions, including paramedics, police officers, firefighters, nurses, doctors, train drivers and correctional services officers. It reverses the

onus of proof from the injured worker to the employer and streamlines the often torturous and complicated maze in making out their claims for workers compensation.

This follows similar legislation passed by the federal government last year for commonwealth workers. This legislation comes after the police commissioner, Grant Stevens, revealed recently at a parliamentary inquiry that eight police officers have taken their own lives over the past two years, including two by their own police-issued firearms.

Our frontline emergency services workers put their lives on the line every day. They go to work each and every day not knowing what awaits them. Their families expect them to arrive home safely, too, but as we know some bottle up their emotions of their experiences witnessing trauma. They deserve all the protections that we can give them.

Our communities are so reliant on the incredible and often dangerous and challenging work our first responders carry out. It is something very few of us choose to do as a profession due, in part, to the dangers involved, the situations they often find themselves in, and/or the horrific things they witness because of their jobs.

They are often unheralded heroes who go about their responsibilities with diligence and without fuss. In carrying out their jobs they can experience all types of horrific scenes and stresses. At the end of their working day they are expected to go home to their families and resume normal programming. It is difficult for any of us to expect them to totally switch off and erase those memories that can be ingrained for years.

These nightmares may not even manifest for years or until they are triggered by some facet or incident in their lives. When they do appear, affected workers may suffer those feelings in silence until it becomes too much to bear and too late for anyone to help. As legislators we must do everything in our powers to give these courageous professionals all the support they need.

Following the support of this legislation today in the Legislative Council it is likely to now go to the House of Assembly and, as indicated by the Hon. Emily Bourke, there will be some refinements and other areas that they will look at, and I quite welcome that and look forward to the House of Assembly passing their version and it then coming here again.

This legislation today could not be a more timely reminder, as it comes days after the tragic suicide of highly regarded paramedic Stuart Brand on Monday. The new laws, as I said, mirror similar legislation passed in the federal parliament last year. These recent tragic deaths are utterly devastating and a stark indication of the impacts their workplaces have on the mental health of these dedicated, courageous, hardworking frontline service personnel. I am sure I speak on behalf of every member in this place in passing on our sincerest condolences to Mr Brand's family. It follows the heartbreaking incident inside the Port Adelaide Police Station earlier this year where a female police officer took her own life.

I would like to urge members in this place to read a very well written yet still harrowing story in the autumn edition of the *Police Journal* that deals with the murders of Chelsea Ireland and her boyfriend, Lukasz Klosowski, by Lukasz's father, Pawel, and the brave actions of three police officers who went to the crime scene still unsure whether an armed offender was still there—and he was.

I will name those police officers for their brave actions: Sergeant Matt Hirlam, Senior Sergeant First Class Nick Patterson and Senior Constable Kim Wilson from the South-East. I will just read a short piece from that article that gives you an indication of just what these police officers had to encounter and, of course, the aftermath. One of those police officers had the horrendous job of lifting the lifeless body of young Chelsea out of the bathroom after she had been shot by Mr Klosowski. I will read three paragraphs:

But operating as they did—on the scene of a double murder with the armed killer and his victims present—was bound to come with an impact.

From the adrenaline charge, the tension and high alertness, some took hours to 'come down'. Hirlam pushed on at work until 1pm, and not until Sergeant Jade Hill then drove him home did his body even begin to relax.

At home, he spoke briefly with his wife 'and then just collapsed from the mental overstimulation of the whole incident'.

Responding to the murder scene was a first for Hirlam. Although it has, 'without a doubt', stayed with him it does not haunt him.

Regardless of a statement like that, quite clearly it did affect those police officers. It gives you an indication that these frontline emergency workers, particularly police officers, must encounter horrific scenes like that—it will certainly return somewhere down the track. It is an indication of the trauma that first responders must come across on a regular basis.

I consulted widely during the development of the bill, and I would like to thank the many contributors. They include Professor Alexander (Sandy) McFarlane AO of the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies at the University of Adelaide; the Police Association of South Australia and its president, Mark Carroll, for his encouragement and strong support; the Ambulance Employees Association and its secretary, Leah Watkins; the South Australian branch of the Nursing and Midwifery Federation; the CFS Volunteers Association; the SA SES Volunteers' Association; the United Fire Fighters Union of South Australia and Max Adlam; and Anastasia Bougesis from Disaster Relief Australia.

I also give thanks to one of our Presidents and now Senate Deputy President, Senator Andrew McLachlan, a longtime advocate for ambulance workers, for his encouragement, lobbying and his ongoing advocacy for this at a federal level. I also thank all the emergency service workers suffering PTSD and their families who went through the pain of reliving their experiences with me in order to get this legislated support.

I also want to thank my staff member, Adrienne Gillam, who worked tirelessly on developing this draft—it goes back to 2018—and my Chief of Staff, Sean Whittington, who facilitated meetings and followed up with all those I have acknowledged today.

Thank you to all the workers who make important sacrifices for us on a daily basis. Be assured your efforts are recognised in this place and will be in legislation. I would like to acknowledge the presence in our gallery today of so many representing those organisations.

Many suffer in silence until it is too late. Others are pushed to the edge due to the strain they feel of admitting to PTSD and/or the torturous path they once needed to travel to prove their condition. Hopefully, that ends today, and I have no doubt today's passing of this important legislation will go a long way in saving lives, marriages and families. As I indicated, I realise there may be amendments in the other place, but I welcome the support that is being indicated from the government.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: I do have a question, but the government can take it on notice because I understand the assistant minister is not necessarily the appropriate minister. With the actuarial advice that they are seeking, will it ensure that it looks at the current impact on the current scheme not accepting these claims with a presumptive onus of proof, because that also has quite an impact not only on their lives but also on various legal and other costs?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: As the member has highlighted correctly, I am not the lead minister taking responsibility for this. I am happy for the minister to take that into consideration.

Clause passed.

Clause 2 passed.

Clause 3.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: I move:

Amendment No 1 [Pangallo-1]—

Page 2, line 19 [clause 3(2), definition of *first responder*, (a)]—Delete paragraph (a) and substitute:

(a) an operational ambulance worker; or

This amends the definition of first responder to substitute that it will be an operational ambulance worker.

The CHAIR: Are there any contributions or indications of support?

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: The Greens support the amendment.

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI: We support the amendment.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clause (4), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (16:42): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Motions

WINE INDUSTRY

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:43): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the importance of South Australia's wine industry to the state's domestic and international export economy;
2. Acknowledges the resilience of our wine grapegrowers through a time of uncertainty and the need to explore structural adjustments on-farm going forward;
3. Urges the Malinauskas Labor government to enable more diverse global partnerships for South Australian wine exporters by facilitating a higher trade presence in both traditional and emerging trading countries; and
4. Calls on the wine industry bodies to unite as one to rebuild our global reputation.

On 28 March this year, China announced that it would remove the heavy tariffs imposed on Australian wine that have been in place since 2020. The tariff's sum, levied at over 200 per cent, on premium Australian wine had an immediate and crippling impact on Australian wine sales in China, with Australian wine dropping from over 27 per cent of market share to just 0.14 per cent of the imported wine market in China.

As both the largest producer of Australian wine and also a premium producer, South Australian growers and winemakers were heavily affected. Not only was China a significant market for Australian wine in terms of volume but it was also a premium value market at an average value of around \$10 per litre and a total export value of around \$1.2 billion. As such, the Chinese market was treated seriously by South Australian premium winemakers. Approximately 47 per cent of our state's wine exports were destined for this market at the time those tariffs hit in 2020.

The Malinauskas Labor government has announced a \$1.85 million China re-engagement support package to be rolled out over two years. The aim of this package is to reinvigorate wine sales into the Chinese market. While any assistance to the state's wine producers is welcome, this measure unfortunately does not address the critical long-term needs currently affecting the South Australian wine industry's viability.

I think it is important to recognise that the China wine market has markedly changed since 2020. According to Wine Australia figures, the total market for imported wine has contracted from 688 million litres in 2018, to 248 million litres in 2023, or around one-third of what it was before the introduction of tariffs on Australian wine in 2020. It is also worth noting that imports of wine into China from France have fallen by 29 per cent, from Chile by 18 per cent, from Italy by 31 per cent, and from Spain by 48 per cent. Clearly, this is a contracting market for all exporters, including those that have not suffered the same tariff impacts that Australia has endured.

The likelihood that this package will rapidly—or even over some period of time—reclaim the previous sale figures and underpin a much needed wine sector recovery in this state is remote. I would even say that to state they will is perhaps irresponsible. As I have mentioned, Australian wine is highly regarded in China and the possibility of reopening the market is welcome, and there is the potential for positive sale results. However, grossly exaggerating the potential benefits risks offering false hope and helps no-one, least of all growers and wine producers trying to make decisions during some of the most challenging times in recent memory.

