

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 5 March 2025

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

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

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Travel Report from 11 January to 20 January 2025 prepared pursuant to the Public Sector Act 2009

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

State Government Response to the Coronial inquest recommendations relating to the death of a child dated October 2024

Question Time

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:18): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General regarding youth crime.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Earlier this year, the Malinauskas Labor government was actively exploring a push to lift the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to age 14. It was entitled 'a landmark reform' that the government claimed was essential for justice and rehabilitation. It has now been revealed that the government quietly abandoned the plan. Meanwhile, youth crime continues to surge across South Australia with nearly 25,000 children or teenagers charged over the past five years, some as young as 10. One 14 year old has been charged with more than 130 offences in a single year.

At the same time, the government has spoken extensively about its commitment to engaging with South Australia's First Nations Voice to Parliament on key policy decisions, particularly those impacting Indigenous youth, who are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. When did the government decide that raising the age of criminal responsibility was no longer a priority?
2. Did the government consult with the South Australian Voice to Parliament beforehand?
3. What changes to bail conditions is the Attorney-General considering given the increase in reoffending rates?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:20): I thank the honourable member for her question. I can't remember exactly how the honourable member phrased the question—something about it being 'essential to' something. I am not sure where the honourable member is getting those particular words from. I want to be very, very clear here so the honourable

member doesn't misunderstand: this government has not had a policy to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Certainly under the former government and the former Attorney-General, the Hon. Vickie Chapman, the former government started a process with other states looking nationally—all states were involved in the project—at the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Some jurisdictions, particularly Victoria and the ACT, have actively gone down this path. We have never said that this is a priority for this government. Certainly, we are keen to explore any option that has the potential to make the community safer, and we will continue to do that.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:20): Supplementary question: is the government in the practice of issuing discussion papers on matters that it doesn't consider a priority?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:21): I thank the honourable member for her question. Good, responsible governments explore all options often.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:21): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing questions to the Attorney-General regarding the age of criminal responsibility.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: In recent media reports, including as recently as this morning with police commissioner Grant Stevens, there was public concern in relation to the trend of increased youth offending. My questions for the Attorney are:

1. Does he have a view on the age of criminal responsibility?
2. Has he raised any objections to the current position?
3. What, if any, advice has his department provided to him in relation to youth offending and youth recidivism?
4. Perhaps most importantly, has the Attorney engaged with the SA Voice to Parliament on this issue and, if so, what is their position?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:22): I will refer the honourable member to re-read the *Hansard* once it is published from my last answer in relation to the last question, as I clearly said we don't have a policy to go and consult with the Voice because we don't have a position.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:23): Supplementary question: can the Attorney rule out that discussions have taken place with the Voice to Parliament on this matter?

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! A very good attempt, but I am not going down that path.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:23): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General regarding youth crime.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: In February, the Commissioner for Children and Young People released a paper entitled 'The need for rights-based reform of South Australia's child justice system'. In that paper she refers to the disproportionate criminalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, which is well known and as we have discussed in this chamber a number of times. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. Has he met with the commissioner in relation to this report?
2. Does he think that it is a fair characterisation in her report of the current situation?
3. What outcomes have stemmed from any meetings he has had with the commissioner about systemic discrimination?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:24): I have had a number of meetings with the commissioner about a range of issues to do with particularly Aboriginal children. I don't have any minutes or listed topics discussed, but I have had a number of meetings with the commissioner.

COUNTRY CABINET

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (14:25): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Will the minister update the council about the recent country cabinet in the Northern Adelaide Plains?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:25): I thank honourable member for her question. Members on this side of the council understand and appreciate the importance of country cabinet to regional communities, and that is why we hold them on a regular basis across regional South Australia.

Members may recall that I have previously updated this place about country cabinets we have had around this state, which have included Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and the Yorke Peninsula, among others. This is, of course, in stark contrast to the approach the former Marshall Liberal government took to the idea of country cabinets when they decided to scrap country cabinet altogether. They refused to take cabinet out to the regions and presumably expected regional communities to make their way to North Terrace to engage with the state government instead. This certainly is not our approach.

Last week, the state government held country cabinet in the Northern Adelaide Plains, and it was particularly pleasing to see the warm reception that the hardworking Labor candidate for the new seat of Ngadjuri received while out and about across the region. I had the opportunity, first, to visit SA Mushrooms with the Deputy Premier—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: —and was given a tour of their facility by Nick Femia, Daniel Murray and Jared Ahern. We were provided with an update on their plans to further expand their facility and understand in more detail the challenges and opportunities they face as an industry. I found particularly remarkable the swift rate at which the mushrooms can grow, which is in part the reason why their facility operates 365 days of the year.

I also had the opportunity to visit Virginia Horticulture Centre to host a roundtable meeting with local tomato growers and their industry representatives to discuss the ongoing response to the tomato brown rugose virus. Later in the day, I joined the Premier and the full cabinet to be briefed by the mayors and chief executive officers of the Adelaide Plains Council, the Wakefield Regional Council and the Light Regional Council on the important issues facing their communities.

The cabinet also received presentations from Regional Development Australia, Barossa, Gawler, Light, Adelaide Plains, along with the Coalition of Coastal Communities and the Adelaide Plains Ratepayers and Residents Association. These interactions are incredibly useful and provide regional communities and their representatives with a direct line to government, and I thank them for taking the time to present their ideas to cabinet.

I also thank Mitolo Family Farms and their chief executive officer, Ricardo Conti, and chief financial officer, Theo Sasopoulos, for taking time out of their day to take both the chief executive of PIRSA and myself on a tour of their facility. Mitolo Family Farms is one of the largest exporters of potatoes and onions in the state and provides employment for a large number of residents situated in the Northern Adelaide Plains.

Finally, I joined the Premier and members of cabinet once again for a community forum at the Two Wells Primary School. The forum was well attended, with hundreds of local residents packing the school gymnasium to ask questions of various members of cabinet. Members on this side know that regions matter, and I am pleased the Malinauskas Labor government continues to work with regional communities to deliver better outcomes.

COUNTRY CABINET

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): Supplementary: did the minister receive a warm reception from any tomato growers in the region?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:28): I think it is fair to say that the high level of engagement we have had with the industry has been well received. Obviously, in terms of the majority of tomato growers who have been able to continue to trade and have been able to be reassured that the tomato brown rugose virus has been contained and not spread to all of the other tomato growing properties, they were very keen to have that outcome continue.

COUNTRY CABINET

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:29): Supplementary question arising from the original answer: was the issue of regional rail raised at country cabinet and, in particular, did anyone express concern at the Malinauskas government's failure to take action on this important issue?

The PRESIDENT: Minister, I know you wanted to talk about regional rail, so I will allow that supplementary question.

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:29): In fact as soon as the Hon. Mr Simms stood up, I did call out 'regional rail', and there we were.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN: At the forum in the evening, certainly rail was one of the topics of conversation, or discussion and questions, and in terms of questions around the need to provide transport in the best way and most coordinated way, particularly given the large amount of new development in that part of the state, it certainly prompted quite a lively discussion.

COUNTRY CABINET

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:30): Supplementary arising from the original answer: is the minister one of the ministers who is actually publicly allowed to speak at the forums, or is she one of the muzzled ministers who has to allow the Premier to do a TED talk with the microphone for an hour and a half?

The PRESIDENT: I never heard anything about muzzled ministers, but if you want to answer it you may, minister.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:30): I know it is very rare for those opposite to actually attend country cabinet because they don't support country cabinets and given that country cabinet is open to all members of the public, I am not quite sure why those opposite think somehow, they are excluded. Clearly, they are acknowledging that they are not part of country communities. That would appear to be the only logical outcome from their statements.

I think it is fair to say that all ministers have the opportunity to speak at the forum but, more importantly, residents have a chance to speak at these forums. This is an open forum. This is unscripted. Residents can come up to the microphone. They can ask questions about anything, and the reason why? Because we are keen to hear their views. Those opposite either didn't care or were

too scared they might be asked something uncomfortable that they would never participate in something similar.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lensink!

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. J.S. LEE (14:32): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister for Industrial Relations about safety at the Whyalla Steelworks.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S. LEE: Following the first meeting of steelworks creditors on Monday 3 March 2025, it has been reported that KordaMentha administrator Sebastian Hams told the meeting that the lack of investment had created safety concerns at the steelworks, and I quote, 'we were starting to rely on luck for safety'. My questions to the minister are:

1. When was the last time that SafeWork SA inspectors carried out a workplace safety inspection at the Whyalla Steelworks?
2. Has the minister been briefed by SafeWork SA in relation to any health and safety breaches or issued any notices against the Whyalla Steelworks in the last two years?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:33): I thank the honourable member for her questions. SafeWork SA of course is the regulator who monitors and investigates and prosecutes breaches of work health and safety, and is very active in both education and compliance in workplaces right across South Australia. Things like the steelworks are obviously high-risk environments. I don't have information with me about when the last time any compliance checks or education sessions were conducted at that particular facility, but I certainly will take that on notice and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:34): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Attorney-General on discretion around drug-driving offences related to medicinal cannabis.

The Hon. K.J. Maher interjecting:

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: No.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: In September 2024, in this council, the interim committee inquiring into medicinal cannabis made 13 recommendations to government. Recommendations 1 and 2 were specifically in regard to calling on the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to undertake community consultation in respect of proposed amendments to allow those with a valid prescription who are not impaired to not fall foul of our drug-driving roadside testing regime.

Last week in Victoria, in that jurisdiction magistrates will now have the option to decide whether or not to cancel a driver's licence of a person who does test positive for THC and is using prescribed medicinal cannabis. While that change still doesn't affect existing impairment drug-driving laws in that state, the outcome does enhance the discretion of the court that will apply if the drug driver or rider isn't impaired or under the influence of drugs, it is a first-time offence and the matter relates to the use of a legal medicinal cannabis product in accordance with a current prescription, and whether that prescription is valid at the time of detection.

In Tasmania, there is a defence in the courts for somebody who is caught by drug roadside testing if they have a valid medicinal cannabis prescription but, actually, on a technicality, only if that prescription provider is based in Tasmania. So somebody travelling in Tasmania with a prescription from interstate or a Tasmanian local driving in Tasmania who has sourced their prescription from

another jurisdiction, being across the border, does not have that defence. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. When will the government respond to the joint committee on medicinal cannabis, noting that there are 13 recommendations there, some of which include his portfolios in work health and safety?

2. Will he consider giving further judicial discretion in the meantime, following the Victorian or Tasmanian lead?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:36): I thank the honourable member for her question. That particular issue and issues more generally with medicinal cannabis cross a number of portfolios: health, transport under road traffic regimes, as well as my own under Attorney-General. Certainly, I was very appreciative of working closely during previous terms of parliament with the Hon. Tammy Franks on issues to do with not just medicinal cannabis but the ability to create an industrial hemp industry in South Australia. I will need to check, because it crosses portfolios, the status of where some of the things that she referred to are up to but I will bring back a reply for the honourable member.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General questions about youth crime.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO: Last week, there were multiple instances of youth crime in Adelaide, including a case where a 16-year-old boy stole a car and crashed into a home in Tonsley. In a separate incident, another stolen vehicle slammed into a house and narrowly avoided injuring a baby. There were also reports of security guards in multiple shopping centres who are concerned about the increased crime from youths in recent months. These security guards believe that it's currently safer to work on Hindley Street than in shopping centres. My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Will it take a South Australian fatality or even more serious injuries from youth crime for this government to take this issue seriously?

2. Will the Attorney-General consider introducing legislation to provide more power to security guards to ensure everyday South Australians can shop safely?

3. Does this government have any other plans in relation to addressing youth crime?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:38): I thank the honourable member for her question. I might start by answering some of the things that we won't be doing. What we won't be doing is what her party last did in government and cutting the police budget, ripping \$50 million, I understand, out of the police budget that is designed to keep South Australians safe. So there are some of the things we won't be doing: making massive, tens of millions of dollars of cuts, to SAPOL. We won't be doing that.

Instead, in stark contrast, what we will be doing is increasing the police budget. For example, \$82 million is being invested to hire an extra 189 police security officers to replace sworn officers in more administrative areas, which can return more police to frontline service. We have very distinct, different views about how to make the community safe: massive tens of millions of dollars of cuts to the police, or massive tens of millions of dollars investment in police. There are two very different views about how to tackle keeping the community safe: one is to slash and burn and reduce police, and the other is to increase the police, like this government has done.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Simms has a supplementary question, arising from the answer, that doesn't relate to regional rail.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:40): As a part of its approach, what is the government doing to address the causes of crime?

The PRESIDENT: To be honest, all I heard was about budgetary increases and decreases.

An honourable member interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (14:40): Supplementary: is the SAPOL budget adequate to cover background checks for victims, or potential victims, of domestic violence?

The PRESIDENT: Well, all you talked about was budgetary constraints and increases, Attorney.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:40): I thank the honourable member for her question. I have to say that I can't remember the exact words, so I might refer the honourable member to, I am sure, the transcripts of the police commissioner talking about this on ABC radio this morning. As I remember, listening to it in my earbuds earlier this morning, the police commissioner talked about the fact that they are able to manage at the moment, using existing resources, but they are keen to see what the royal commission that is currently running says about it before looking at whether any further or extra budget needs to be allocated. If it was a wildly different answer, I am happy to go and check.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (14:41): Supplementary: Attorney, is the SAPOL budget sufficient to address rising youth crime?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:41): He does very well, the Hon. Dennis Hood—very well. It is a mystery to us on this side why he is not on the front bench, probably in the leader's seat. Be that as it may, he was able to ask a supplementary question, unlike—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: What's that?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Maybe, deputy leader. I wasn't saying that he should necessarily be leader.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Interjections are out of order. Attorney, complete your answer so we can move on.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I thank the honourable member for his question because it allows me to reiterate that his party, when in government, took a very different approach from what we are doing in government: tens of millions of dollars being cut from the police budget as opposed to tens of millions of dollars being invested in the police budget.

COUNTRY CABINET

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Will the minister update the council on her interactions with volunteers during her time at the Northern Plains country cabinet?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:42): I thank the honourable member for his question. I, too, like the Hon. Clare Scriven, had an incredible time at country cabinet. This was my first country cabinet as the minister. I enjoyed the day particularly because of the

announcement by Tony Piccolo, the member for Light, that he is putting up his hand to be the local Labor candidate.

It was an honour to visit the selfless volunteers from the region. Anyone from the country knows that it is often the incredible volunteers who give their time to keep our regional communities safe, active and connected. My first stop on the day was to visit the new \$5 million Gawler State Emergency Service unit, which is currently under construction thanks to state government investment.

I was welcomed by SES volunteers Gerhart, Andrew, Mark and Tony, all of whom have unique connections and stories about why they decided to join the SES. Just like the new station, many of them, too, are new members to the SES community. New Gawler SES member Gerhart shared that the SES has taught him many new skills, but the one that has challenged him the most and has also been the most rewarding is learning how to tie knots.

Andrew is a local who has joined the SES because the creation of this new local station was close to his home and he felt like he needed to be a part of a new community that could give back. Mark has carried on his professional knowledge in emergency management at the University of Adelaide and has taken this into his new role as an SES volunteer. Tony, a former SAPOL employee who just last year underwent two triple bypasses, has now been trained to use drones, enabling him to continue to give back to the community through the work he is doing as an SES volunteer.

From there, we visited Anthony, Paige and the brigade captain, Alex, from the Mallala CFS brigade, which is responding to at least one incident every week in its local community. We then met more volunteers at the Two Wells CFS station, a brigade that is a CFS family. For the first time since I took on my new role, I met husband and wife duo Chantelle and brigade captain Adam. Both Adam and Chantelle started as cadets in the CFS, and now their kids, Carla and Blake, who are 18 and 19 years old, are cadets at the station too.

In true country fashion, I went down the road to the Two Wells oval only to meet the brother of Adam, who is also the captain of the cricket club. Everyone in that family is doing a lot to give back to their community. Once again, I want to thank the many volunteers who have shared their time with me, particularly on that day, but importantly who always give their time to give back to their community and keep them safe.

PUBERTY BLOCKERS

The Hon. S.L. GAME (14:45): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health, regarding the ongoing availability of puberty blockers for children in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.L. GAME: In January 2025, a Queensland Health service directive banned the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to minors under 18. Last year, Britain permanently banned puberty blockers for under 18s following a temporary block put in place in May 2024, with Britain's Commission on Human Medicines declaring the drugs an unacceptable safety risk to children.

Here in South Australia, it was reported last year by Channel 7 that children as young as three years old are being referred to gender diversity clinics and, in addition, puberty blockers remain available to children in South Australia. My questions to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Health, are:

1. Given the increased instances of puberty blockers being banned for under 18s based on the evidence these treatments are harmful and these therapies could have lifelong consequences, including infertility, blood clots and brain development issues, why is the Malinauskas government not also imposing a ban?
2. Will the Malinauskas government concede that, by continuing to give South Australian children access to puberty blockers, it is effectively endorsing a practice that has needlessly and recklessly ruined the lives of young people?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:47): I thank the honourable member for her question. I would be happy to pass that on and bring back a reply.

SECURITY GUARDS

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (14:47): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Attorney-General regarding security guards.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B.R. HOOD: Following the increasing incidence of crime in shopping centres over the past year, the SDA union has called on the government for a review into security guard agreements. It comes after incidents threatening public safety at Marion, Arndale, Elizabeth, Tea Tree Plaza and West Lakes over the last year. Despite the government not reaching a decision for a review, a government spokesperson noted that shopping centre safety is a priority for the government.

The SDA secretary, Josh Peak, revealed his concerns about public safety are now being echoed by community members. He claims that security guards do not have appropriate power to take effective action to intervene during these incidents. The union is seeking an urgent review into security rules and powers and is calling for a security boost in all major retail complexes. My questions to the Attorney-General are:

1. It is the understanding of the opposition that the police commissioner this morning ruled out a review. What are the government's plans to address the concerns of the SDA and its membership?
2. Can the Attorney advise the chamber what powers security guards currently hold to intervene during serious incidents?
3. Does the Attorney have concerns about the Malinauskas government's approach to law and order not being effective?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:48): I might answer the last bit first. I am very pleased to be able to repeat the very significant difference between the Hon. Ben Hood's party's time in government and the Malinauskas Labor government's time in government.

The Hon. Ben Hood's party, when in government, slashed tens of millions of dollars from the police budget: the Labor Malinauskas government in power increased the police budget by tens of millions of dollars. So I do acknowledge there is a very stark difference in approaches that the Liberal and Labor parties have taken in government. The Liberals slash and burn, reduce community safety: Labor is investing to help increase community safety. So I acknowledge that there is a stark difference, one which many members of the public would be very disappointed in the Liberal Party about.

In relation to retail worker safety, there have been a number of things that have been done to increase the safety of retail workers. In terms of young people working in retail settings we have, of course, led by the Hon. Connie Bonaros, passed legislation to make sure that serious child sex offenders don't work with children in a retail setting. In relation to retail workers being protected from assaults, it was this government that increased the penalties and classed retail workers as frontline workers for the purpose of aggravated assault laws.

We have announced, and we are consulting on, workplace protection laws so that barring orders can be in place for those who pose a danger, and we have introduced—and it is finding its way through this parliament this week—the toughest knife crime laws in Australia. So I do acknowledge that there is a stark difference between the Liberal and the Labor parties on community safety, but it is not one that is favourable to the Liberal Party.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (14:50): Supplementary: as part of its approach to community safety, how much money is the Malinauskas government spending on addressing the causes of crime?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:50): I thank the honourable member for his question. There are numerous programs that are run in both the adult and youth detention areas. I am happy to go to both of my colleagues who are responsible in these areas to bring back a reply detailing just some of the ones that are run.

ADELAIDE FRINGE FESTIVAL, INDIGENOUS PERFORMERS

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Will the minister inform the council about some of the First Nations artists performing at this year's Fringe?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:51): I thank the honourable member for his question, and would be most happy to. It is a question I look forward to getting; I am often surprised to get it, but I always look forward to getting questions from members about this time of the year about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are taking part in the Fringe Festival.

There are some absolutely outstanding First Nations artists performing during the 2025 Adelaide Fringe Festival. I will go through some of the ones that are coming up, because I am sure many members would be keen to avail themselves of those, but I am going to start with what will be disappointing to many members, and that is the performance that occurred on Friday and Saturday nights just gone, which unfortunately people will have missed, at the Kaurna Living Cultural Centre at Marion.

Paul Ah Chee, an Arrernte artist who has been performing for decades, led a band performing with his son Roland Ah Chee on lead guitar—who, although slashing on the guitar, did not get a single hair out of place. Rohan Carmody, an Arrernte man was on the drums, and Nate Rigney, a local Ngarrindjeri man was on bass guitar, with Bianca Levai, a Yankunytjatjara woman, and Tjunkaya Ken, a Pitjantjatjara woman, also singing. They performed a range of original songs, finishing up with the Rolling Stones' *Sympathy for the Devil*, which brought the pretty significant crowd into raptures at the end.

Unfortunately for members they have missed that one, but there are some excellent events coming up. There are The Garden Sessions at the Garden of Unearthly Delights from 15 February to 22 March, with emerging First Nations musical artists such as Bec Gollan, Rob Edwards, Katie Aspel, Sonia Smith, Kenneth Wilson and Cat Carter there every Saturday afternoon.

Also, taking place on Saturday 22 March down on the banks of the Coorong is the Dupang festival, which I have had the pleasure of attending a couple of times. I encourage members to head on down there as part of the festival, roll out a swag and, once again, be led by Uncle Moogy Sumner and Aunty Ellen Trevorrow, focusing on cultural events. In the past there has been clap stick making and weaving with Aunty Ellen, and then cultural and festival sessions in the evening with dances led at Long Point/Dupang by Uncle Moogy.

There is also the Dusty Feet Mob from around Port Augusta, who bring their performers, young people aged between six and 31—and 31 is now a young person to me, sir, and I am sure to you as well—who use the power of dance, particularly, to tell stories of the stolen generations. I am sure many members have been at Sorry Day breakfasts or other events where they have seen the Dusty Feet Mob perform.

Probably the most exciting event, perhaps, of this year's Fringe is Umeewarra Downtown Aboriginal Music Festival on 15 March in Port Augusta. It is a family-friendly event and it is priced very competitively, so much so that I think even the Hon. Russell Wortley would attend: it's free, absolutely free to go to. Listen to the line-up for this event, the Umeewarra Downtown Aboriginal Music Festival: Dem Mob from the APY lands, a hip-hop outfit who have performed in this very building, in the old chamber of Parliament House just last year, just before they went on to perform,

I think, in Toronto and New York. I know that members of this chamber have seen Dem Mob perform at Umuwa on the APY lands last year, an absolute up and coming trio.

Next, TCD himself, the legendary country music singer-songwriter, Troy Cassar Daley is performing; with Nancy Bates, award-winning musician and 2025 Fringe Ambassador; and Warren Milera, a Narrunga and Adnyamathanha country music singer-songwriter star. If that wasn't good enough, the Iwiri choir—many members of the APY community who are living in Adelaide for various reasons including for medical treatment will showcase their multigenerational choir that I know many members of this chamber have indulged in before.

These acts will be supported by people like Katie Aspel, Eddie Peters, Ellie Lovegrove, Tyson Fielding, Udi Mathanha, Rob Edwards, Sonya Rankine, the Red Wing Band, Flinders Country, Sound Factory, and the MC with the most, who is regularly in South Australia hosting events, Luke Carrol, who many people know from Play School amongst other things that Luke Carrol has hosted. This year is an absolute cracker for First Nations performers at the Adelaide Fringe and I would encourage as many members of this chamber to do themselves a favour and get involved.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Hon. C. BONAROS (14:56): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, representing the Minister for Child Protection, a question about the removal of children from their parents in cases of criminal neglect.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: It was reported in ABC News this morning that a woman has been charged with the criminal neglect of her one-year-old daughter after she was found with maggots in her dirty nappy and severe rash from her waist to her feet as a result. The article cites the judge's remarks during sentencing wherein it was disclosed that, despite a July 2023 visit from a DCP social worker in which the woman's two young children were observed to be wearing urine-soaked pyjamas and suffering from nappy rash, no action was taken to remove the children from the woman's care.

A subsequent police search of the woman's house uncovered a pipe and a small bag of crystalline substance in her bedroom, whilst a DCP spokesperson chose to not respond directly to questions about the incident, suggesting, and I quote, that 'the safety of children in the department is the department's highest priority'. My questions to the minister are:

1. Is the minister aware of the reasoning and rationale behind the decision to not take action to remove the children from care in July 2023 and, if so, what are those reasons?
2. How did having safety as a paramount principle help the child who has been the subject of these criminal charges in this matter?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (14:58): I will refer the question to the minister in the other place and bring back a response.

RECIDIVISM

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (14:58): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Attorney-General regarding recidivism.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON: Last week, *The Advertiser* reported that a newly paroled child sex offender was, and I quote, 'caught by an undercover police sting'. The man was arrested last Tuesday and charged with communicating with the intention of procuring a child for sexual activity online and producing child exploitation material. My questions to the minister are:

1. Is the government doing enough to stop recidivist offenders of these sickening offences?
2. Is the four years out of six years maximum sentence the offender received, as reported by *The Advertiser*, a sufficient deterrent to other individuals who may be looking to offend in a similar nature?

3. What confidence does the Attorney-General have in the justice system preventing members of the South Australian community from being subjected to repeat sexual offenders?

4. What changes to bail conditions is the Attorney-General considering given the increase of reoffending rates?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (14:59): I thank the honourable member for her question. I will answer I think it was the second-last question first. 'What confidence should South Australia have that the government is doing all they can to protect the community from repeat sexual offenders?' the honourable member asked. I can tell you: they should have much more confidence than they have had before and particularly under the previous government in relation to repeat sexual offenders.