What is needed at this critical and stressful time is solid evidence and leadership, not political spin, because there are other influences negatively impacting sales of our wine, and they also need attention if the South Australian wine sector is to recover. There has been a discernible slowdown in global consumption of commercial wine, which is heavily impacting wine producers and grapegrowers, particularly in South Australia's Riverland. Currently, there is an estimated oversupply of wine in the order of three billion litres, or three times Australia's annual crush.

It is also worth noting that producers in the Bordeaux region in France are in the process of removing 9,500 hectares of commercial wine grapes as they know that they have an overproduction for the market. In California, there are plans to remove 55,000 acres, or over 22,000 hectares, of commercial wine grapes for the very same reason. They have made some hard decisions for the dignity and sustainability of their local industry.

So, while there is clearly an urgent need to boost marketing efforts, there is also a need to focus on adjusting supply. This is simply the reality of a global wine market in 2024. South Australian growers, in particular those in the Riverland region, need assistance to adjust either to higher value grapes and wine or, should they wish, alternative food and fibre production. Failure to do so, and as a matter of urgency, risks socio-economic damage not only to the wine sector but to regional support industries such as irrigation trusts, allied and support businesses, retail businesses and the greater community.

There is a need to focus not only on rebuilding the South Australian presence in China but building a sales presence in traditional markets such as Europe and North America, and also new and emerging markets. It is essential that there is support for wine sector bodies at regional, state and national levels, and that they are working together towards adjustment of both supply and demand for Australian wine. I commend the motion to the chamber.

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

WILD DOG MANAGEMENT

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:48): I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the livestock industry's longstanding contribution to the South Australian economy;
2. Notes that changes to the policy for wild dog management by the Victorian state Labor government have resulted in an immediate threat to livestock along the affected border of South Australia;
3. Acknowledges that the impact of policy decisions transcend state boundaries;
4. Notes that the reappointment of a Cross Border Commissioner continues to be delayed to the detriment of cross-border communities; and
5. Calls on the Malinauskas government to show leadership on this issue to ensure the Victorian state Labor government continues to manage their wild dog and dingo populations into the future.

Ripped throats, faces torn off, back legs missing, gouges to the belly, raw bleeding, weeping in agonising pain, screaming and left to bleed, and stressed, to die, surrounded by other terrified livestock. It might be confronting and it is certainly gruesome, but that is the reality of wild dog attacks on a working farm. The majority of mauled animals do not survive. Whether they be native animals, sheep, cows, alpacas, poultry or domesticated working dogs, a single wild dog can cause mayhem on a farm. A pack of wild dogs hunting together can be catastrophic. An InDaily article from last year opens:

Farmer Nathan Redpath recalls moving 2000 pregnant ewes into a northern Flinders Ranges paddock and within eight months losing 500 of them to wild dogs and dingoes. No lambs survived.

Wild dog incursions cost Australian farmers millions of dollars per annum. Travis Tobin, CEO of Livestock SA, estimates that, prior to the 2019 wild dog fence upgrades, that figure would sit at around \$4 million per annum for sheep exclusively.

I myself as a country veterinarian have seen the aftermath of multiple wild dog attacks on agricultural lands, particularly on flocks of sheep. By the time the landowners were able to alert our clinic and I arrived on the farm, these animals were usually in shock, often covered in blood and were hugely susceptible to their wounds becoming infected or flyblown into the future, if they survived at all. To be blunt, mostly our job and my job was to euthanase these animals so damaged and torn and so far gone in shock and pain that all we could do was ease their suffering.

Wild dogs—that is, dingoes and mixed-breed dingo mongrels—are known to not only hunt for food but for sport, for the chase. They often attack from behind. Many of the wounds I attended to were on the rear legs and tails of the livestock attempting to run away. The Minister for Primary Industries knows this grisly reality and we the opposition applaud the plan to continue the improvements and maintenance of the wild dog fence in South Australia to protect our livestock, native animals, farmers and their working animals. As already noted, the major investment began on that program in 2019, and we intend to continue this important bipartisan approach to wild dog incursion.

But we are one land, and wild dogs do not care about state boundaries. Whilst we have responsible landowners across the country, they cannot and should not have to bear the brunt of bad policy by city-centric bureaucrats. What we have seen from the Victorian government recently is reckless, irresponsible and flies in the face of both animal and community safety. What we are witnessing is a winding back of the 'unprotected status' of wild dogs in western Victoria at a time when we know there are wild dog incursions in South Australia from the Victorian border.

The Ngarkat Conservation Park is fast becoming an expressway for wild dogs between privately owned and managed lands. The Victorian government's recent decision to end wild dog control programs in the state's north-west has created concern for livestock producers and hobby farmers on both sides of the South Australian-Victorian border.

Livestock SA have stated publicly that they have real concerns about the potential impact of this decision. It is noted that it is not only the cost of lost livestock but the very real added personal and social trauma of dealing with the aftermath of wild dog attacks as well as the obvious animal welfare concerns.

National industry information site Sheep Central notes that the Allan Labor government is also investigating concerning recommendations in the parliamentary report into ecosystem decline in Victoria that included removing the order-in-council with its three-kilometre livestock protection buffer, reintroducing dingoes in some parks such as the Grampians and phasing out 1080 baiting.

According to the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee, the government's choice has left livestock producers in the area vulnerable to wild dog attacks, with insufficient resources for prevention. This will certainly leak across the border into South Australia. Geoff Power, the committee chair, expressed deep disappointment at the lack of industry involvement and consultation in this decision, emphasising its potentially severe consequences for livestock producers in the north-west region.

It strikes me as incredibly shortsighted that conservation and animal rights groups and some First Nations corporations have welcomed the dingoes' protection, yet are willing to see a plethora of livestock, hobby farm animals and domestic pets mauled ferociously for sport by these now protected hunting packs.

It should be noted that, according to wild dog management coordinator Greg Mifsud, Museums Victoria has updated the taxonomy of the dingo to bring it in line with the Australian Faunal Directory and the recommendations of the Australasian Mammal Taxonomy Consortium. Mr Mifsud has said:

This change in taxonomy within Victoria means that the dingo is no longer considered a subspecies of wolf (*Canis lupus*), but actually an ancient type of domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), bringing into the question the need to change the Victorian Wild Dog Management Program at all.

As the dingo is now considered a wild living dog, there is no longer need to have special provisions for their control—they can and should be managed as wild dogs on private property without further restrictions.

He then goes to state that:

This change in classification poses a new consideration for the Victorian government as it reviews wild dog control in the state.

This shows the complete inconsistency between the Victorian government's policymakers and its own state museum, which must be called out by the leaders in this state.

CEO Travis Tobin of Livestock SA is quoted in the *Stock Journal* as saying, 'You can't make these decisions in isolation when your decisions are going to have severe impact on others.' The opposition completely agrees. This issue absolutely underlines the importance of the role of the Cross Border Commissioner in facilitating communication about cross-border issues. Communication between state governments is imperative on issues where decisions have the almost instant impact across state lines.

I note that the minister is quoted as noting that she has written to the Victorian agricultural minister Ros Spence multiple times regarding the potential impact of altering wild dog management strategies in South Australia's livestock industry. Writing is a start, but a letter is too easy to downplay or ignore. Trust me, I have written plenty of letters to the current minister and a number of her colleagues on various issues, only to be provided with the standard 'thanks for writing' response, with no practical outcomes.

These farmers need practical outcomes and they need it fast. They need a minister who will stand up, who will be the leader they deserve and who will fight to ensure the wild dog and dingo populations are managed appropriately into the future. They need a Cross Border Commissioner who can 100 per cent focus on this issue as a priority. Farmers on the ground are begging for a line into PIRSA—they want to deal with someone who understands regional cross-border realities.

Our farmers should not have to suffer the incompetence and repercussions of terrible policy decisions and six-monthly reviews and research periods at the behest of animal groups that would see the entire livestock industry dismantled. I commend this motion to the chamber on behalf of the South Australian producers now at risk from these decisions across the nearby border in Victoria.

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:57): I move:

That the Statutory Authorities Review Committee inquire into and report on the South Australian Museum, with particular reference to:

1. Its proposed restructure of research and collections;
2. Its infrastructure and proposed strategic plan;
3. Its funding from government and non-government sources; and
4. Any related matters.

There is no question that the South Australian Museum holds a cherished place in the hearts of tens if not hundreds of thousands of South Australians. I am sure we have all attended as children, and we hope that in future years the collections will be there for our children and our grandchildren.

The Museum carries out critical scientific functions for our state, including high-level research for its collections—tissue samples, minerals and geology, flora and fauna, and more. The Museum carries out irreplaceable work in the field of reconciliation, including the critically important and culturally sensitive work of repatriating remains and restoring languages. Museum staff form important partnerships with communities around South Australia and institutions both locally and around the world.

Similarly important is the Museum's role in terms of collecting, in terms of preserving and, as appropriate, presenting its collections, gathered over more than 150 years. Its galleries have inspired

us to contemplate the ancient, the extraordinary and the unusual, and we have learned about our world's natural history and human stories alike.