Let me go through one instance of what this government has done in terms of repeat sexual offenders, seeing that the honourable member asked that. We have passed legislation initiated by this government to make sure that repeat serious sexual offenders face indefinite detention and then the possibility of lifetime electronic monitoring. So what is the government doing about repeat sexual offenders? Quite a lot, actually. That is in addition to the many other penalties that have been significantly increased, the work I talked about in protecting children from sexual offenders and predators in the workplace. So what have we done in relation to repeat sexual offenders? Much, much more than the previous government did.

I will take the opportunity while I am here, seeing everyone has asked about it today, to repeat the differences between Labor in government and Liberal in government. I am happy to talk about it again.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: We will go through it again so it is well understood. Liberal in government slash police funds by tens of millions of dollars. Labor in government increases them.

COUNTRY PRESS SA AWARDS

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister tell the chamber about the Country Press SA awards held last Friday?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:01): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in regional matters. It was great to be with him in Murray Bridge for some of—I think it was—last week. His ongoing interest is always very valued.

It was wonderful to attend yet another Country Press SA awards night last Friday at the Hilton in the CBD. I first attended this event I think in 2019, if I remember correctly, when it was held at the Vine Inn Barossa, and it has been fantastic to continue attending this event each year as minister to celebrate the achievements of the dedicated staff at our country newspapers and also to recognise the excellent work produced each year in a range of categories across journalism and advertising.

For generations country newspapers have been at the heart of regional communities, providing not only the latest information on matters close to home and exploring issues affecting residents but also providing a platform to showcase local achievements, milestones and commemorations. Regional newspapers focus on the unique dynamics and concerns of their communities, allowing readers to stay informed about many things, be they politics, council decisions, community events or the local footy or netball results.

Country media plays an integral role in ensuring the voices of regional communities are heard and not overshadowed by city media, and they serve as a vital tool for community engagement and participation. They are a forum for residents to share their opinions, concerns and perspectives through letters to the editor, fostering local pride and solidarity. As someone who grew up and lives in the South-East of the state, I certainly understand the importance of local media outlets in regional communities.

Regional media is also a haven for journalistic talent, and that is evident in the high quality of work that was celebrated at the awards last Friday. This government is proud to support Country Press SA as it acknowledges the achievements of those who work so hard to inform and deliver a quality product to their communities. Our South Australian regional communities account for 30 per cent of the state's population, so it is important that we have effective communication channels for our regional communities.

I would like to congratulate the following fantastic regional newspapers and journalists who took home an award, or in some case more than one award, last Friday: the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* won best community advertising promotion; best news photo, by Rachel Hagan; and best road safety reporting, by Michelle Daw. *The Leader* won best advertisement—image/branding; best advertisement—priced product; best photo, by Pete Thornton; and best headline. *The Barossa Mag* won best community profile and best special publication. *The Courier* won best advertising feature and best editorial writing.

The *Fleurieu Sun* was the winner of best front page. James Murphy from *The Penola Pennant* won best sports photo. Sophie Conlon from *Limestone Coast Today* won young journalist of the year; special congratulations to Sophie. Special mention to *The Murray Pioneer*, which won best newspaper in the large category, and to Alexandra Bull from *The Murray Pioneer*, who won the excellence in journalism award. Special mention also to *The Murray Valley Standard*, which won best newspaper in the smaller category, and to Krystal Hender from that newspaper, who won best sports story.

I was very pleased that Tony Piccolo, the new candidate for Ngadjuri and current member for Light, was also at the awards. He has been a longtime supporter of these awards, sponsoring an award for I think as long as I have been attending this particular event. A number of opposition MPs were also at the event. I would like to congratulate all those who were recognised at last week's awards, including those who were placegetters or received commendations that I have not mentioned. I look forward to another year of fantastic regional journalism, and thank all our regional papers for the work they do in building thriving regional communities across South Australia.

REGIONAL HOUSING

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (15:05): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on the topic of regional housing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Yesterday, the ABC reported that regional housing shortages are being exacerbated by the lack of essential infrastructure, such as sewerage, water supply and power. Kingston District Council has said that such infrastructure projects will be multimillion dollar ventures that are far beyond councils' financial capacity to deliver.

The National Regional Housing Summit last year heard evidence that small towns have plenty of residential land available, but a lack of infrastructure has made them not ready for development. The government's own document from 2023, *A Better Housing Future*, states there is strong demand for housing in regional towns and, according to data from the Valuer-General, the median house prices for regional SA have increased by 14 per cent over the last 12 months. My questions, therefore, to the Minister for Regional Development are:

1. What communication has the minister had with these regional councils?
2. What action has she taken to ensure they have the infrastructure they need, or is this just another case of 'that's not her job'?

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for his question. He asked what engagement I have had with councils and I am pleased to say that I engage very regularly with councils across the state, whether that be through formal forums, and that could include things such as our country cabinet forums, through one-on-one meetings or other mechanisms.

I think it is something the Malinauskas Labor government has taken a strong lead on in terms of addressing the housing crisis. We established the Office for Regional Housing very early in our term and of course the things that that office is looking at include those very matters—the infrastructure. As a government we have been looking at those now for several years.

A number of initiatives have already been announced. Of course, we have a vast state, but to mention a few: over on the Eyre Peninsula they are facing severe threats to their water supply, with the basin getting to unsustainably low levels, which is why there is going to be a desal plant finally constructed on the Eyre Peninsula—incredibly important for water security for existing residents, not to mention expanding developments. I think there is a strong focus from this government. I am pleased that we work as a team across this government, because we are keen to be able to deliver for all South Australians. We have a strong focus on our regional communities and will continue to do so.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:08): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Attorney-General regarding bail for youth offenders in South Australia.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD: Sir, you might be aware that recent court statistics obtained by the opposition have revealed that youth offenders have breached their bail on more than 1,300 occasions in the past year alone. This equates to a 60 per cent increase in the failure of young people to comply with their important bail conditions in just 12 months. The police commissioner, Grant Stevens, has remarked on ABC radio, in relation to previous statistics, that:

I do think we're seeing increasing incidents of young people involved in serious crime...we do have this cohort of very young children who seem to be operating in the absence of any sort of parental control or supervision, out at all hours of the night committing offences and that is a real challenge for us. There is a presumption under the Young Offenders Act that young offenders are given every opportunity to be kept out of the criminal justice system and not retained in custody which does create some difficulties for us with some of these kids who continually come to our attention.

In addition, following the release of the statistics I mentioned above concerning bail violations of youth offenders in the order of 1,300 for the year, the police commissioner has further stated, and I quote:

I would certainly agree that continual release on bail for serious offenders would give them a sense of impunity in relation to their criminal offending...[There is also] a perception that there is an absence of consequence for those behaviours. [This] means we have to deal with those recidivist offenders time and time again.

My questions to the Attorney are:

1. Does the Attorney agree with the police commissioner's publicly stated opinion that there is a perception that an absence of consequences for youth who commit crimes and are continually given bail has become noticeable and, in his words, 'a problem'?
2. Does the state government view it as acceptable that 1,300 bail breaches by youth offenders have occurred in the last year alone, representing an increase of some 60 per cent?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (15:10): I thank the honourable member for his question, and his continued and ongoing interest in community safety in South Australia. In relation to youth offending, it is the case that I think the statistics show that South Australia has the second lowest youth offender rate in Australia just after the ACT but, as the honourable member has pointed out—and I think the police commissioner a couple of times has made public comment—there is a small cohort of offenders who are responsible for quite a large number of that offending. Certainly, that is something that is of concern. It is something that I have discussed a couple of times with the police commissioner, and we are looking at ways to tackle that.

Whilst some comfort can and should be taken that we have—after the ACT, which is generally a relatively safe jurisdiction—the lowest youth offending rate in the country, the fact that there are that small cohort who are responsible for such a large proportion of offending is of concern, and it is something that we have discussed and are looking at what action can be taken.

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Will the minister inform the council about some recent sporting achievements in the community?

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE (Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Autism, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:11): I thank the honourable member for her question and interest in our sporting success. This week has been an incredible showcase of sporting excellence at a national, state and local level. While national teams have delivered some thrilling results, I want to take a moment to highlight the outstanding performances which continue to make South Australia a true sporting powerhouse. Focusing on our national achievements first, the Young Socceroos made history by scoring their first-ever AFC Under 20s Asian Cup title.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: Absolutely. I understand it came down to a penalty shootout, and we became the winners of that incredible tournament. I especially congratulate the six South Australians from this team on this historic win. Staying overseas for the moment, I also congratulate the Jillaroos, who are our national women's rugby league team, on their stunning victory in Las Vegas as part of the NRL promotional match. I understand, in a spectacular performance, the Jillaroos dominated England 90-4, in what has been described as the perfect performance. It doesn't get much better than that.

Turning to state cricket, I was thrilled to attend the one day cup final with my family where South Australia celebrated a long-awaited victory in the inaugural Dean Jones Trophy, defeating Victoria on Saturday night. I understand it has been over a decade since the South Australian team has lifted a major trophy, making this win even more significant. Under the leadership of coach Ryan Harris, the team delivered a stellar performance. This triumph is a testament to the hard work of the players and coaching staff, and I extend my congratulations to the entire squad for this achievement.

Switching now to the AFL preseason, South Australian fans were treated to two exciting match-ups that set the tone for the upcoming season. I understand the Adelaide Crows pulled off a remarkable come-from-behind victory—yes, finally—against Brisbane Lions, a result that will give Crows supporters like me, and many others in the chamber, some hope for this season ahead.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. E.S. BOURKE: Absolutely. While I am mentioning the great Crows, 30 March will be a game not to miss, as the Crows will be playing a game dedicated to the emergency services, where over 3,000 tickets will be made available to emergency service personnel and volunteers. I thank the Crows for making this opportunity available and encourage members in the chamber to extend that offer to members in the community. It is a great one to get behind.

Soccer fans also had an exciting week, with Adelaide United involved in a thrilling 4-all draw against Auckland. I understand the high-scoring encounter highlighted the attacking strength of both teams, providing fans with an entertaining game. At a local level, I am pleased to advise—back on Yorke—that the Paskeville-Boors Plains Cricket Club became the A and B grade premiers. That would have been a big night in town. I understand that Mallala are also through to the Barossa and Light Cricket Association A1 grand final, after defeating Sandy Creek in the semi-final, to play South Gawler on 22 March.

Beyond the weekly fixtures, South Australia continues to establish itself as a premier sporting destination, bringing significant attention, tourism and economic benefits to our state. With so many outstanding performances and events taking place, both internationally and locally, South Australia continues to showcase its passion and excellence in sport.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:15): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Attorney-General about privacy breaches of legal practitioners.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: On 29 November 2023, the Attorney-General in this place and the Deputy Premier, Dr Susan Close, in the other place, tabled the annual report of the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal on its proceedings to the year ended 30 June 2023. It appears that nobody in the Attorney-General's office nor the Deputy Premier's read the document or knew of its damaging contents.

It is a normal practice that the document includes a confidential memorandum to the Attorney-General, the Chief Justice and the LPDT. The normal practice is that it contains a schedule A on concluded matters, which included the publication of names of legal practitioners. Schedule B lists current matters, but no names are published for privacy reasons or where privacy and confidentiality orders would apply. In an egregious error, the 2023 report included names and details of legal practitioners whose matters had not been concluded and where privacy orders would have applied—among them, Mr Enzo Belperio, who is facing allegations before the LPDT of sexual harassment.

In his judgement, the Chief Justice relied upon the published contents under parliamentary privilege to support the conclusion that Mr Belperio's name was already in the public domain and so denied Mr Belperio a suppression order on the allegations until the matter was finalised, but it seems by this blunder that Mr Belperio was denied due process. Other practitioners named may also have grievances at the publication of their names before the matters were heard or finalised.

The then president of the South Australian Bar Association, Marie Shaw KC, was so concerned at this breach and the implications of the information being disseminated widely in the community that she contacted the chair of the Professional Responsibility Committee, Andrew Tokley KC, and then in August 2024 she wrote to the presiding member of the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal, Maurine Pyke KC, seeking an explanation.

Ms Pyke responded on 19 August 2024 admitting there had been an error, that the confidential memorandum had been tabled and that she would request that it be uplifted (whatever that means), and long after the horse had bolted, and also requested an inquiry as to whether confidential memoranda has been tabled previously and, if so, that they be uplifted (whatever that entails). I now seek leave to table the affidavit of Marie Shaw KC, made on 30 August 2024, which includes the correspondence with Ms Pyke.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: My question to the Attorney-General—

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, ask your questions, please.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: Thank you. The question:

1. Can he explain how this serious error occurred? Why didn't he or his bureaucrats read the report and pick up the egregious mistake before it was tabled in both houses?
2. Can he ask: when was the Chief Justice first made aware of the report and its damaging contents?
3. Has he had contact with Ms Pyke about this error?
4. What is he doing about it, including the uplifting—if he can explain what that means?
5. Is he acting on her request for an inquiry?
6. When can parliament expect to see the findings?
7. On how many other occasions has this occurred with these LPDT reports?
8. Has the Law Society lodged a complaint or raised concerns with him about the breaches of confidentiality through the tabling of the 2023 report or others?