Therefore, when the current leadership of the Museum, apparently with the support and endorsement of the Malinauskas Labor government, announced plans for a significant restructure of the Museum, South Australians rightfully took notice and may have been alarmed at what they have seen within those plans.

It should be noted that budget cuts imposed on the Museum by the Malinauskas Labor government in its first budget, at the time of significant increases in costs, would have had a damaging ongoing impact on the ability of the Museum to undertake all its key functions and no doubt may have contributed to the announcement of the board for the desire, or perhaps the need, to restructure.

This restructure will include changes to the built form of the Museum and removal of existing galleries and exhibition spaces, to be replaced with a newly reimagined approach telling the stories of South Australia. It also includes a significant staffing restructure, with research roles being replaced by positions more aligned with a curatorial approach.

It is worth noting that 27 existing roles are to be replaced by 22 new roles, with the majority being at a lower pay level. This move has, as recently as yesterday, been criticised by former Museum chairman Robert Champion de Crespigny, who warned that axing world-class researchers would make this state, and I quote, 'a laughing stock of the scientific world'.

The Museum has responsibility in its legislative functions to conduct research. The research into its key collections informs displays and also enables the Museum's non-public facing collections to be utilised in specialised scientific research that is relevant to our state. The Museum has historically conducted large volumes of research, led by Museum researchers and in collaboration with universities, that is sponsored by the ARC and other national grants. In some years, the South Australian Museum has famously outperformed all other museums in Australia, and some universities, at attracting such grants.

The new strategic plan proposes to embed this reduction in the volume of work conducted by Museum specialist researchers. The minister argued, and I quote, 'The Museum needs to focus on its core functions.' Historically, the Museum's leadership has assumed such research to be a core function as per the legislation. It has been pointed out by Tim Flannery and others that the level of expertise amongst researchers who have had the responsibility for key parts of our Museum's collections will be impossible to replace and, if lost to more junior curatorial positions being created, will be impossible to restore.

What is remarkable is that South Australian Museum leaders continue to defend these proposed changes, despite the opposition from leading scientists, an upcoming protest and a parliamentary grilling during a meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Given the Museum leadership's continued defence of the changes despite significant stakeholder and public concern over the proposed restructure, the opposition brings this motion to the chamber to ensure an inquiry into this important institution, with a particular focus on its proposed restructure of research and collections, its infrastructure and proposed strategic plan, and its funding from non-government and government resources.

Given the South Australian Museum is indeed a statutory authority, we believe that the Statutory Authorities Review Committee is the fit and proper place for this inquiry to occur. We feel this inquiry is not only necessary but also essential to ensure that the Museum's research capabilities and institutional knowledge are protected for generations to enjoy into the future. I hope all colleagues in this place will support this important motion and inquiry.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. M. El Dannawi.

*Bills***EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SPORTS VOUCHERS) AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:04): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Education and Children's Services Act 2019. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:05): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Education and Children's Services (Sports Vouchers) Amendment Bill 2024. The bill seeks to enshrine the current government's Sports Vouchers program into law, ensuring its continuity and expansion for the benefit of all South Australian students. Currently, the Sports Vouchers program offers a modest \$100 per year to school students, ending after year 9. While this initiative has undoubtedly had a positive impact, it is time to take a bold step forward towards ensuring its continued effectiveness and accessibility.

The bill seeks to elevate the program by increasing the minimum voucher amount to at least \$200 for all students, extending its availability until the completion of their schooling journey. Crucially, the program will remain accessible, like I said, to all children irrespective of their family's financial circumstances, ensuring equitable access to the benefits of sports participation.

Unlike means-tested programs that often overlook critical factors such as family size, the proposal ensures every child enjoys the benefits. Furthermore, the flexibility of the voucher will be enhanced, allowing it to be split among multiple providers, and empowering families to tailor sports activities to their children's interests and schedules.

We cannot ignore the current cost-of-living crisis faced by many families—in fact, we talk about it in here all the time—where difficult choices have to be made on a daily basis. The proposed increase to \$200 is a very small way of acknowledging the significant financial costs associated with children's sporting participation, where one season of sport can cost upwards of \$500, and that is before you start considering things like uniforms and equipment, and match fees and match-day fees.

The benefits of sports for children extend, as we know, far beyond the physical health and fitness benefits. They also foster valuable life skills such as teamwork, discipline and resilience. Participation in sports has been shown to have a positive impact on academic success, with reduced absenteeism, better performance in terms of attention and working memory, and higher numeracy and literacy scores observed among participants.

It makes no sense to me, and to the parents I have spoken to who have taken advantage of this program, that the current voucher only extends to the end of year 9. It makes no sense that some families are actually choosing or having to enrol their students up until year 9 purely by virtue of the fact that this scheme exists, only to yank them out of that activity in year 10 because there is not a sporting voucher system there to support their ongoing physical activity. We know that regular physical activity is crucial for teenagers' overall health and wellbeing.

I gave credit to the Malinauskas government when they increased funding for laptops and home internet—and we talk about this all the time, and that is a very critical element of what this government has done—but the reality is that most of us are trying really hard to reduce screen time and get our kids into physical activity, and parents use this scheme as a means of doing just that. It does reduce screen time. It offers constructive outlets for stress and anxiety, and as a mum of an eight year old I challenge anyone to try to convince me otherwise, because they are, I am sure, the challenges that many parents face on a daily basis.

Extending the Sports Vouchers program from ending at the completion of year 9 to the culmination of a student's schooling journey is a logical decision, and it was the number one overriding factor that I heard from parents about when I flagged this and asked for some input.

I will acknowledge, obviously, that this program commenced under Labor. It is now in its 10th year. Overall, almost 600,000 vouchers have been redeemed, providing more than \$48 million towards helping kids participate in sports and recreational activities. That is extraordinary. This year alone more than 33,000 vouchers have been used. That equates to about \$3.3 million.

It is a successful program, and the Labor government ought to be commended for introducing it in the first place. The opposition ought to be commended as well, because the Marshall Liberal government doubled the voucher to \$100 in 2018 and extended its reach from the end of year 7 to the end of year 9. Last year, the program funded something like \$9 million worth of sporting activity for families in South Australia.

It is a great program. We all know it is a great program, and it is apparent that everyone thinks it is a good idea to increase the funding and indeed the eligibility criteria. I guess the point of this bill is to signal to the government that we do not have to wait for another election to roll around before we offer a vote-winning sweetener to South Australian families.

Let's get on with it. Let's get it done now. Let's provide some extra relief to families in the midst of what we know is a cost-of-living crisis. We know that the first things to go during cost-of-living crises are the things that we can least afford, and, unfortunately, for many families across South Australia, sporting activities for their kids is one such activity that many families are having to forego because they simply cannot afford the costs.

So I am urging the state government to get on board. Let's not wait for the next election before we make a great announcement. Who knows? It might just turn out that voting for a bill which actually enshrines this in legislation and ensures its continuity is a vote winner for the government and the opposition if they were to support it.

With those words, I urge members to take what is a good scheme that has had the support of both major parties in this place, make some changes to it—they are tweaks around the edges—bring it in line with current day funding that applies in other jurisdictions and make what is a good scheme a great one.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. B.R. Hood.

Motions

GENERAL PRACTITIONER PAYROLL TAX

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. C. Bonaros:

That this council—

1. Recognises the significant impact that the cessation of the payroll tax amnesty for independent general practitioners will have on South Australians;
2. Acknowledges that the discontinuation of the amnesty threatens to exacerbate existing workforce challenges and reduce access to essential healthcare services for many South Australians;
3. Acknowledges the potential consequences of an average fee increase of \$12 per standard consultation comes at a time of heightened cost-of-living concerns, further burdening individuals and families;
4. Recognises that such a financial strain may drive patients towards already overcrowded emergency departments, or deter them from seeking health care altogether; and
5. Calls upon the Malinauskas government to extend the amnesty until 30 June 2025 and pause any retrospective payroll tax bills for independent general practitioners to facilitate meaningful consultation with stakeholders to collaboratively work towards a long-term solution that prioritises the wellbeing of South Australians.

(Continued from 20 March 2024.)

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:13): I rise in support of the honourable member's motion calling on the government to extend the amnesty on payroll tax for independent general practitioners. These costs are passed on to patients, and it is alarming to think that people in need of medical attention will be discouraged from attending a local GP due to increasing cost. These patients are going to end up in our already at breaking point emergency departments.

Despite the Premier's promise to fix ramping, it is now worse than ever, and the government is clearly not doing enough. Ruling out payroll tax on patients' fees paid directly to GPs for their services will encourage more patients to attend a doctor's surgery, easing the burden on emergency departments. The government must find ways to ease this cost-of-living crisis and ensure South Australians can afford to see their doctor. I commend the motion.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:14): I move the amendment standing in my name:

Paragraph 4

Leave out 'and'

After paragraph 4, insert new paragraphs as follows:

- 4A. Notes that the Queensland Government has provided a payroll tax ruling clarifying that patients' fees paid directly to a medical practitioner for their services would not be subject to payroll tax; and

The Greens are supportive of the motion being advanced by the Hon. Connie Bonaros with the amendment that has been circulated. We are in an unusual situation where we have two members putting forward a motion on a topic that is important, and I think it does demonstrate the interest in this matter that two members of parliament from different political parties have sought to focus on the issue.

I spoke at length about the reasons for the Greens putting forward our motion during the last sitting. I do think it is really concerning that in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis we could see South Australians being priced out of seeing a GP but also being priced out of seeing other health professionals. We know at a time when we have record ramping here in our state that there is already a significant burden being placed on our hospital system, and if people do not go to see a doctor, they end up finding their way into our emergency system.

What we should be doing is focusing on preventative health, investing in our GPs, investing in our dentists, investing in our physiotherapists and investing in our mental health workers so that people's health issues do not become acute, and they do not find themselves in a situation where they need to go to a hospital and put increased pressure on our hospital system.

We are supportive of the motion. We urge the government to take this up. We are heading into our budget process at the moment in South Australia and really the Malinauskas government needs to listen to the community, listen to the concerns of the crossbench, listen to the concerns of the opposition and take action on this because we cannot afford in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis to see South Australians being forced out of seeing a healthcare professional. It is just simply unacceptable, and I urge the government to heed the message of this motion.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (17:18): I rise to speak in support of the motion of the Hon. Connie Bonaros, which recognises the significant impact that the looming possible changes to how payroll tax is treated for GPs and their practices will make on how primary health care is sought and delivered in South Australia.

I note that the Hon. Robert Simms has a similar motion which also recognises the campaigns of the Royal Australian College of GPs in South Australia to stop the government's application of payroll tax to contract GPs at practices across South Australia. I also note that the Hon. Robert Simms has inserted amendments to this motion, and we the opposition support those amendments. We will also support his motion if it does come to a vote today.

Should how payroll tax is treated for contract GPs be changed in South Australia, the Royal College of GPs has forecast that this would result in an increase of costs for seeing GPs in South Australia. Further to that, there is a simple correlation between increased costs for the community in a cost-of-living crisis, and a health crisis as well, and the impact this would have on people in need of medical attention—they may inundate emergency departments, taking up the already precious time of our frontline workers and possibly beds at our already bottlenecked hospitals across the state.

If the cost of running a GP practice increases, the cost to see your GP will increase as a result. This government cannot guarantee that, if they pursue this tax treatment, costs will not

increase. The platform HotDoc, which enables patients to book in-person and telehealth appointments, has released figures that show that 95 per cent of clinics are planning to increase their patient fees by an average of \$12 per appointment in response to the payroll tax. Further, and more devastatingly, only 28 per cent of patients would continue to see their regular GP, or would see them on a less regular basis if fees increase.

As Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, I and other members of the committee have asked both Treasury officials and health department officials what modelling they have done, either as to the potential impact on the budget or, in the case of Health, what impact it would cause the community at their most vulnerable and in need of a GP to instead turn to emergency departments rather than seeing their GP.

This government has taken no action as to the potential impact, either from a budget perspective or, more importantly, what it means for our community and their access to GPs. More than that, this will ultimately exacerbate the problem that was the core promise of the Labor government: to fix ramping. Peter Malinauskas said on multiple occasions during the election campaign that they would fix the ramping crisis. If people cannot afford to go to their GP when they initially should, they will end up going to the ED inappropriately or end up there eventually, when a visit to the GP could have solved their issue earlier before it became worse and resulted in emergency care.

Already, the ramping hours lost in this state are at record highs and are only worse under this government every single month. In February, ambulances spent more than 3,700 hours waiting with patients outside of hospitals—that is more than 2,200 hours higher than the 1,520 hours recorded in February 2022. Ramping in this state is not getting any better.

Since the Labor Party came to power, and without having to deal with the global pandemic, as the former government had to do, this Labor government has overseen the 22 worst months of ramping in South Australia's history—and it is only getting worse. These are real people affected by the runaway ramping record of those opposite, enduring more than 86,000 hours since Labor was elected on a sole promise of fixing ramping.

I would like to tell you how I became aware of this issue back in March last year. At a listening post that I hosted with the Leader of the Opposition from the other place, the member for Black, we were approached by a local GP who raised this important issue that had come to light on the back of legal proceedings in New South Wales.

Along with the health team, the member for Schubert, the member for Frome and the member for Colton as the shadow treasurer, we have been advocating on behalf of concerned GPs for what it means for them as small business owners but, more importantly, their concerns for their patients ever since last March. The opposition has been asking questions and raising this issue in question time in the other place, but more than a year on other members of this place are also raising this concern. That is why we are in full support of this motion today.

In my preparation for this sitting week I reflected on what I have been able to do in this space since this issue was raised. I was able to write to the Treasurer last year, with that correspondence to the Treasurer highlighting this issue, and the amnesty was bought in. I believe that the amnesty was the right thing to do. Unfortunately, this has only two months remaining and we need to see the amnesty extended, and we also need to ensure that measures such those that have been done in Queensland are investigated further.

We are in lock step with the Royal College of GPs on this. In Queensland, the Queensland Treasury is contemplating how to apply these new laws, which I think are very important and need to be looked into further. This issue has not been finalised and, as we call for the amnesty to be extended, there is not a need for this government to rush the implementation of this burden onto GP practices through the changes in this payroll tax. An extension and investigation into Queensland would be best for not only GP practices but also the many patients right across this great state. I commend this motion.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (17:25): I rise to briefly add some remarks in support of this motion and echo the concerns of the honourable mover, and to also note that I support the amendments of

the Hon. Rob Simms, should his motion also come before the house today. Great minds think alike, the Hon. Rob Simms—I think they were the words you were looking for.

In this current economic climate, any policy change that will result in an increase in the cost of delivering primary healthcare services cannot logically be pursued. To even fathom the imposition of a cessation of the payroll tax amnesty at this point in time is, frankly, beyond belief. Did the Malinauskas government not get the memo that South Australia is facing an unprecedented ambulance ramping crisis? Have they not heard of the spiralling cost of living and cost of doing business that has seen so many SMEs go into receivership? Maybe they have overlooked the massive \$700 increase to power bills in the two years since they have been in office.

Whatever the case may be, it is clear to everyone—except apparently to those opposite—that this is bad policy and nothing but a tax grab. Regional South Australia is already struggling to attract general practitioners and it is obvious that this policy change will only further increase that difficulty. This tax grab comes at a time when Country Health Connect are withdrawing nursing services from towns across the South-East such as Lucindale, Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

This is at a time when, for the first time in living memory, Millicent has been unable to secure a registrar and has the lowest number of doctors in 50 years, following the recent departure of two registrars from the medical health clinic in Millicent. This is at a time when there is just one registrar available across the whole of the Limestone Coast right now when, in the second half of 2023, we had 15 registrars for our region. Millicent GP, Dr James Bushell, cites poor remuneration, when compared with locum and specialist work, as being one of the exacerbating reasons for this problem.

Clearly then, any added impost to GPs cannot be sustained at this time. Mr Bushell, in expressing his views on social media, wrote, 'If we lose just one GP at the medical clinic at Millicent, it will be a disaster.' Running a general practice is akin to being a small business owner. Everyone in this place knows how much South Australian businesses are desperately struggling with the rising cost of doing business right now, and to enforce payroll taxes upon GPs is a clear breach of faith with the South Australian community as this Malinauskas government promised, in no uncertain terms prior to the election, that there would be no new taxes and no tax increases.

Data released in December last year from the National Rural Health Alliance shows that rural men are 2.5 times and rural women are 2.8 times more likely to die from potentially avoidable causes than those in urban areas. Additionally, small rural towns of less than 5,000 people have access to almost 60 per cent fewer health professionals per capita than those living in major cities.

As the Royal College and the AMA have warned, the consequence of this government decision will impact the GP workforce. Older GPs will look to retire, while younger GPs, who wish to open their own practice, will think twice about doing so given the added impost. Regional South Australians cannot afford to lose any more primary healthcare providers than they already have. I reiterate my support for this motion, and condemn the Malinauskas government for their shortsighted and grubby GP tax grab.

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:29): I stand to give the government response to the motion moved by the Hon. Connie Bonaros on 19 March 2024. The government opposes this motion for the following reasons. The government has not changed the legal application of payroll tax, including to the general practitioners. The current contractor provisions of the Payroll Tax Act 2009 have been in place for many years and reflect the harmonised approach across a range of jurisdictions.

The government acknowledges that a number of medical practices have not accurately understood the contractor provisions of the Payroll Tax Act 2009 and, following the legal confirmation of the application of those provisions, needed time to fully understand their obligations and take steps to comply with these provisions in a manner that ensures that their businesses are sustainable.