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr Pangallo, that was not a brief explanation at all. It may well have been something that you could have prosecuted through Matters of Interest. That was possibly the longest explanation and question that I have heard in this place in my time.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Attorney-General, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, Special Minister of State) (15:20): In relation to the report that dates back to last year, I am happy to take it on notice and bring back a reply.

Matters of Interest

BRIGHT FUTURES

The Hon. T.T. NGO (15:21): Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a dinner event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bright Futures. Bright Futures is an Australian-based Christian aid and development agency dedicated to providing education and development opportunities for children and communities in poverty. They work with overseas development partners to offer a variety of programs tailored to local needs, including schooling, health clinics, clean water projects, vocational training, self-help groups and disability programs.

Currently, Bright Futures operates in four countries: India, Pakistan, Kenya and Uganda. Twenty years ago, in 2005, nearly 50 people gathered at the home of Paul and Barbara Madden in Para Hills. It was a breakfast barbecue, and the purpose of the invitation was somewhat unclear—most attendees did not quite know what to expect.

The reason for the gathering dates back another 10 years, when Paul and Barbara befriended Pastor Paul Raj in India. Pastor Raj was educating children from local rock quarries, in the front room of his home on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. By 2005, the school had moved from Pastor Raj's front room to dedicated premises and had grown to several hundred students. Paul and Barbara felt compelled to establish a fundraising vehicle in Australia to ensure the school thrived and continued its transformational work among Bangalore's impoverished communities. On that morning, Bright Futures Child Aid & Development Fund was established.

Since then, the fund has grown and is now supporting its partners to alleviate suffering among some of the world's most disadvantaged, especially children. More than \$5 million has been remitted through the generous donations of Bright Futures' supporters. At the core of Bright Futures' philosophy is empowerment: working with established community-based agencies to deliver services ranging from schools and vocational education to health care. Bright Futures aims to create greater capacity and resilience in the communities they serve.

Having fled a war zone myself at a similar age, I can connect to the South Sudanese refugee students. Thanks to the generosity of Bright Futures donors, these students are being educated. In 2023, a special milestone was reached for Bright Futures and its partner, Dorcas Creation, with the opening of the Women's Empowerment Centre in Nairobi. Constructed from old shipping containers, the centre aims to offer space to train and empower women to rise out of poverty. Today, Bright Futures continues to support the work of its partners, which includes:

- educating 10,000 students from quarries and other impoverished areas;
- providing small business training to 250 adult women from quarries and villages, while developing their skills in handicrafts and jewellery making;
- delivering health care through collaboration with other agencies, which helped 3,500 people to access a range of healthcare services; and
- a healthcare centre established in 2016 in northern Uganda for health checks of about 4,000 adults and children annually in rural areas.

In more recent times, Bright Futures is working to raise funds to assist Bangalore City Mission to help build a second school campus in Rajankunte on land that was donated by the local government. It is hoped that, once built, the school will offer vocational training, medical clinics, water projects and self-help groups. All these achievements would not be possible without Paul and Barbara Madden. They are unsung heroes of South Australia, quietly working in the background.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the donors and supporters who have generously supported Bright Futures over the years. Without their kindness and generosity, none of this would be possible. I also want to thank the current CEO, Mr Jack Snelling, and patron of Bright

Futures, former Governor of South Australia Hon. Hieu Van Le, for their tireless efforts and dedication.

HOUSING CRISIS

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (15:25): When it comes to housing, the government has been talking the talk without walking the walk. It has made grand announcements about land releases, a Housing Roadmap and a review into the public housing maintenance contracts, without producing the housing people need.

South Australia has a housing affordability crisis that is only getting worse under the Malinauskas Labor government. It spent the summer cherrypicking approvals data and talking about housing developments that will not be completed for years, instead of delivering real relief for South Australians. The most recent dwelling commencement data out of the ABS shows that dwelling commencements are coming in consistently lower than the five-year average, and this government does not want metrics because they do not want to be held accountable.

There has been a lot of commentary about how federal Labor's Housing Accord is in tatters: a promise of 1.2 million homes over five years translating to 84,000 houses in South Australia, or nearly 17,000 per annum, from the years 2024-25 through until 2028-29. The clock is ticking and what we know from the government so far is that, 'We don't have much detail about that, other than what the federal government has said publicly. They have not engaged us with any specific amounts.' That is neglect.

We have no target for how many houses should be built in South Australia, even though over 95 per cent of homes are built by the private sector, there is no target for how many skilled building and construction workers are needed in South Australia and there are no targets for the volumes of construction materials we need to ensure that home building remains cost competitive. In housing, as in everything else in life, if you fail to plan you are planning to fail.

If we turn to the record land release of February 2023, when will those first homes be built? We know that in February 2023, Labor announced the sites which are to accommodate new housing. Before making the announcement, Labor ministers did not even bother to check critical infrastructure capacity, particularly SA Water's water and sewerage network. This is important information because it signals whether one of the major elements in being able to start construction is there.

Two years down the track, infrastructure deeds have only just been signed for the Onkaparinga Heights site, which was the most development-ready of those four sites. The minister himself has conceded that building on the site will not start until 2026 at the earliest, which is a full three years since the grandiose announcement.

During the entirety of its term, the Malinauskas government will not have built a single home on its proclaimed land release sites. A number of building sites featured in Labor press releases are products of Marshall government decisions, which my colleague the member for Colton outlined today, but the list of Peter Malinauskas' government housing fails keeps growing.

It delayed by three years the Marshall government's renewal program at Seaton, letting public housing tenants languish in poor housing and leading to costly delays for those builds which will be borne by subsequent home owners. It has axed our extension of the emergency domestic and family violence accommodation program from 31 to 100 beds, which we announced in February 2022. It has failed to develop an alternative emergency hotel and motel accommodation program based on the successful DV crisis program. It failed to pay tradies for work done on public housing, while delaying repairs for tenants. It failed to develop a model for those in hotels to access private rental assistance.

It has delayed major developments at Bowden and Aldinga by 12 months, causing costly delays for those builds, which will be borne by home owners. It has delayed South Australia's first build-to-rent project, 140 apartments at Park Court at Eastwood. It ignored the pleas of HomeBuilder recipients who were about to lose their new builds. It outbid local builders for sites at the West End Brewery and the Franklin Street bus depot. It has cost local builders who had bid for those hundreds of thousands of dollars, driving some of them out of South Australia.

It did not check with SA Water before rushing to announce greenfield sites, and it is pushing up water prices in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis for water infrastructure. The Premier said, when he announced his road map, that he was shocked about the lack of capacity for SA Water to provide housing. He said this on the ABC:

...at some point someone's got to pay to put some pipes in the ground so homes can get connected, and we've been kicking this can down the road over a sustained period and those days have got to come to an end...

This contrasts with an SA Water official who said, 'We have been gearing up for this amount of growth for a very long time,' when questioned about the SA Water network at Budget and Finance. I will have more to say on these matters in future.

PARENTAL PRIMACY

The Hon. S.L. GAME (15:31): I believe that reasserting the rights of parents in educating their children is a particularly serious and pressing issue at this time. I have spoken a great deal about parental primacy in this chamber, and I intend to do so again today. Parental primacy means that parents, not schools, are the prime educators of their children when it comes to moral and ethical issues, especially concerning gender and sexuality.

The prime authority that parents have to guide their kids in moral and ethical issues is being threatened now like never before. That is why last year I presented to this chamber my parental primacy bill. The bill seeks to do two things: ban gender fluidity teaching in the South Australian education system and reaffirm the role of parents to educate their children when it comes to moral and ethical issues.

Why ban gender fluidity in schools? Because it is an insidious ideology that is destroying the lives of thousands of young people through hormone therapy and surgical castration. Governments around the world are now putting a stop to the gender medicalisation of minors. More and more young people who have de-transitioned are now calling out for justice, revealing how they were isolated from their families by gender clinics and pressured to undergo irreversible surgical procedures, something they and their families will have to live with for the rest of their lives.

This ideology, the ideology that gender is fluid and can be changed according to a child's feelings, is being taught in our classrooms without the knowledge or consent of parents. Education has been increasingly ideologically driven rather than facts driven. It has been used as an agent for social and political change rather than a chance to give every student the best start in life. This is serious overreach, and it has to stop. At a time when Australian students are failing to meet basic standards of numeracy and literacy, schools need to forget about ideology and give our young people a strong foundation in real knowledge so they can succeed in life, not encourage students to focus on what type of sex partner they want to be.

This parliament needs to face the reality that our education system has increasingly sidelined parents and pushed views about sexuality and gender onto children when they had no right to. My bill will make sure that when schools teach children anything to do with moral and ethical standards, political and social values, or matters of personal wellbeing and identity, they teach them from a non-ideological standpoint. The bill would enshrine in South Australian law article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which says:

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

This is not a radical proposal: this is bringing South Australian law in line with an international covenant that Australia signed in 1980, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Let me stress that the idea that parents, not schools, are primarily in charge of the moral and ethical teaching of their children is not a controversial position for the majority of people. When my parental primacy bill was first introduced, *The Advertiser* ran a poll that showed that 90 per cent of the over 600 respondents agreed that parents should be in charge of guiding their children on moral and ethical matters, not schools.

Again, I stress that this is not some policy from the far right of politics, this is not just a One Nation issue: this is what South Australian families want. People are sick of their children being

force-fed gender ideology at school. I have parents emailing my office regularly saying that they live in fear of what might be taught to their children without their knowledge or consent. They are rightly disturbed at the lack of transparency in our schools' education programs.

The fact is that it is currently extremely difficult for anyone to actually find out what is being taught in classrooms. It is virtually impossible to get a copy of the curriculum taught by the government's approved sexual education providers.

My parental primacy bill will ensure that class material is approved in advance by parents so that no school gets away with teaching material like we saw in Renmark last year, exposing year 9 girls to the concept of bestiality and images of transgender surgery. After what happened in Renmark many parents, like Kristy Fyfe, have completely lost confidence in the state's education system—and, as a parent myself, I empathise with them.

Section 82F of my bill forces schools to be transparent with parents about what they are teaching kids on moral and ethical issues. I quote from the bill:

Before the commencement of a school year, the principal of a government school must give notice of...content relating to matters of parental primacy that is intended to be taught to students

Time expired.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTING EVENTS

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (15:36): In the first few months of this year, sports lovers from all around Australia and from around the world have come, and will continue to come, to South Australia to take in a veritable carnival of sport. The AFL's Gather Round and the groundbreaking LIV Golf are proven success stories for this state, all through the initiative of a Labor government that has no problem seeing the big picture.

Of course, there have been a few people questioning the money being spent on sport, supposedly at the expense of art, culture and development. Under Labor governments the Adelaide Festival has continued to grow and maintain its place as one of the world's great art festivals, the Fringe has become the second largest festival of its type in the world and, launched under a Labor government more than 30 years ago, WOMAD has become a major musical event not just in Australia but a major event around the world. Thousands of people are also enjoying Writers Week as I speak at this very moment. These events coexist to create a magnet, drawing anyone to Australia who is interested in the performing arts and a theatre experience.

At what cost has this month-long extravaganza of creative arts come? None: they pay for themselves and pump more than a hundred million dollars into the state's economy every year. The Adelaide 500 brings thousands of visitors and millions of dollars into the state economy every year, but the Liberal Party axed it for reasons that we still do not understand.

We put money into running these events, but they return so much more than the relatively small investment made by the government. Of course, we brought the 500 back once elected, and look at it now: it gives Adelaide yet another event where the city thrives and the economy booms. The latest figures available show that the race gave the South Australian economy a \$61.6 million boost in 2023.

As for infrastructure and development, more has been done to bring Adelaide into the 21st century under this and former Labor governments than can be articulated in this speech. From expressways—creating them and fixing them—to the increasingly impressive cityscape, Labor has done Adelaide proud. Nobody has missed out because of these sporting spectacles, so anyone who thinks Gather Round and LIV Golf come at a cost is simply looking for an argument where there is none.

Let us be realistic and just look at the facts: these two sporting events have been a huge success for South Australia. Gather Round was supposed to be a one-year deal before it went on rotation around Australia but, after the huge success of the inaugural round in 2023, even those interstate people with their own parochial interests acknowledged how good it was and that it should stay here. Melbourne football people supported Adelaide, that is exactly how well it went.

This April an AFL match will be held in the Barossa Valley for the first time. You do not need to be an economist to understand how much this does for local tourism. Interstaters and people from all over South Australia will book overnight accommodation at Lyndoch, Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Angaston, plus other places, and make a weekend of it. The cafes will be full, winery and cellar doors inundated, and the restaurants, like the hotels and motels, will be booked out. For those interstaters who have never been to the Barossa, it will be a promotion that money cannot buy.

The Premier's hard work in locking in Gather Round when it was expected to move on has been a windfall for the state, so has negotiating LIV Golf for Adelaide. This football carnival comes on the heels of attracting thousands of people over three days to see the world's best golfers teeing off at the Grange golf links. Gather Round attracted 267,000 spectators in 2024. LIV Golf attracted 90,000 last year and it appears even higher numbers this year. That is more than 350,000 people, many from interstate and overseas.