In recognition of this, the government worked with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and came to a fair and reasonable solution, agreeing to provide an amnesty to general practitioner medical practices until 30 June 2024. Any eligible medical practice that registers with RevenueSA during the amnesty period will not be required to pay payroll tax on payments made to contracted general practitioners up to 30 June 2024 and for the previous five years.

Neither the registration process nor the amnesty is an approach ordinarily afforded to taxpayers, who may otherwise be liable to pay up to five years' unpaid taxes together with penalties and interest when evidence of noncompliance emerges. The South Australian government's provision of the amnesty is more generous than many other Australian jurisdictions, including Victoria, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Tasmania, which have not offered any similar amnesties.

The government does not propose to extend the period of amnesty as to do so would further entrench differences in the administration of payroll tax, with respect to those general practitioner medical practices, other health practitioners and indeed other industries that have been meeting their payroll tax obligations. Providing a long-term arrangement where one cohort of businesses within an industry is required to continue to meet their obligations while another cohort is not is unfair and inequitable.

In Queensland, patient fees paid directly by a patient to a general practitioner for general practitioner services are not subject to payroll tax. It is important to note that the Queensland payroll tax legislation is not fully harmonised with other Australian jurisdictions: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory. This inconsistency provides an alternative treatment to third-party payments, which allows Queensland to make that distinction. RevenueSA, in conjunction with legal advice received from the Crown Solicitor's Office, does not agree with the application of the Queensland legislation. As such, we oppose this motion.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:32): I was going to stand and be ready to celebrate this occasion with the support of this chamber, but the Hon. Mr Wortley has just ruined my moment. At the outset, I would like to thank all honourable members who contributed today: the Hon. Ms Game, the Hon. Mr Simms, the Hon. Ms Girolamo, the Hon. Mr Ben Hood and the Hon. Mr Wortley. I note, the Hon. Mr Wortley, with respect, that you are the messenger today, but if ever I have heard a load of rubbish from the government, that was it—an absolute load of rubbish, an absolute crock coming from the Treasurer in response to a motion.

I would love to know what part of recognising the significant impact that the cessation of payroll tax will have on South Australia is not reasonable. I would love to know what part of acknowledging that the discontinuation of the amnesty threatens to exacerbate existing workplace challenges and reduce access to essential healthcare services, in the midst of a healthcare crisis, is not reasonable. I would love to know what part of acknowledging the potential consequences of an average fee increase of \$12 per patient is not reasonable.

I would love to know how recognising that this financial strain may drive patients into already overcrowded emergency departments and further cripple our health crisis is not reasonable, and I would love to know what is unreasonable about asking the Malinauskas government to not only extend the amnesty—because that is one of a number of measures we have asked for, as acknowledged by the Hon. Robert Simms—but pause, like other jurisdictions have done. I challenge the Hon. Mr Wortley and the Treasurer, through the Hon. Mr Wortley, to tell me that they have not done that: pause the respective payroll tax bills for independent GPs to facilitate meaningful consultation with stakeholders, to collaboratively work towards a long-term solution that prioritises the wellbeing of South Australians.

I am not sure what part of that is unreasonable or worthy of opposition, but it should stun all of us. I certainly hope that the members of the RACGP and the AMA are listening today while they try in vain to enter into discussions with this government, with the Treasurer, with the Premier, to engage in meaningful discussion with the government about a payroll tax crisis that is looming for them, and the knock-on effects that will have for the state in terms of the health crisis and of course those patients who will no longer be able to afford to see their GP.

We already know the statistics—I read them out during the motion itself—about how reliant patients are on GPs for health care to keep them out of our hospitals. We already know how reliant they are on GPs to keep them out of hospitals so that they do not present to the emergency department, so that we do not end up with more ramping, so that we do not further impact our health crisis. But it seems like all of that, when it comes to the Treasurer, is falling on deaf ears.

Mark my words, I have one message and one message only for the Treasurer—not the Premier, the Treasurer—if you think that opposing a motion or opposing any motion in this place will shut me up or shut up those people impacted by that decision, you have another thing coming. You have no idea what is coming your way. I have had the discussions with those sectors, I have had the discussions with not only the RACGP and the AMA but with all the other allied health professional groups, and the rumblings are terrifying. They are terrifying, and I challenge the Treasurer to say to them that somehow this government thinks it is going to silence their voices by opposing a motion in this place.

There is a further motion we will be considering because, as we know, it is not just doctors now who are complaining about payroll tax. In fact, I have not found a business in South Australia yet to date that has not complained to me about payroll tax. We know that this government has become so reliant on the windfall gains of payroll tax that it does not know what else to do, does not know how to wean itself off the extra money—\$1.7 billion a year, estimated to grow to \$1.97 billion over the forward estimates, \$5 million a day for employing people in South Australia. That is what payroll tax does to businesses in this state.

Every allied health group will now be looking at the government's response to engaging in meaningful conversation and saying, 'Hold up, if they're not willing to do this with GPs who got an amnesty, what the hell are they going to do to us?' Mark my words, it will not be pretty. That is not coming from me: that is coming from them. Reap what you sow, do not support the motion and enjoy the next few months of pain that will absolutely be levelled against you, Mr Treasurer, through you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I hope the Treasurer is as frightened as I am.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: I am sure you are shaking in your boots, Mr President, but as signalled by the Hon. Robert Simms—we have had discussions about the amendment—we acknowledge that there are always many different ways to skin a cat and many different ways to skin this particular cat. I will be supporting the amendment as it has been proposed and, in so doing, acknowledge that obviously there are a number of ways that the government could be doing this. The Queensland example is one such way. All those options are being explored and therefore I do support the amendment.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. R.B. Martin:

That this council—

1. Recognises that 2024 marks the 140th year of the St Vincent de Paul Society;
2. Acknowledges the significant role that the St Vincent de Paul Society plays in assisting South Australia's most marginalised and vulnerable people; and
3. Gives thanks to all past and present St Vincent de Paul employees, members and volunteers for their service.

(Continued from 7 March 2024.)

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:40): I rise briefly to support the Hon. Reggie Martin's motion. Now in its 140th year, the St Vincent de Paul Society provides tremendous assistance to the community by raising money through corporate and private donations, government grants and the sale of clothing and household items through the Vinnies family centres.

Vinnies, as it is commonly known, boasts an army of dedicated volunteers and provides a wide range of services, including an emergency men's shelter and accommodation for those experiencing homelessness. Located in Whitmore Square, the shelter has been operating continuously since 1961 and provides meals, showers and a clean, safe and dignified environment. It also links men with other services that assist in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Vinnies operates several disability vocational services, coordinating supported employment for people with intellectual or physical disabilities. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for people

living with a disability to learn and develop skills through meaningful employment in a productive and positive environment. The Vinnies CEO Sleepout, held throughout Australia, promotes awareness of homelessness and raises funds to assist homeless people. It has raised millions of dollars to support the society's work for those facing homelessness. I commend the motion.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (17:42): I rise with great delight to support this particular motion. The St Vincent de Paul Society is one that I am quite familiar with, and I wish to commend them for the invaluable work they do for so many marginalised people in our community and for leveraging a lot of community networks, and other resources as well, to provide services that, if they were to be done by government, would cost an awful lot more and possibly not be done with as much compassion as the society does. I would like to acknowledge the people in the gallery, particularly Ms Evelyn O'Loughlin, the CEO, who is someone I have known for many years. She is doing a sterling job.

In terms of the history of the St Vincent de Paul Society, clearly we are acknowledging their 140th anniversary in South Australia. Some of the language has probably been modernised since then, I am not sure, but it is an international lay Catholic organisation to tackle poverty and disadvantage, assist people in need and combat social injustice. The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded in South Australia in 1884 and has been supporting people in need ever since. I understand that there are some 2½ thousand volunteers and members through some 61 conferences, with 145 paid staff.

Many people would be familiar with the Vinnies shops and some of the other services. I think it is worth talking a little bit about the structure in terms of there being some 34 shops statewide. I understand they are about to open up a new one at Noarlunga. Through those shops, they do not just provide discounted goods for people. In some ways it is an environmental service for people to be able to ensure that things that they no longer need find a new home, but also provide some mutual obligation services for volunteers.

Fred's Vans are reasonably familiar to a number of people, and a lot of people volunteer for those. There are some 10 vans in the city and country locations, providing 40,000 meals per annum. Another part of the structure of the society is the local conferences, which provide emergency and financial assistance through food, clothing, paying bills, ambulance cover and the like, so a lot of those bespoke services that vulnerable South Australians may need.

There is also the refugee and asylum centre and support to newly arrived migrants, which is incredibly important as sometimes the services provided by government do not cover all of those needs. People who are new arrivals to South Australia will need that social support as well to assist them to integrate into society and navigate their way around this new country that they have found themselves in.

The Hon. Ms Game mentioned the men's shelter. There is also a women's and children's shelter—and it also incorporates pets—of some 20 rooms, which is a relatively newish service. I think that is probably about five or six years old now. I am also grateful that Ms O'Loughlin provided me with some of the key statistics, which I think will impress people who are not so familiar with them.