To put that into perspective, the corresponding AFL round attendance in 2022, the year before Gather Round started, attracted 23,000 people to see Port Adelaide host Melbourne at Adelaide Oval. In Gather Round 2024, four matches were played at Adelaide Oval over four consecutive days and the lowest crowd was more than 43,000.

It does not matter which way you look at it, getting these two massive sporting events to Adelaide has been a win-win for the state; keeping them has been perhaps an even greater achievement. The Premier rolled his sleeves up and convinced the respective organisers of the benefits of having them stay in South Australia. There is not much more to say. I hope you enjoyed the golf and see you at the footy.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS

The Hon. B.R. HOOD (15:40): I rise today to speak on an issue that is becoming more dire by the day: the cost of doing business crisis that is crushing South Australian businesses under this Labor government. Across our state, the message from business owners is loud and clear: 'We are struggling to keep our doors open and our staff employed.' According to ASIC insolvency data, 319 South Australian businesses entered external administration or had a controller appointed in the financial year to 31 December 2024. That is 319 businesses forced to make a gut-wrenching decision, businesses that once thrived now pushed to the brink because of skyrocketing costs and government inaction.

This economic decline is not an accident, it is a direct result of a government that has failed to step up, failed to offer real solutions and failed to shield businesses and families from financial stress. One of the biggest culprits in this crisis is a relentless rise of power prices. The Australian Energy Regulator's quarterly report lays it out in black and white. Since Peter Malinauskas took office, power prices have soared by 28.3 per cent. South Australians are now paying some of the highest electricity costs in the nation and this government's only energy policy, one which they admit was not even going to reduce power prices anyway, has been scrapped.

For hospitality businesses, cafes, pubs and restaurants, this is the difference between keeping the lights on and shutting up shop. The statistics from CreditorWatch show that hospitality industries have been hit hardest by business insolvencies, and what is this government doing about it? Well, not much. It seems their only solution in this term to ease the burden on businesses is Small Business Week, a week of free networking events. That is their solution while businesses shut down in droves. Let's hear what an actual business owner had to say about this. Oliver Brown, an Adelaide hospitality operator, responded to the government's inaction by saying he has not used any of these so-called programs in the past six months, and why? Because, in his words:

Attending an annual Small Business Week isn't really going to help me fight rising wages, cost of goods, increased insurance, or reduced patronage due to a reduction in consumer spending.

What business owners really need is real relief. They need cost-of-living solutions, or cost-of-business solutions, that help them keep their doors open. They need a government that will act to bring down electricity costs, not stand idly by while the bills spiral out of control. They need a government that will address payroll tax and excise tax, not funnel taxpayer money into sporting ovals while businesses are left to rot. Labor's rhetoric does not match reality.

The Premier wants the public to believe that the South Australian hospitality industry is growing, but tell that to the owners of Four Sides Bar and Kitchen, Fishbank, Miss Viet Kitchen, Gang Gang, Lost in a Forest, Crack Kitchen, Big Shed Brewing, Midnight Spaghetti, Stem restaurant, Bali Thai—the list goes on. More than 20 hospitality businesses have shut their doors recently. This industry is vital to our state's economy. Hospitality is more than just a sector; it is the heartbeat of our communities, both metro and regional. It provides jobs, fosters local culture and brings people together. It employs young people like my daughters and yet under Labor we are watching the heartbeat fade. The Premier is happy to front up to cameras for LIV Golf and Gather Round—and do not get me wrong, they are great events—but where is he when business owners need him? Nowhere to be found.

The SA Liberals, though, do have policy. A Tarzia Liberal government will boost group training. We will guarantee funding for construction training. We will provide mentors for apprentices and supervisors. We will reduce payroll tax exemptions for trainees and apprentices, with many more complementary policies coming in the pipeline.

Without real leadership businesses will continue to close, jobs will continue to be lost and our communities will suffer. South Australians cannot trust the government to bring hope to struggling businesses, but I can tell you one thing: a Liberal government will step up to the plate. We will deliver. We know and will support small business, because many on our side have actually run small businesses. To the small and family business community in South Australia, we have your back. We will not let you and the South Australian economy be suffocated under the weight of Labor's failures.

RAMADAN

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (15:45): On Saturday 1 March, millions of Muslims around the world commenced the holiest period of the year, Ramadan. I want to convey my good wishes to the South Australian Muslim community on the advent of this blessed month.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and holds a special place in the hearts of Muslims worldwide. It is one of the most sacred times for us. It is a time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline and heightened family and community connection. For Muslims, the month is also a time of charity, good deeds and worship. It is a time for increased devotion to prayer and reflection, with the aim of deepening our connection to faith.

Fasting in Islam, known as sawm or siyam, is a practice of abstaining from food and drink, or anything that substitutes for food and drink. For those Muslims who are fit, healthy and able to do so, fasting is from dawn until sunset. A predawn meal, known as suhoor, provides nourishment for the day ahead. No food or water should be consumed until the breaking of the fast, or iftar, at dusk, which consists of a meal shared with loved ones. It is typical to break one's fast with dates and water or milk, followed by a meal. It is also common to spend time with friends and family after iftar, enjoying one another's company and eating delicious foods together before the next day's fast.

If you have never experienced Ramadan or seen how it is celebrated by communities, then it may sound strange when I say this period of fasting is one of our favourite times of the year. Anyone who has come to my office recently and seen my Ramadan decorations will know this. Despite the difficulties of fasting, Ramadan is a very special time that many look forward to, including myself. The shared experience of fasting and of gathering for iftar strengthens bonds of friendship and solidarity within Muslim communities, fostering a sense of unity and support. This is why you will find many of our Muslim communities have arranged iftar dinners for their communities, and I am sure some of you would have received an invite to join them.

In Australia the Muslim community comes together to celebrate Ramadan in a variety of ways. Mosques become bustling centres of activity, hosting nightly Taraweeh prayers and providing spiritual guidance to the faithful. Families gather at home or in community centres for iftar, eagerly awaiting the call to prayer to break their fast.

Ramadan in Australia is not limited to the Muslim community alone. Non-Muslim Australians often join their Muslim friends and neighbours for iftar, fostering a sense of unity and understanding. This inclusivity is a testament to the multicultural fabric of Australian society.

Fasting during Ramadan is not only about abstaining from food and drink, it is a practice in self-discipline, empathy and compassion. It is a time to think of the poor, sick and suffering and to express solidarity with them. By experiencing hunger and thirst, Muslims gain a deeper appreciation for the blessings of food and a duty to help those less fortunate.

Zakat, which is a giving to charity, is an important part of Ramadan. I also take this moment to acknowledge that, for many Muslim new arrivals to South Australia, Ramadan may seem a little different this year for you, especially if you are from a country where celebrating Ramadan is the norm. In many Muslim countries the celebration of Ramadan touches all members of society. Every morning of Ramadan the musaharati, which is a traditional neighbourhood drummer, will walk the streets before dawn playing the drum and calling everyone to wake up for the morning meal before fasting.

Neighbours in apartment buildings will take turns hosting iftar, and schools may change their schedules to better accommodate fasting students and staff. Having your first Ramadan away from that world and being away from immediate or extended family can feel alienating. I encourage you to take this opportunity to reach out to your community and to share your culture. No-one should feel isolated during this blessed month.

Finally, to all the Muslims around the world, but particularly in Palestine, I wish you a peaceful month. It was heartwarming to see a table stretching several hundred metres, carving a path through mounds of rubble in southern Gaza, as families gathered to break their fast during the first day of Ramadan as an example of strength and resilience. Ramadan Mubarak.

YOUTH CRIME

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:50): I rise to speak on a matter that has been of great concern to the South Australian community and seems to be increasingly so in recent times, and that is the very important issue of the youth crime problem in South Australia. Alarming new court statistics have revealed that youth offenders have breached their bail on more than 1,300 occasions in the past year, as I outlined in question time, which reflects the true extent of our state's youth crime crisis.

This data, which was released by the Courts Administration Authority, indicates a significant and unacceptable increase in the failure of young people to comply with bail conditions, from 857 offences in 2021-22 to 1,375 in 2023, a rise of some 60 per cent. South Australia's youth justice system has been overwhelmed, with close to 6,000 cases—a 50 per cent increase since 2021—with offenders as young as 10 facing court, including a 14 year old who is subject to no less than 131 charges.

The opposition is deeply concerned that youth crime is skyrocketing, due to the current Labor government's insufficient approach to law and order and failure to deal with recidivist offenders. I wholeheartedly concur with Police Commissioner Grant Stevens' take on the matter, who told the media in the wake of these recent revelations:

I would certainly agree that continual release on bail for serious offenders would give them a sense of impunity in relation to their criminal offending. There is also a perception that there is an absence of consequences for those behaviours. [This] means we have to deal with those recidivist offenders time and time again.

We know that our police officers are becoming increasingly frustrated at being powerless to do more to protect South Australians, and this is a situation that is not a new development by any means. In September last year, Commissioner Grant Stevens was on radio regarding escalating youth crime and he said:

I do think we're seeing increasing incidents of young people involved in serious crime, but I do want to provide context that I think the vast majority of young people do the right thing. They don't come to the attention of police. But we do have this cohort of very young children who seem to be operating in the absence of any sort of parental control or supervision, out at all hours of the night committing offences and that is a real challenge for us. There is a presumption under the Youth Offenders Act that young offenders are given every opportunity to be kept out of the criminal justice system and not retained in custody, which does create some difficulties for us with some of these kids who continually come to our attention.

I quote that today because of the significance of the police commissioner making such statements about the problems we have.

My question of the government is: being fully aware of this dilemma and this difficult situation, what is being done to address the problems associated with this specific cohort of young people? Why has not anything substantial transpired to combat youth offending if it has been known for a considerable amount of time, now that the current system appears to be just not sufficient?

The opposition has been calling for an urgent review to address penalties and breach of bail issues. Police cannot be expected to continually arrest the same children or same minors for the same crimes, only to see them released back into the community, putting unsuspecting South Australians at risk. How many chances is enough?

The government needs to take the escalating youth crime issue seriously and, although I commend the fact that it has finally abandoned any move towards raising the age of criminal responsibility, it is clear that youth gangs are running rampant and the state government is not in control of this issue.

The people of our state deserve a far more proactive approach to tackling this problem, and I would like to see some immediate action from the government. This is a very important issue facing South Australians. I have heard talkback radio, as other members would have in recent times, saying that particularly the elderly—there are a few elderly people that I personally have heard say that they are concerned about going to the city on their own, that they avoid it if they can. This is not the South Australia I grew up in. It is not the South Australia that we should expect, and I implore the government to act on this as soon as possible.

Bills

SUMMARY OFFENCES (SAFE ACCESS ZONES FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:55): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Summary Offences Act 1953. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (15:56): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce my private member's bill, the Summary Offences (Safe Access Zones for Places of Worship) Amendment Bill 2025. As members in this place know, Adelaide is renowned throughout Australia, and indeed the world, as the City of Churches. It is fitting that this legislation is being introduced in South Australia. The New South Wales government introduced a nearly identical bill on 11 February 2025 and passed it the following week. I hope this bill receives Labor's support, as the New South Wales bill has in their parliament.

The 2021 census recorded over 100 different religious affiliations in Australia. Notably, 29.8 per cent of Australia's population were born overseas, reflecting our diverse and multicultural society. Among these religious affiliations, 52.1 per cent of Australians identified as Christian, with the Catholic Church (20 per cent) and the Anglican Church (9.8 per cent) being the two largest denominations. Other significant religious groups included Islam (3.2 per cent), Hinduism (2.7 per cent), Buddhism (2.4 per cent), Sikhism (0.8 per cent), and Judaism (0.4 per cent). The fastest growing religious affiliation in Australia is no religion, which accounted for 38.9 per cent of the population in the 2021 census.

This shift reflects the evolving landscape of religious identity in Australia. However, despite these changes, the fundamental right to religious freedom remains a cornerstone of our society. As the well-known song says: 'we are one, but we are many'. South Australia broadly reflects our nation's cultural and ethnic diversity. We take immense pride in our multicultural heritage and our efforts to reconcile the past with South Australian First Nations groups. Our state has historically stood as a beacon of mutual respect and acceptance of different beliefs and religions.

Afghan cameleers, persecuted minority groups such as the Uyghurs and Mandaeans, Sikhs, Rohingyas, and many other refugee communities have all found a safe haven in South Australia.

They have been able to bring their culture, religion and traditions to South Australia, enriching our inclusive and welcoming society.

International human rights law protects the right of every person to practise their religion, including the right to worship, teach and observe their religious beliefs. To fulfil our obligations under international law, all governments have a duty to safeguard the free expression of religious beliefs without interference. This includes taking proactive steps to protect people of faith from hate crimes, discrimination and violence.

This bill represents such a proactive step, responding to disturbing changes in community attitudes and behaviours. Commentators and academics have written extensively about the subtle yet dangerous shifts threatening our long-held freedoms, security and sense of community. International studies show that religious discrimination is on the rise worldwide.

Western democracies, including Australia, are not immune to these troubling trends. Research indicates that extremist and terrorist groups are becoming increasingly active, both in the open, such as the National Socialist Network, and in the shadows of the dark web, such as the Neo-Nazi group Dark Stormer. Not long ago, I held the widespread view that religious freedom in Australia faced no significant threats. At that time, I saw little urgency for enacting a religious discrimination act at the federal level; however, I no longer hold that view.

In the absence of robust federal protections, this bill seeks to protect all South Australians and their places of worship from targeted harassment, threats and violence. Sadly, we have witnessed the rise in antisemitic and anti-Islamic religiously motivated verbal and physical attacks on congregations and places of worship. These include incidents at synagogues, mosques, churches, businesses, cars, private homes, government offices and members of parliament's offices.

The statistics are alarming. Following the 7 October 2023 terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas, South Australia experienced more than a tenfold increase in antisemitic incidents. A December 2024 report in *The Advertiser* highlighted numerous instances of antisemitic graffiti, verbal abuse, threatening messages, stickers and posters. According to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, 54 documented incidents of antisemitism occurred in South Australia in the 12 months leading up to 30 September, up from just five the previous year. Julie Nathan of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry observed, and I quote:

There's always been an underlying mood of anti-Semitism, and I think October 7 kind of unleashed it. People feel they can express negative feelings about Jews.

Last week, ASIO Director-General Mike Burgess addressed the Australian Senate, expressing deep concern over the escalating threat of antisemitism in the country. He emphasised that antisemitic incidents have become the agency's top priority concerning threats to life and societal wellbeing. Burgess highlighted a disturbing shift from harassment and intimidation to direct physical attacks on Jewish communities, including arson and vandalism targeting homes, schools and synagogues. He warned that unchecked antisemitic sentiment could lead to further violence, stressing the irrationality of holding Jewish Australians accountable for actions of the Israeli state.

This marks the first instance during his tenure that a form of racism has been ASIO's primary concern. After a very long period of wilful negligent ignorance, last week 30 Australian universities collectively adopted a comprehensive policy to combat antisemitism, aligning with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. This initiative, developed by the Group of Eight (Go8) universities in consultation with Australia's special envoy to combat antisemitism, Jillian Segal, and Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation director, David Slucki, aims to protect Jewish Australians from discrimination and harassment.

The policy clarifies that while criticism of Israeli government policies is not inherently antisemitic, it crosses the line when it employs harmful stereotypes, calls for the elimination of Israel or Jews, or holds Jewish individuals collectively responsible for Israel's actions. The definition encompasses discrimination, harassment and violence against Jews, including negative stereotypes, hate speech and Holocaust denial. Universities plan to integrate this definition into their complaints and disciplinary processes to address antisemitic incidents effectively.

While these recent incidents have particularly targeted the Jewish community, we have also seen, similarly, appalling attacks on members of other faiths, including Islam, Baha'i and Uyghur communities. In very alarming news, just in today, a 16-year-old boy has been detained in Western Australia for making mass death threats in relation to a new Sydney mosque, which has just opened on the first day of Ramadan. I thank the Hon. Mira El Dannawi for speaking about Ramadan today, and I also thank her for the card that I received. Thank you very much. The Australian Islamic House president, Mazhar Hadid, said, and I quote:

...the community was profoundly concerned by this threat and take it with the utmost seriousness. We also urge the public to...stand united against Islamophobia and all forms of bigotry.

The New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies president, David Ossip, said, and I quote:

The community unequivocally condemned the threat. No Australian should have to fear for their safety when attending their place of worship.

This bill is focused on addressing precisely this issue. We do not want people fearing to go to their place of worship because of these ongoing threats and the feelings of hate that are now being vented towards so many faiths. It is not just Islam and, of course, the Jewish community, we have seen it vented against the Catholic community over the years, particularly in recent times when all the child abuse allegations surfaced against the church. There were threats made against the church and others who were connected with it. That is not what we want: we do not want to see people afraid to go to express their faith in these institutions.

The key provisions of the bill seek to ensure that people of faith can attend their places of worship in safety and free from threats, intimidation, harassment or obstruction. The bill amends the Summary Offences Act 1953 to prohibit behaviour that threatens, intimidates or harasses another person near a place of worship. The New South Wales threat targeted a specific place of worship, so it would be covered by this and by federal law.

The bill would also prohibit the obstruction of a person approaching, entering or leaving protected premises designated as places of worship. Unlike the New South Wales bill, which has been criticised for its lack of locational specificity, my bill explicitly establishes a safe access zone extending 150 metres from a place of worship.

In regard to penalties and enforcement, a person found guilty of an offence under these provisions will face a maximum penalty of \$10,000. The bill grants police the power to direct a person reasonably suspected of engaging in, or preparing to engage in, prohibited behaviour within the safe access zone to leave the area. Police may also direct individuals to vacate a safe access zone if they believe a prohibited behaviour is about to occur. A person who refuses or fails to comply with a police direction faces a maximum penalty of \$10,000. If a person re-enters a safe access zone without reasonable excuse after being directed to leave, they are liable for an additional fine of up to \$10,000.

Safeguards and exemptions: the bill provides police with the necessary enforcement powers to uphold its objectives. Persons conducting religious services within places of worship are exempt from these provisions. The minister has the authority to grant exemptions to individuals or groups with or without conditions, which may later be revoked or varied as necessary.

Australia has a proud tradition that people of all faiths can freely attend their places of worship without fear of harassment or obstruction. Blocking or preventing access to a church, mosque, synagogue or other sacred space is entirely unacceptable and must be addressed with strong legislative measures. Every Australian should feel safe when attending their place of worship. These proposed changes provide meaningful penalties and expand police powers to ensure that all people can practice their beliefs in safety. Religious freedom is not just a principle we uphold, it is a human right we must protect.

This bill has received broad support from representatives of major faiths, legal experts and the wider community. I urge members of the Legislative Council to support this vital legislation reinforcing the values of respect, inclusion and tolerance that define our great state. I commend this bill to the Legislative Council.

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

*Motions***BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT FEES NOTICE**

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:12): I move:

That the fees notice under the Births, Death and Marriages Registration Act 1996, made on 4 December 2024 and laid on the table of this council on 4 February 2025, be disallowed.

I rise today to speak to the disallowance motion. Each year, fees and charges are reviewed and adjusted, usually in line with CPI; however, these increases go well above CPI. The additional revenue appears to be imposed to assist Births, Deaths and Marriages in meeting a \$1 million savings target.

This is an unfair and unnecessary burden on South Australians at times of the most challenging moments of their lives, whether it be a grieving family who is dealing with the emotional and financial toll of losing a loved one, or new parents who are already facing significant financial pressures. New parents or grieving families should not be asked to pay more simply to help balance the state budget based on Labor's overspending. The government should not be using grieving families as a cash grab to fix their budget problems.

The increase per form may seem small in isolation, but the reality is that these costs add up. At a time when South Australians are really struggling with a cost-of-living crisis, the government should be looking for ways to ease financial pressures, not add to them. We are seeing an increase from \$62.50 to \$67.50 for registering changes of name or gender, processing applications for identity acknowledgement certificates, making corrections to entries, or printing any standard form. That is a jump of 8 per cent. Similarly, the cost for printing death certificate extracts or commemorative certificate packages has gone up from \$93.50 to \$98.50, which is a 5.3 per cent increase. For something such as producing a digital historical record, the fee has risen from \$31.25 to \$36.25, a huge 16 per cent increase. This is unacceptable and all well over the CPI expected increase.

This parliament should send a clear message that we are not going to add to the many costs that have been rising during this cost-of-living crisis and these costs that have impacted people during the most vulnerable times of their lives, especially not during this cost-of-living crisis. From my perspective, these increases are unacceptable and should be reversed.

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

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, PORT LINCOLN RSL

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:15): I move:

That this council—

1. Recognises the Garden of Remembrance at the Port Lincoln RSL as a deeply significant site for the local community, providing a space for reflection, remembrance, education and connection for veterans and their families;
2. Commends the tireless efforts of the Port Lincoln RSL, its volunteers and the local veteran community in maintaining and preserving this important site;
3. Affirms the broader importance of honouring and supporting veterans across South Australia, not only through memorials but also by addressing the challenges they face post-service, including mental health and social reintegration; and
4. Calls for continued investment in initiatives that support veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the recognition, care and services they deserve.

I rise today to speak in support of my motion regarding the Garden of Remembrance at the Port Lincoln RSL. This site is more than just a place of tribute; it is a symbol of gratitude, respect and reflection not just for Port Lincoln but for all South Australians who value the sacrifices made by our veterans.

Last week, I had the privilege of visiting the Garden of Remembrance again myself. Walking through the site and speaking with local veterans and community members reinforced just how important this space is. It is not just a memorial; it is a place of deep personal significance where people come to reflect, to honour and to heal. Seeing again firsthand the care and dedication that

goes into maintaining this site reaffirmed my commitment to ensuring it continues to be properly supported.

The Garden of Remembrance has undergone several important upgrades thanks to the tireless efforts of the Port Lincoln RSL and the broader veteran community. Safe and accessible footpaths have now been completed, ensuring that all visitors, including those using wheelchairs, can move safely through the site. A poignant mural has been added near the entrance, with solar lighting soon to be installed to enhance its visibility. An upgraded irrigation system has been installed and replaced as much as possible within the available funding, but further work is still needed to complete the project.

Additionally, the purchase of new machinery, including a self-propelled lawnmower and a post-hole digger, will help maintain the site with greater efficiency. Fencing work around the cemetery is also progressing, with the side fencing now complete and the front fencing set to be finished as part of the latest funding tranche. The addition of new park benches will create a dedicated reflection area near the lone pine, with a fig from Tobruk to be planted in the future, a powerful connection to our ANZAC history.

Looking ahead, plans are already in motion for the cemetery centenary in 2030, with discussions underway regarding the potential installation of a commemorative sculpture. This will require more advocacy and support to ensure it is delivered in time for the significant milestone. Our office has been actively involved in raising awareness and securing funding for these developments, ensuring that the Garden of Remembrance remains a dignified and well-maintained space for veterans and their families. It was an honour to have my support for this project formally recognised by the RSL during my visit.

For generations, our service men and women have put everything on the line to defend our freedoms. They have served in conflicts across the globe, from the trenches of Gallipoli to the deserts of Afghanistan. Many return home carrying physical and emotional wounds that stay with them for life. The Garden of Remembrance stands as a solemn acknowledgement of that sacrifice, ensuring their service is never forgotten.

I want to acknowledge the government's contribution to maintaining this site. Funding its upkeep is not just about preserving a piece of land: it is about honouring the legacy of those who served. A well-maintained and respected memorial speaks volumes about how we as a society value our veterans and their families. While the government has played a role, it is the Port Lincoln RSL and the local community who have truly driven the spirit of this place. Families gather there to remember loved ones, veterans reflect on their service, and younger generations learn the true cost of war and peace.

It is a living reminder that our responsibility to those who serve does not end when they take off their uniform. That is why I have been an advocate for raising awareness and securing funding for this site. Memorials like these deserve continued investment, not just one-off contributions. The stories of our veterans should not fade over time: they should be passed down, respected and acknowledged by future generations. But remembrance alone is not enough.

If we truly want to honour our veterans, we must do more than preserve memorials: we must address the challenges they face today. Too many of our veterans struggle with the transition back to civilian life, with mental health battles, financial insecurity and a system that too often leaves them feeling marginalised. It is simply unacceptable that those who have served our country can feel abandoned once their service ends, and that is why I continue to advocate for greater support services for veterans, particularly in mental health and social reintegration. Our responsibility to them does not end when the guns fall silent: it continues in the years and decades that follow.

This motion calls both for the recognition of the Garden of Remembrance and for ongoing investment in veteran initiatives, ensuring those who have sacrificed so much receive the respect, care and support they deserve. It is not just about honouring the past but about standing with those who serve in the present and into the future.

The Garden of Remembrance is more than a memorial: it is a promise, a promise that we will never forget, that we will always honour, and that we will stand with our veterans not just in words but in actions. I commend this motion to the council.

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

Bills

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS NEAR SCHOOLS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:20): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (16:21): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak on the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (Fast Food Restaurants near Schools) Amendment Bill. The food we eat plays an important role in our health and wellbeing. Good nutrition contributes to quality of life, it helps maintain healthy body weight, it protects against infection, and it reduces the risk of chronic conditions and premature death. Chronic conditions, often linked to a poor diet, are the major cause of ill-health in Australia.

According to Preventive Health SA, more than one in four children—that is 27.5 per cent—in South Australia are overweight or obese. This is in part due to the fact that one-third of our kids' daily energy each day comes from junk food.

The last comprehensive survey of diet in children and adolescents occurred in the National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey, which found that children aged four to 13 years of age fall short of the recommended daily serve of vegetables, meat and alternatives, and dairy products and alternatives. Children aged 14 to 18 years of age fall short of meeting the recommended daily serve for all five food groups, including fruit.

The survey found that just one in 10 Australian children eat enough vegetables—just one in 10. Meanwhile, 38 per cent of children aged four to eight, 40 per cent of children aged nine to 13, and 41 per cent of children aged 14 to 18 are getting their energy from discretionary foods: that is, foods that are not needed to meet nutrition requirements and that generally tend to be high in kilojoules, saturated fat, added sugar, added salt and alcohol.