Vinnies Assistance Visits has provided in this particular financial year over 57,000 instances of assistance through over 22,000 visits. The crisis women's centre that I mentioned provided accommodation to 332 women, 285 children and 84 pets. The men's crisis centre accommodation provided in the last financial year was 398 men.

The Open Door program provided support to 272 individuals. I have provided the statistics for Fred's Van. The Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service provided 2,750 instances of assistance, and through the 34 Vinnies Shops that I have already mentioned, there are over a thousand volunteers. It is very impressive work in our community that is contributing to the fabric of South Australia.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (17:47): I rise to support the Hon. Reggie Martin's motion, recognising that 2024 marks the 140th year of St Vincent de Paul Society, acknowledging the significant role it has in assisting South Australia's most marginalised and vulnerable, and giving

thanks to all past and present St Vincent de Paul employees, members and volunteers for their service, which has been truly extraordinary.

The St Vincent de Paul Society, or Vinnies, as most of us fondly refer to it, is a lay Catholic global organisation that was founded in 1833 in Paris, France, by a group of young people who desired to actively combat poverty and social disadvantage. It was established in South Australia in 1884, just 48 years after our state was officially settled, so many, many years ago.

As the mover of the motion mentioned, Vinnies now comprises over 2,500 members and volunteers in over 60 local networks, with 34 Vinnies stores throughout South Australia. Its numerous other establishments include two crisis centres: one in the centre of Adelaide catering to adult men, and one in our northern suburbs accommodating women, children and their pets.

Another one of its notable operations is the Vinnies Fred's Van meal service, which operates at 10 sites across the state, providing not only food but other basic essentials such as blankets and toiletries and, important to note, companionship as well, through cultivating greater connections with their community.

With the soaring cost-of-living and housing crisis South Australians are currently experiencing, we are certainly fortunate to have the many services that St Vincent de Paul Society offers. Their emergency assistance provides broad support to people struggling to cope with everyday living expenses by connecting them with a Vinnies volunteer in their local area. Through this personal contact, material and financial aid is given as needed, as well as friendship that can often bring much more than just simply a smile but adds comfort and hope to many people's lives. Where appropriate, Vinnies members also work with families and individuals to help break the cycle of poverty, which may occur through referral to other agencies or advocacy on their behalf.

The existence of faith-based organisations like St Vincent de Paul, whose operations are largely funded through donations, is paramount in taking some of the burden off the government of the day and supporting those in need. There are, of course, many of these charities that make an incredibly valuable contribution to our South Australian community, including the Salvation Army, AnglicareSA, UnitingCare SA and many more lesser known, smaller organisations.

One such organisation I wish to draw particular attention to is Pathway Community Centre, which is a subsidiary operation of Clovercrest Baptist Church in Modbury North. Along with some of my colleagues in this place and in the other place, I had the privilege of attending Pathway's grand open opening following substantial renovations to their facility just last month. Not unlike Vinnies, Pathway also aims to give practical assistance and hope to those facing hardship through relationship breakdown, domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness, unemployment, grief, addiction, bankruptcy, illness and, of course, for other reasons.

Pathway accomplishes this by providing food hampers at no cost, low-cost clothing and furniture through its op shop, budgeting assistance, and referral to other services where necessary. Pathway also supports schools, churches and other community groups that directly work with vulnerable and marginalised people, which significantly expands its impact across their jurisdiction.

Working with Aldi, SecondBite and OzHarvest, Pathway team members collect food that would otherwise be disposed of from 16 local supermarkets. They sort and pack the unspoiled food into hampers for Pathway's clients and then make food unfit for human consumption available to local farmers to feed their livestock. Very little goes to waste.

This process, known as food rescue, not only provides much-needed fresh and packaged food at no cost to those who are facing food scarcity but also greatly reduces the amount of food waste. In 2023 alone, Pathway saved 713,505 kilograms of food, it is estimated, and distributed 42,873 hampers directly to its clients, with a further 4,694 hampers going to other organisations, totalling something like 47,000 hampers in total.

I was saddened to learn that on an average day Pathway has 120 families coming to its doors to receive a food hamper—120 families each day—with another 50 families being served through other groups and organisations that it works alongside. I am also told that the increases in demand for Pathway's services have risen dramatically in the past year and in the month of February Pathway saw no less than 148 new families becoming clients.

We should be very thankful for the incredible efforts and achievements of faith-based charity organisations in South Australia, and I congratulate in particular the St Vincent de Paul Society for the many decades it has helped countless families and individuals facing hardship in our state. It is a true and commendable depiction of faith in action. I commend them.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:52): I rise to speak in support of this motion to recognise that 2024 marks the 140th year of the St Vincent De Paul Society. It is an honour to commend and celebrate the St Vincent de Paul Society, or, as they are often fondly called, Vinnies. They have played a significant role in the lives of so many South Australians during the past 14 decades, including my own.

The St Vincent De Paul Society (Vinnies) is an international voluntary organisation that was formed in 1833 in Paris, France, to help impoverished people living in the slums. In Australia, Vinnies was first established in Melbourne in 1854 and then spread to every state and territory. In South Australia it was formed in 1884 and this year marks the 140th anniversary. Every day, Vinnies serves thousands of Australians who need help.

I will speak about Vinnies from my own perspective and lived experience. During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Vietnamese refugees fleeing communist Vietnam began arriving on boats to Australia's shores or by plane from overseas refugee camps. Although I was only a young boy I can still remember the kindness and practical assistance the Vietnamese community received from organisations such as Vinnies. Many Vietnamese were virtually destitute on arrival and faced an uphill battle to find work and accommodation while also trying to adjust and come to grips with largely Western values in a strange new world.

A family friend of mine, Mr Michael Nghiep Nguyen, who is now in his 80s, arrived in Adelaide in 1977 and a year later he joined the Vinnies conference at Hindmarsh. He would visit disadvantaged families to give them food vouchers. Michael, like many other Vietnamese refugees, wanted to give back to the Australian community by volunteering for Vinnies. Michael told me that when he started out with Vinnies in the seventies, he remembers going to a house one night and the people refused to open the door. Later, the police came to question him, thinking he was trying to steal something because he had 'an Asian face'. Things have certainly changed since then; Australia today is a much more unified multicultural nation.

As for myself, I joined the Vinnies Croydon conference in 2006 through my local church, St Margaret Mary's, when they were calling out for volunteers to continue the service. For several years I was part of the visitation scheme, where Vinnies volunteers visited disadvantaged households in the local area to offer emergency food vouchers. Later, I became the president of the conference and was able to encourage a few of my Labor friends to volunteer for Vinnies. This gave us the opportunity to experience firsthand the struggles that many people in our community were facing. More importantly, this experience gave us a sense of satisfaction as we realised we were able to make a small difference to someone's life.

Some members in this chamber will remember my involvement in the Vietnamese Boat People Monument, which is located on the Adelaide Riverbank. The monument was a symbolic gesture of thanks from Vietnamese refugees to express the gratitude we hold close to our hearts for the opportunities and help that Australia and Australians have given us.

I was founder and co-chair of the Vietnamese Boat People Monument Association, and once the monument had been erected in its place and the project had been completed, there was money remaining; in fact, we had a leftover balance of around \$50,000. When thinking of what could be done with the leftover funds, the Vietnamese community decided that the money should be donated to Vinnies as a way of repaying their generosity towards Vietnamese refugees.

I thought the idea fitted perfectly with the aims and objectives of the Vietnamese Boat People Monument project, so I contacted Vinnies. At that time, I was aware of the Vinnies House of Welcome program, which operates from a small office in Kilburn near where I live. The House of Welcome program is set up to help asylum seekers who are seeking refuge in Australia. These are people who do not get assistance such as Medicare, Centrelink or housing from the Australian government. Through this program, Vinnies helps with emergency food, assistance with rent, advocacy and training.

I was given a tour of the House of Welcome and spoke with volunteers, staff and clients. I was advised that the House of Welcome operated on a shoestring budget, with most of the funds being donated by the public. I also learned that they needed money to trial and expand a training program to include a range of practical short courses to help asylum seekers find employment. The House of Welcome staff believed that helping asylum seekers develop skills that could lead to a job, instead of providing cash handouts, would assist them to become productive members of our Australian community.

After the visit I had a conversation with then CEO of Vinnies, Ms Louise Miller-Frost, about Vinnies finding new funds to match the Vietnamese Boat People Monument donation of \$50,000. A few days later, I got a call from the CEO and was told they had secured more than \$50,000 after contacting donors from their supporters list. This resulted in the House of Welcome receiving more than \$100,000 to expand their job training program.

I would like to summarise some information provided to me by Ms Emma Yengi, Coordinator, Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service, and also share a few refugee success stories from the House of Welcome program. Ms Yengi told me, and I quote:

Due to the generous donations in 2021 made by the Vietnamese Boat People Monument Association, Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Service has continued to support companions to gain qualifications leading towards employment.