The Australian Dietary Guidelines recommend that discretionary foods should only be consumed occasionally and in small amounts, and for most people zero to three serves a day is suitable, depending on their age, their height and their level of activity. The intake of sodium is also well above the suggested adequate intake for all age groups. The guidelines also recommend limiting saturated fat intake, and for all children approximately 14 per cent of their energy intake was from saturated fats.

We also know that living with being overweight or with obesity can have a major impact on a person's life. It can affect a person's health and wellbeing, including their mental health, and their social and economic activities throughout life. Obesity increases the risk of preventive chronic diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, type II diabetes, some musculoskeletal conditions, and numerous forms of cancer. As the level of excess weight increases so too does the risk of developing these conditions.

In addition, being overweight can hamper the ability to control or manage chronic health problems. Dietary behaviours tend to track into adulthood, so children who are exposed to these food environments are more likely to develop unhealthy eating patterns.

There is, of course, a financial incentive for addressing obesity in both adults and children. In 2018, obesity cost the Australian economy an estimated \$11.8 billion. This included \$5.4 billion in direct costs including health care, and \$6.4 billion in indirect costs including lost productivity such as

absenteeism, unemployment and early retirement. If no action is taken to reduce obesity, the cost is estimated to increase to \$87.7 billion by 2032. This is what this bill is seeking to address.

The bill that I am introducing today prohibits junk food businesses from being established within 400 metres of schools and it lists a series of prescribed fast-food restaurants that would be included within the remit of this legislation. We know that, and certainly I have done some consultation with a number of schools around this, fast-food restaurants in close proximity to schools can create lots of adverse outcomes for the school community.

There is obviously the impact on health and wellbeing, and I have talked a little bit about how serious childhood obesity is and why we want to encourage healthy eating patterns among children because we take those patterns with us into adulthood, but also I have heard that having fast-food restaurants in close proximity to schools can contribute to inappropriate behaviour within the school environment, with kids consuming high-fat, high-sugar food potentially in their lunch break, coming into the classroom and that might make them more likely to act up, and also means they are going to be less attentive within the school environment. So this bill is seeking to tackle that.

A study conducted by a research team from Columbia, Berkley and the London School of Economics and Political Science linked obesity levels in school children to the proximity of fast-food restaurants to schools. It found that siting a fast-food outlet right next to a school produced a 5.2 per cent increase in obesity among students. Furthermore, a UniSA study published in the Public Health Nutrition journal found that schools in lower socioeconomic areas are almost 10 times more likely to have fast-food outlets built nearby than schools that are in higher socioeconomic areas.

There are a number of schools within our state that are located within 1.5 kilometres of fast-food outlets, but this bill targets those fast-food businesses that pop up within 400 metres of a school. Examples across the state include Christies Beach High School, which is 150 metres from a Hungry Jacks; Salisbury Primary School, which is 150 metres from Hungry Jacks and 200 metres from McDonald's; Ingle Farm Primary School, which is 300 metres from Hungry Jacks; and Playford International College, which is 300 metres from both KFC and Hungry Jacks.

Current zoning in Adelaide makes it almost impossible to stop fast-food restaurants from opening close to schools. Despite that limitation within our planning regime, a number of local councils have been urging the state government to act. Charles Sturt council has previously lobbied the state government to ban fast-food outlets near schools, and Marion council has previously targeted junk food advertising near schools in their area.

It is worth noting that this is also a hot button issue in many communities around the state. In 2021, the Peregrine Corporation lodged a development application with the Adelaide Hills Council to construct a 24-hour On the Run petrol station, complete with a fast-food restaurant, just 400 metres away from Heathfield High School. The council's assessment panel rejected the application in August 2023, but an appeal has been lodged by the corporation with the Environment, Resources and Development Court, where I understand the matter still sits.

Heathfield residents are very much opposed to this development and have organised and mobilised to defeat this proposal. They are not concerned about the idea of having a petrol station in their community, and my bill makes it clear that these petrol stations can still remain, their concern is around businesses that are selling junk food to their kids.

In Strathalbyn, residents are also up in arms and vehemently opposing a proposed fast-food development on their East Terrace, which is just 300 metres away from not one but three schools: Tyndale Christian School, Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School and Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School 7-12 campus. Again, it is a live issue in a number of communities, and again I know that they are petitioning the planning minister for action, but there is nothing within our current planning laws to say that it is inappropriate to have fast-food restaurants in such close proximity to schools.

The bill does not ban all food near schools. It is important to highlight that for this council. It also makes it clear that the prohibition only applies when the dominant purpose of a business or a building is the selling of fast food or highly processed food. Therefore that would exclude food courts, for instance, that might be part of a broader shopping centre.

The bill amends the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 to prohibit the following businesses from opening branches within 400 metres of an existing school. Businesses that are prescribed in the legislation include AMPM, Ampol Foodary, Carl's Jr, Coles Express, Domino's Pizza, Hungry Jack's, KFC, Krispy Kreme, McDonald's—

An honourable member: You're making me hungry.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: And me thirsty—Nando's, Oporto, OTR, Pizza Hut, Quickstop, Red Rooster, Wendy's Milk Bar and X Convenience but also, quite critically, any other food business added by the minister by regulation. So I have prescribed some businesses we think are of particular concern on the basis that children might also be exposed to significant advertising by these businesses on their way to and from school, but if the minister becomes aware of another business that they consider appropriate for inclusion, the bill gives them the mechanism to be able to do that.

It is important to note that the bill does not prevent the operation of a roadside service station within 400 metres of a school provided that the roadside service station does not sell food, including beverages, for consumption on or off the premises. The bill will also prevent any of the aforementioned businesses from renewing a lease should the premises be located within 400 metres of an existing school. Once the lease expires, under this bill the business would not be able to renew its lease. The maximum penalty for breaching this rule is \$20,000.

Clause 135C in the bill states that development authorisation must not be granted for a proposed development involving a change in the use of land within 400 metres of a school to a use primarily for the purposes of a fast-food restaurant. As I indicated earlier, this clause would still allow for the approval of applications for development of new complexes within 400 metres of a school where the primary purpose is not to provide fast food. An example of this is a shopping centre whose primary purpose is retail but might contain some food offerings in a food court.

I think this is an important point to illustrate, because when I announced plans to move down this path late last year the planning minister came out and opposed the bill, and he did so on the basis that it would shut down food courts. As I have indicated, that is certainly not going to be the cause of this bill.

Bans on fast-food restaurants and takeaways near existing schools have been successfully introduced throughout England and Wales. By 2017, 35 of the 325 councils in England had adopted management zones designed to curb proliferation of new takeaways around schools. These include cities like Leeds, Bristol, Newcastle and the City of London.

The sky has not fallen down in those places, and, indeed, this is a reform that I think will be welcomed by many parents. I know today that members of parliament have had a presentation on some of the risks associated with sugar, in particular for young people, and I would encourage them to consider this bill within that context.

Evidence from the United Kingdom demonstrates that these changes have resulted in a decrease in the number of planning applications received and an increase in the percentage that were rejected from fast-food restaurants. The City of Manchester implemented similar restrictions on hot food takeaways near schools, which limited the proliferation of fast-food outlets in areas to no more than 10 per cent of all non-residential ground floor frontages in district and local centres. This is something that is getting results overseas. If this legislation were supported, South Australia would become the first place in the country to place this kind of prohibition on fast-food restaurants by schools.

I know the Malinauskas government is passionate about promoting healthy communities. I know that the Premier in particular has a passion for sport and promoting healthy and active lifestyles. I would expect that the government will embrace this reform as something that will improve broader community health and wellbeing and something that would be welcomed by many parents. I commend the bill and indicate that I plan to bring it to a vote at some stage, so I encourage members to engage with the proposal in coming months.

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

PERIOD PRODUCTS AND FACILITIES (ACCESS) BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:36): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to provide free access to period products, facilities and information about menstruation and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C. BONAROS (16:37): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise today to introduce this piece of legislation, designed to address period poverty by ensuring free access to essential period products, appropriate facilities and menstrual health information in a range of public places. The bill mandates access for students, patients, visitors and individuals in key community locations. It enshrines appropriate access of facilities for public employees at their workplaces. It defines, importantly, period poverty as affecting those who are unable to access when needed any of the following: period products, menstrual hygiene information, toilets, handwashing facilities and sanitary waste facilities.

These are basic necessities in life, not luxuries, and without them people are missing out on the very basics of life. I have said this many times in and out of the chamber: no-one should be forced to stay home from school, skip work or avoid participating in community life simply because they cannot afford or do not have access to these essentials. Undeniably, it is a matter of dignity and equality—something that is also encapsulated in the bill.

It enshrines principles of dignity in its implementation. It acknowledges economic disadvantage and that different aspects of a person's identity, which may be sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health, nationality or religion, may worsen period poverty. It also acknowledges a person accessing period products should be given a reasonable amount of privacy and access in a way that avoids humiliation and enables age-appropriate decision-making amongst other things.

Dignity means ensuring that every person can manage their periods safely and hygienically without embarrassment or hardship. It means creating an environment where no-one is forced to choose between food and period products.

The government is currently promoting its inaugural Women's Week, and we have heard a lot about gender equity and supporting women and girls. I really think it is time we put our money where our mouths are on this issue. A week of celebrations means little if it is not backed by concrete measures that improve lives beyond these seven days. Confidence, dignity, practical, compassionate solutions are what this bill seeks to deliver.

Toilet paper—and I have said this a million times in this place—is freely available in public facilities because it is a necessity. So why not pads and tampons? This morning, I delivered a box to certain ministerial offices. Inside that box there was toilet paper, pads and tampons, and a note attached that read: one of these is free; the others should be.

Half of the population never have to consider whether they will bleed through their clothes at school or work. Half of the population do not have to think about skipping sport or staying home due to a biological function they cannot control. This is absolutely an equality issue, and it is time we addressed it.

The bill seeks to build on the small progress we have made, and I will take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of other members in this place, in particular the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos, who I had the pleasure of working with on this issue, the previous Minister for Education, and also the Minister for Emergency and Correctional Services, Ms Bourke, on this most important issue—all wonderful work, but the progress has been piecemeal, and we still continue, despite the great work that has been done, to rely on charities to fill the immense gaps. We have taken tiny steps, but it is time to make the giant leap.

I have spoken with the Minister for Education today, and I was fortunate enough to bump into him on my round of deliveries, but I also had a meeting with him. Can I just say for the record, more credit to Minister Boyer and Minister Picton for all their hard work in this space, because they have been doing the heavy lifting behind the scenes in terms of ensuring that there are accessible products available in our schools.

I am pleased to report, following the meeting that I had with Minister Boyer, the Minister for Education—and I think we both acknowledged that what we have done to date is a great first step—that the next step in terms of what Education proposes to do is to put out a school survey to all students to see how things are tracking when it comes to our public schools and the provision that is being made to date there. It is something that I know that they are watching closely and are committed to addressing, and this bill certainly goes further than just our schools.

I also acknowledge, of course, the work of Minister Picton in this area who—I think I can also share this with all of us in here—has instructed public hospitals across the state to ensure accessible period products are in our public hospitals. They are great initiatives, and feed into, I suppose, the framework of this bill and what other jurisdictions have been doing, but those are only two examples, and there are many more we need to canvas.

The bill ensures that period products will be available free of charge in all appropriate public places. This might be community facilities, such as libraries and healthcare centres, hospitals—like I said—and approved treatment centres for patients and visitors, and government and non-government schools for students.

The proposal under the bill involves the chief executive having administrative responsibility effectively to an application, who then adds it to the list of public places and ensures that period products are available at that place free of charge. Whilst it stops short of providing free products at all public sector and government workplaces, it does enshrine access to toilets and to handwashing and sanitary waste disposal consistent with the objects of the act and principles of dignity. It also requires that menstrual health information is available in a variety of formats, in a variety of languages and age-appropriate resources.

The model I speak of is based on the ACT's already-enacted legislation where free period products are available in courts, in public libraries, in schools, in child and family care centres and in public housing facilities, to name a few. We had the opportunity to lead in this area and I am disappointed that we missed it. What we do have now is the opportunity to move forward from where we are presently and indeed follow the lead of other jurisdictions like the ACT, Victoria and New South Wales, which have absolutely catapulted ahead of South Australia in terms of universal access and eliminating period poverty.

Every month, 1.8 billion people around the world menstruate. Period poverty is a global issue, but we can take real tangible steps right here in South Australia. We started this fight with a focus on girls missing school because they did not have access to period products off the back of the work that was done by Commissioner Connolly, but the issue we know goes much deeper. It affects participation, as I have said, in sports, in work, in education, and indeed in public everyday life. It is a matter of basic human dignity and that is what this bill seeks to enshrine.

As I have said, it is a framework, a skeleton, if you like, of things that we can do based on legislation elsewhere, and of course I am more than willing to work with the government, the opposition and the crossbench to further refine and implement it effectively in this jurisdiction based on any particular needs we may have. I think overall, given that we are now lagging behind, it is fair to say that the time for small steps has passed. The time for action is now for South Australia to join those jurisdictions leading the way in gender equity, dignity and compassion.