Ms Yengi informed me that a formal partnership has been established with the following educational institutions:

- AUCTUS, a training organisation that provides the House of Welcome with certificates in individual support;
- Maxima, an employment agency;
- TAFE SA, a provider of various certificates and qualifications; and
- the Access Training Centre, which offers practical courses such as forklift operations and truck driving.

I also learned from Vinnies recently that the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service has provided job training for around 50 companions in the following areas:

- medical examinations for two doctors, including transferring medical qualifications from Iraq;
- forklift qualifications for five men;
- truck driving qualifications for three men;
- Certificate III in Individual Support for four women;
- white card for work, health and safety training in the construction industry for five men;
- police clearances and working with children security checks for eight individuals;
- certificate III in security;
- interpreting qualification NAATI national certification;
- dental technology training;
- food safety qualification;
- TAFE baking certificate;
- barista;
- beauty certificate;
- maths tutoring and laptop for a university student; and
- eyelash application certificate.

Vinnies staff have told me that those courses, and I quote, 'have changed lives and brought about financial independence inspiring a sense of achievement, belonging and wellbeing'.

To demonstrate how lives have been changed, a husband and wife from Iraq, both doctors, were supported by the House of Welcome and have now both gained employment in Western Australia. The program provided the support for them to establish their professional lives in Australia while also helping out with rent, utilities and food support. They have now gone on to work and give back to Australian communities.

There are more success stories. In another one, a Sri Lankan man recently released from seven years' detention has reunited with his wife and three children and found employment as a forklift driver after the House of Welcome funded his certificate and training.

Another success story tells how a woman and her young daughter from Papua New Guinea seeking asylum and fleeing domestic violence were helped with food, rental and utilities assistance while she completed certificate III. With individual support within Vinnies' education program, this woman is now employed by Resthaven as a lifestyle attendant. Although she is still on a bridging visa, she can provide for her young daughter and begin a new life.

As did a man from Afghanistan, who completed a Vinnies-funded bakers course at TAFE. He now works in Kilburn in an Afghan bakery and recently received his permanent visa. He is applying to bring his family to Australia so his family are also part of his new life in Australia.

I and many other Australian Vietnamese are moved beyond words when we hear of how the House of Welcome's donation funding transforms the lives of Australian asylum seekers from all parts of the world. In celebrating Vinnies' 140 years, we must ensure this commendable institution has the support it needs to sustain this incredible service and life-changing assistance.

I want to put on the record that Vinnies members and staff played an integral role in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees, and as those success stories tell us, Vinnies continue to play an important part in the lives of Australia's migrants. In fact, we all know of the huge impact Vinnies is still having on improving the day-to-day life of many disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and families.

I take this opportunity to thank members of the public and Vinnies' supporters for their generous donations. I also want to extend a special thank you to Vinnies' current CEO, Ms Evelyn O'Loughlin, who is here with us and with some of her staff, and to all Vinnies staff and volunteers. I offer a big welcome to those who have also joined us in the chamber today. In closing, I thank the Hon. Reggie Martin for introducing this motion and offer my full support.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (18:06): A great deal has been said on this motion in regard to the outstanding work of the St Vincent de Paul Society over many years. One hundred and forty years is an amazing achievement, but, even more importantly, 140 years of work for disadvantaged South Australians is a huge commitment and investment in our state. The statistics today have been outlined in terms of the number of meals served, the number of home visitations and the number of programs that have been undertaken, and those stats are both impressive and almost incredible.

I will briefly touch on a more localised experience. My husband talks very strongly about his growing up in a neighbourhood that had a lot of new migrants in it, such as his family, in the 1960s and 1970s. He saw the assistance that was given and the number of home visitations to people who were really struggling, partly because of arriving in a new country and partly because of economic challenges. This led his father, my late father-in-law, to be a volunteer for Vinnies, and I understand he was a volunteer for many years. My husband then continued as a member of that conference to volunteer himself as a young man. It was about social justice, it was about faith in action, and it is something that he says has been incredibly meaningful in his life and ever since.

I feel that almost everything that needs to be said about Vinnies and their amazing work has been said, so I will conclude simply by saying: I thank and commend Vinnies, their staff, their members, their volunteers past and present and also, I am sure, into the future. South Australia is enriched by your work and I thank you.

The Hon. R.B. MARTIN (18:08): I would like to start by thanking those members who made a contribution to this motion: the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, the Hon. Mr Dennis Hood, the Hon. Clare Scriven, and special thanks to the Hon. Mr Tung Ngo. He gets the special thanks because, unfortunately, I was remiss in my speech when I introduced this bill—I thanked a few people who had got me involved in this, not remembering that it was actually Tung Ngo who was the person who started all of this and actually recruited the people who recruited me. I would like to thank Tung for all of his work with St Vinnies and for bringing more people in to help and pay back. It was great to hear your story today about why you got involved.

It is an amazing organisation that does such great work. I would also like to place on the record my thanks to all the staff at St Vinnies as well for the great work that they do, the selfless work that they do. South Australia, Australia, everywhere where St Vinnies operates is a better place for the work that you all do. On behalf of myself and all those speakers, thank you again. I commend this motion.

Motion carried.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER PAYROLL TAX

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

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that:
 - (a) the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners South Australia (RACGP SA) has launched a campaign for the state government to stop applying payroll tax to general practitioners; and
 - (b) South Australia is in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and many people are already struggling to cover the costs of essentials like medical appointments.
2. Notes that:
 - (a) the patient engagement platform HotDoc has released figures that show that 95 per cent of clinics are planning to increase patient fees by an average of \$12 per appointment in response to the payroll tax and only 28 per cent of patients would continue to see their regular GP (albeit less regularly), if fees increased; and
 - (b) the Queensland government has provided a payroll tax ruling clarifying that patients' fees paid directly to a GP for their services would not be subject to payroll tax.
3. Calls on the Malinauskas government to align with the Queensland government's approach to rule out payroll tax on patients' fees paid directly to GPs for their services.

(Continued from 20 March 2024.)

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (18:09): I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. L.A. Henderson:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that one in three girls and one in five boys are sexually assaulted by the time they turn 18;
2. Acknowledges the call on the federal Labor government to close a legal loophole which protects paedophiles' superannuation from access by the victims and survivors; and
3. Calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to urge their federal counterparts to adopt a policy addressing the legal loophole around superannuation for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

(Continued from 21 February 2024.)

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (18:12): Today, I stand with the Hon. Laura Henderson MLC in support of her motion that addresses a critical oversight in our federal legislation concerning child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is an intolerable crime and it is distressing to learn that our legal framework harbours a loophole that inadvertently allows perpetrators to safeguard their assets from just consequences. This legislative gap shields their superannuation funds from rightful claims from survivors, leaving them without compensation that they are due for their immense suffering.

Yet, with this current legal loophole, we witness an inverse penalty where survivors, burdened by the costs of recovery, often face financial destitution, while offenders potentially use the legal system to protect their financial interests. This is a stark contradiction of justice. It is apparent there are offenders who exploit this loophole and likely do so with calculated foresight, with the knowledge that they can avoid financial accountability for their actions.

The manipulation of legislation to protect personal assets at the expense of justice for victims cannot be overlooked. Allowing this to continue means accepting a system that fails to uphold the basic principles of justice and accountability. We must ensure that survivors of such heinous acts have a clear path to the compensation they deserve, including access to the offender's superannuation when proven guilty.

Addressing this issue is not just about closing the loophole, it is about sending a clear message that the system stands firmly on the side of survivors, not those who commit such indefensible crimes. We must urge the federal government to act swiftly and decisively to amend this legislation.

The victims of child sex abuse are always robbed of their childhoods, bearing scars that are physical, mental and emotional for the rest of their lives. This motion presents us with a profound responsibility to fortify our legal system against exploitation and reinforce the scales of justice in favour of those who have suffered too much already. I commend this motion to the chamber.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (18:14): I rise briefly in support of the honourable member's motion. It is unacceptable that convicted paedophiles have been able to avoid compensating their victims by hiding their assets in superannuation funds. South Australian taxpayers therefore compensate victims from the Victims of Crime Fund. This needs to change.

Child sex abuse ruins the lives of victims and survivors. Compensation will never undo the untold damage, but it is vital to ensure a fighting chance of overcoming the devastating consequences of child sex abuse. Limited avenues for compensation need to be addressed. One Nation supports the need for child sex offenders to be held responsible for compensating their victims, and I commend the motion.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector) (18:15): I thank the honourable member for her motion and for getting behind the state government's calls for reform in this area. We are firmly committed to doing everything we can to produce better outcomes for those who have been through the heinous, unspeakable ordeal of child sexual abuse. We are proud to have previously demonstrated this commitment repeatedly, and have made a number of significant reforms in this space, headlined by:

- recently introducing legislation in relation to indefinite detention of repeat child sex offenders;
- passing legislation to create a default rule that accused and convicted child sex offenders may not work in businesses that employ children;
- listening to and working with former Australian of the Year Grace Tame to pass legislation to rename the offence 'unlawful sexual relationship with a child' to 'sexual abuse of a child';
- significantly increasing—sometimes doubling or tripling—penalties for a range of child sex offences; and
- closing loopholes that allow offenders who possess child pornography or childlike sex dolls to access bigger sentence discounts or bail.

I am pleased to say that I have had a number of interactions with my federal counterparts about legislative reform to ensure that financial assets cannot be hidden by perpetrators of child sexual abuse in their superannuation accounts to avoid paying compensation to their victims following civil actions.

I have previously written to Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services, the Hon. Stephen Jones MP, initially in September 2022, copying in the commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus MP. In that letter I requested an update on behalf of the South Australian Labor government on whether the commonwealth had progressed these proposals and whether any consultation would be undertaken with states and territories about the reforms.

Support by the Malinauskas government for reforms was expressed at that time back in September 2022. In November 2022, the Minister for Financial Services responded and indicated the commonwealth government would continue to explore options to help ensure that victims of child sexual abuse receive their rightful compensation after litigation. In January 2023, the commonwealth government released its discussion paper for consultation, putting forward options for legislative reforms. Under the proposals in their discussion paper, certain super contributions made by an offender in the lead-up to criminal proceedings would be made available to the victim for the purposes of paying compensation, and courts would also be entitled to access to Australian Taxation Office data about superannuation.

Again, in February 2024, I wrote to the Minister for Financial Services reiterating the Labor government's support for the commonwealth to progress this legislative reform, seeking a further update on progress, as well as offering assistance that we could provide to help progress these reforms. I look forward to the commonwealth government's plan for reform and continuing to work for reform in these areas. It might be helpful in the summing-up contribution to the motion if the representative from the opposition outlined the representations that she or the Liberal opposition have made to the commonwealth government urging reform as well.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (18:20): I rise to speak on this motion calling on the Malinauskas government to urge federal colleagues to close the legal loophole shielding superannuation of child sex abusers from their victims. At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the deeply troubling statistics that continue to reveal the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse in our communities.

It is staggering to comprehend that more than one in three girls and almost one in five boys are sexually assaulted before reaching the age of 18. I think today it was pointed out that that is about eight children in every class of around 30, statistically speaking. Behind these statistics lie the shattered innocence and lifelong trauma endured by over 1.1 million Australian women and nearly 350,000 Australian men. Also distressing is the revelation that the vast majority of these crimes are perpetrated by individuals known to the victims, individuals who have betrayed the trust of innocent children in the most abhorrent manner imaginable.

Further, it is deeply concerning that a significant proportion of cases remain unreported, with about 84 per cent of women and an alarming 99 per cent of men choosing not to disclose their abuse to authorities. What compounds this already horrific situation is the exploitation of a legal loophole allowing perpetrators of these heinous acts to shield their super from their victims. It is a loophole perpetrators are openly exploiting. They are loading up their super with all that they can simply so that their victims cannot access it. We have heard anecdotally of perpetrators boasting about it; we have heard about them being sentenced to jail and spending big while incarcerated, just to ensure that their victims do not get access to that cash.

Today, we had a case mentioned to us at the forum that was held—and I thank the honourable member for that—of someone who was charged and incarcerated with such charges of spending something like \$320,000-odd while incarcerated. There are only so many chocolate bars, chips, soft drinks and God knows what that you can buy while you are in prison, but that is the amount of money that that particular perpetrator spent whilst incarcerated just to ensure that the victims of his heinous crimes did not get access to his funds.

The case of former magistrate Peter Liddy obviously serves as a stark reminder of the injustices caused by this loophole. Despite being convicted of sexually abusing multiple young boys, Liddy's considerable super remains beyond the reach of his victims, adding to their pain and

suffering. Since his conviction in 2001, Liddy's super from 25 years of serving as a magistrate has compounded. I think that also raises questions about whether that should actually be able to happen in the first place. Meanwhile, while we sit here and contemplate those questions, his victims have suffered unimaginable trauma all these years.

I would like to commend the tireless advocacy of individuals, including of course Andrew Carpenter, who I know is known to many of us in here; Ms Claire O'Connor; Mr Adam Washbourne; Madeleine West; Grace Tame, who has made this one of her campaigns that she, together with those individuals that I mentioned, has advocated on tirelessly; my former boss, Nick Xenophon, who worked with Andrew on this very important issue—all of whom have been allies in this pursuit for justice—and, of course, the mover of this motion, the Hon. Laura Henderson, who has joined the chorus of calls for legislative change in this area. It has been a long time coming. There has been a lot of groundwork that people have been doing for a very long time. As we know, this is one of those issues that deserves the unanimous support of this parliament.

Paedophiles are the lowest of the low. It is unconscionable that they should be allowed to serve a prison sentence and walk away with a nest egg while their victims continue to suffer. Frankly, I have zero empathy for perpetrators of these crimes. Any sense of empathy I have goes out the window. You can do what you like when it comes to these monsters who have effectively ruined lives, taken away children's childhoods and set them up for a destiny to nowhere in terms of the pain and trauma that will be inflicted on them for years to come.

We heard today from Madeleine West. This might be something that does not surface for some 40 years, and in all that time you have gone through all these horrific things. You can hide it from the world, but the reality is that it is a very ugly future that those children face after having been abused and sexually assaulted as children, most commonly by a family member. For me that is the most terrifying part, that people who we know and trust and love could do that to a child.

So taking away their super is the least that we could do, in my view, for those children who grow up to be adults and have to navigate their way through the rest of their life and find some meaning and purpose and way to continue. It is a legal loophole which, in my opinion, is a glaring failure of our justice system.

I certainly look forward and indeed acknowledge—because we have had those discussions jointly; I know the Attorney has had those discussions with Ms Tame, and on her last visit we had those discussions together—that this is on the Attorney's radar. It is an issue that he has had raised with him already, and I am sure it continues to be, despite the fact that it is on the national agenda, not the state agenda. With those words, I thank the mover of this motion. I support it wholeheartedly.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. K.J. Maher.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (18:28): I would like to thank honourable members for their contribution: the Hon. Ben Hood, the Hon. Connie Bonaros, the Hon. Sarah Game and the Attorney-General. Some issues ought to be above politics, and it is disappointing that the government decided to play politics on this issue.

I would like to address commentary in *The Advertiser* today by the Attorney-General, who said, 'I welcome the state Liberals following our lead and jumping on board this worthy cause.' It is a worthy cause indeed. It was my understanding that the Super for Survivors team had been met with less than desired action from the Attorney-General, hence the need for this motion.

Earlier this afternoon, members of parliament and staff had the opportunity to hear from the Super for Survivors team, including Andrew Carpenter from Websters lawyers, Adam Washbourne from Fighters Against Child Abuse Australia, and Madeleine West from Safe on Social and Project Paradigm. This afternoon's forum was moving and a clear demonstration of why this change is needed. I thank members of parliament and staff who took time out of their busy day to attend this really important forum. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Super for Survivors team and their continued advocacy in this incredibly important space. Through their advocacy, they are able to give a voice to so many who may be unable to speak for themselves.

I was horrified when I learnt convicted paedophiles can hide their assets in their superannuation to avoid compensating survivors of their vile crimes, and I strongly believe this needs

to change. This motion seeks to call on the Malinauskas government to urge action from their federal counterparts to close the legal loophole which protects paedophiles' superannuation from access by their victim survivors. Currently, offenders are able to hide their assets in their superannuation because there is no provision allowing sexual abuse survivors to access these funds. As a result, many survivors have been unable to receive the compensation they deserve.

The horrendous scourge of child sexual abuse impacts the quality of life and the health of these victim survivors in both the long term and short term. The lack of avenues for compensation for some of these victims is something that needs to be addressed. This can ultimately leave victim survivors with little to no support as they try to seek the support that they need because of this crime and a continued sense of injustice after so many years of trauma.

Child sexual abuse is the most unforgivable of acts, and the fact that many survivors are unable to access the compensation they deserve and the compensation they have been awarded just adds salt to their wounds. While reforming superannuation law is a federal issue, ensuring child abuse survivors have the support they need should be a priority for our community as a whole. This is not a case of winning the lottery. Compensation for survivors of child sexual abuse will never right the wrongs committed against them, but it will provide some kind of financial stability and assist them in getting the support that they need. For many, this may be the first time that they have had financial stability.

Paedophiles should not have the privilege of concealing their assets or enjoying a peaceful retirement while their victims serve a life sentence due to the nature of these crimes committed against them. Child sex offenders should be held responsible for compensating their victims with all of their funds made available for doing so. The system should be there to support these victim survivors, and it is about time that it was no longer stacked against them. With those words, I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

Bills

AUKUS (LAND ACQUISITION) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

At 18:35 the council adjourned until Thursday 11 April 2024 at 14:15.