I will touch just briefly again on the ACT. This is the jurisdiction we have modelled these laws on. In New South Wales and Victoria, you now have schools, hospitals, libraries, TAFEs, train stations, cultural institutions, the courts, all providing period products. Victoria is providing free products through vending machines in public places across the state, with 50 machines having been installed and rolled out across metropolitan Melbourne during stage 1. They have worked closely with local councils, health services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, people experiencing poverty and homelessness, young people, people with disability, people who identify

as LGBTIQ+, researchers, professionals, peak bodies and menstrual health experts, amongst others.

The lists are readily available when you go to those jurisdictions and have a look in terms of locating where you can pick up these products. The idea is really one of not just destigmatising or providing universal access to period products but improving health outcomes, normalising access and providing health support and education around periods and all that comes with that—and there is a lot that comes with that. We can be doing so much more and need to be doing so much more.

In New South Wales, delivering personalised care and outcomes that matter to patients and the community is understood as being something that is necessary for the holistic wellbeing of an individual. For people who menstruate, access to period products is recognised as an essential need. All New South Wales Health services, affiliated health organisations and community health centres are actually required to provide access to free pads and tampons for patients who are unable to supply their own.

To support access, the local health networks have brochures and bulletins that have to be distributed across the health network to ensure that all health workers are aware of their obligations to ensure that supply and the provision of information to staff is readily available, particularly in terms of how to order more products and what sorts of products patients need, and to consider whether additional training or information is required for staff to address barriers in accessing period products, particularly targeting priority populations and priority settings.

The aim of New South Wales Health's program is to reduce barriers that exist at the moment, like the sense of shame, discomfort, stigma, financial constraints, instability, communication barriers and lack of care or support persons to purchase products. As I said before, I am thrilled that our minister here has taken the very necessary step of issuing the direction that products are to be available across all South Australian public hospitals in appropriate places.

I am also more than happy to give Minister Blair Boyer a shout-out for everything that he is doing in this space in terms of ensuring that our schools have adequate provision and that it is tailored to work for the students in each of our public schools, but that is the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we need to do.

I note that in South Australia, Shared Services actually has come on board again to support Share the Dignity, and they accept donations at their branches. Under the ACT, Victorian and New South Wales models, in all likelihood you could actually walk into somewhere like Shared Services, if we were to adopt that approach, and be able to access those products for use. That is what we are trying to achieve.

With those words, I ask everybody—government, opposition and crossbench included—to keep a really open mind on this bill. I know we do not need to do this through legislation, but the benefits of legislation are actually acknowledging that we are committed to ending period poverty and committed to universal access to period products, and that we elevate the discussion. We know that, once we elevate the discussion and we put some parameters and frameworks around it, it becomes normal. Nothing that I can think of deserves to become more normal than something that affects so many individuals in our population and adversely impacts so many individuals in our population, namely, period poverty.

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

Motions

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia (MCCSA) for reaching the significant milestone of its 50th anniversary in 2025;
2. Recognises MCCSA has been supporting migrant communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds since it was established in 1995 and that its foundations were laid in 1975;

3. Acknowledges that MCCA is the peak organisation representing more than 120 multicultural organisations and delivers a wide range of programs to increase the capacity of its member organisations and advocate for the needs and aspirations of CALD organisations, communities and individuals;
4. Thanks the MCCA Patron, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC; Chairperson, Miriam Cocking; Chief Executive Officer, Helena Kyriazopoulos OAM; executive team members; board members; staff; and supporters for their dedication and contributions to serving and empowering the diverse multicultural community in South Australia; and
5. Commends MCCA for its significant contributions toward enhancing multiculturalism and interculturalism in our state and for supporting all people from CALD backgrounds to realise their potential as active contributors to the economic, political, social and cultural life of South Australia.

(Continued from 19 February 2025.)

The Hon. S.L. GAME (16:53): I rise to support the honourable member's motion congratulating the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia (MCCA) for reaching its 50-year anniversary this year. Just this month, our office attended the Multicultural Communities Council of SA's Men's Mental Health Community Connection Project celebration. This event brought together community leaders, advocates and supporters to reflect on the journey and impact of the project in fostering mental health awareness, connection and resilience.

The event was a reminder of the importance of open conversations and community-led solutions in tackling men's mental health challenges. A key aspect of the evening was the premiere of a 20-minute documentary showcasing the journey of the project and the real-life stories of those involved. It reinforced what we already know: that when men have the right support and space to talk about their health, real changes happen.

As a strong advocate for men's mental health I have fought to secure funding and awareness for key initiatives, including \$100,000 for men who are at risk of poor mental health in our community, for which men from a multicultural background are at increased risk. I sincerely congratulate the MCCA on this special milestone and look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

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

RADIO ITALIANA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (16:55): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates Radio Italiana 531AM for reaching the special milestone of its 50th anniversary in 2025 and celebrating its groundbreaking first broadcast, believed to be the first Italian voice heard on air in Australia;
2. Acknowledges the founding members, current and past presidents, patrons, board members, staff, sponsors and volunteers of Radio Italiana 531AM for their dedication and contribution to serving the Italian-Australian community in South Australia;
3. Notes that Radio Italiana 531AM will be hosting their 50th anniversary gala dinner on Saturday 1 March 2025 to celebrate half a century of outstanding community services and highlight their significant contributions and achievements;
4. Recognises Radio Italiana 531AM has initiated many humanitarian and philanthropic projects to support the wider community; and
5. Commends Radio Italiana 531AM for offering a wide range of programming that reflects the needs and interests of their diverse listeners, and its strong commitment to promoting Italian language, culture and traditions, fostering community engagement and enriching multicultural South Australia.

It is a great honour to move this motion to congratulate Radio Italiana 531AM on reaching the remarkable milestone of its 50th anniversary in 2025. Radio Televisione Italiana 531, known as Radio Italiana, is South Australia's leading Italian language radio station, proudly serving the Italian-Australian community since 1975. It is proudly owned and run by the South Australian Italian community and is a volunteer-based station with approximately 100 volunteers who inform and entertain listeners in the Italian language. Their dedicated volunteers represent a mix of generations, including first-generation migrants and children of Italian migrants, as well as new arrivals from Italy, reflecting the vibrant diversity of the Italian community.

Radio Italiana 531 reaches metropolitan and most regional areas of South Australia, including Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Murray Bridge, Berri and Renmark via the 531AM signal. This is a true testament to how far-reaching our Italian community is. Their influence reaches not just the metropolitan area but also regional and country South Australia. They continue to grow their audience through new digital platforms, including the Radio Italiana 531 app and online streaming via their website and TuneIn. Through their diverse programming and active volunteer involvement, they work hard to create a space where tradition meets the contemporary aspirations of their listeners.

Since the first broadcast went to air on Monday 3 March 1975, 50 years ago, Radio Italiana has been committed to broadcasting Italian language music, culture, current affairs, news, event live broadcasts, community engagement and more. One of the many programs presented is *Comuni & Council*, which focuses on local government and politics and is hosted by the very wonderful Cavaliere John Di Fede AM. I have had the great pleasure of appearing on his talk show many times over the years and greatly enjoy the opportunity to speak directly with the Italian community and listeners.

It is my privilege to acknowledge the remarkable legacy of Radio Italiana today. It first began as Radio Paesano, with founding members Rosetta Colanero, Alex Gardini, Rosa Matto, Romano Rubichi and Sue Kitto—assisted, of course, by Keith Conlon, the respected journalist—gathering around a table at the home of Luciano Barteletti. Radio Paesano was a one-hour weekly show aired from the studios of 5UV, the predecessor to 5EBI. It is believed to be the first non-English community radio program in Australia, with Enzo Dobrilla the first Italian voice on air in this country. I understand that Mr Gabriele Damiani was soon appointed to the station. Incredibly, Gabriele is still conducting weekly programs with Radio Italiana in 2025. I caught up with him recently at the gala event and he is still as passionate about radio as he was when he started back in around 1975.

The station slowly grew its broadcasting to eventually 15 hours weekly with 5EBI and changed its name to Radio Italiana in December 1978. They then moved to their own office on Portrush Road in 1982 and then again in 1988 as they expanded to Wright Street. Today, of course, they have a very beautiful studio. They are in this home today on Port Road, Hindmarsh.

In 2001, Radio Italiana began broadcasting on the 92.7 community frequency, but unfortunately they lost the frequency to Fresh FM. They were off air for a few months before eventually, through active fundraising and lots of challenges, in August 2002 they actually raised enough money, bid for a new station and bought 531 AM, with a record price of \$400,000. What an incredible achievement by some exceptional community and generous leaders in the Italian community.

Today, Radio Italiana 531 is supported by a large group of sponsors and over 400 members, including local clubs and associations. They broadcast to a passionate audience that comes primarily from the nearly 100,000 South Australians of Italian heritage. This long-term success would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the board and staff at Radio Italiana, whose leadership has helped guide Radio Italiana over five incredible decades.

Thank you to all the past patrons, presidents and board members. I would like to especially highlight the current leadership team. Let me begin with the patron, Commendatore Don Totino OAM, whom many honourable members in this house would know. Don has been a stalwart of the Italian community since he migrated to Australia in 1968 at age 18. Many may not know that in Adelaide he worked as a barber and was awarded Australia's youngest master barber and hairdresser. In 1974, Don sold the barber shop and opened a family pizza bar.

In the ensuing years, he invested in a range of businesses, including founding Festival City Wines and Spirits, which he still manages to this day. Everyone knows Don Totino, an amazing entrepreneur and a well-respected community leader with a very big heart. In 2007, Don was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Italian community. In 2009, he was awarded Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the third highest ranking in the Order of Merit, for his continued and outstanding service in business and charity fields. Since 2020, Don has been Patron of Radio Italiana and an active member of the community, lending them his many years of experience and knowledge to grow the community radio station.

It is also my pleasure today to acknowledge the current President of Radio Italiana, Mario Romaldi, who has served as president for 5½ years. In addition, he also wears many hats. He is an active member of many community-based clubs, associations and professional organisations and actively supports a wide range of philanthropic causes, such as the Leukaemia Foundation, Salvation Army soup kitchen, Dream Ride, Special Olympics, HYPAs (Helping Young People Achieve), the Living Without Limits Foundation, Saint Hilarion Aged Care, Variety Bash and, recently, Nonna's Cucina. Mario was also instrumental in the construction of a new studio and community room at the Radio Italiana premises.

In thanking so many people, I would love also to acknowledge the many life members, sponsors and supporters of Radio Italiana for their enormous contributions, along with the current members of the board, including vice-president, Dominic Reppucci; secretary, Giuseppina Belperio, also called Josie; treasurer, Armando Cirillo; program director, Mario Bianca; communications director, Lina Scalfino; special events director, Pat Scalzi OAM; Cavaliere Maria Maglieri; Tania Milohis; and Clementina Maione. Special acknowledgement and gratitude goes to the over 100-strong volunteers who work passionately and diligently on many radio shows and also work behind the scenes at so many events.

I would like to express my thanks to a very dedicated group of full-time staff at the radio station: their general manager Marco Petta, engagement coordinator Eleanora Finoia, and production manager Stefano Pratola. These three wonderful people form a lively and vibrant pack, and are certainly very loud and proud about their Italian culture and language. They inject energy and passion into the station and are always welcome at the community events when they do live broadcasts. They are also active members and supporters of the wider multicultural community, and are often involved with festivals and activities run by other community groups.

It is a privilege to join with dignitaries to honour Radio Italiana and the team at their 50th anniversary gala dinner last Saturday 1 March. It was a spectacular celebration, and showcased Radio Italiana's history alongside some wonderful operatic Italian music and performances.

So many things could be said about Radio Italiana, but it is just a great honour to be able to put some of their achievements on the public record today and acknowledge their wonderful work and the contribution they make to South Australia and to enriching multicultural South Australia, in all aspects of society, by their volunteer contribution as well as supporting so many good causes across South Australia.

With those remarks, I once again congratulate Radio Italiana 531 and thank them for fostering tradition and community engagement, and for making sure we value multiculturalism and celebrate our diversity in South Australia.

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

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. M. El Dannawi:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges that International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21 February.
2. Notes that International Mother Language Day aims to:
 - (a) celebrate linguistic diversity;
 - (b) promote the protection of linguistic rights as fundamental/universal human rights;
 - (c) emphasise the importance of multilingualism; and
 - (d) bring awareness to languages at risk of disappearance.
3. Recognises that language is an essential part of cultural identity, expression and wellbeing in a multicultural society.
4. Understands that language maintenance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a platform for empowerment and intergenerational cultural sharing.
5. Expresses its commitment to encourage multilingual education in South Australia, particularly through the state government's \$4 million commitment to community language schools, as a means

of enriching our society and inspiring understanding, belonging and dialogue as well as socioeconomic mobility.

(Continued from 19 February 2025.)

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (17:07): I rise today to support the Hon. Mira El Dannawi's motion to recognise the importance of International Mother Language Day and its role in celebrating linguistic diversity, and indicate that I will be the lead speaker on behalf of the opposition.

Language is more than just a means of communication; it is the foundation of cultural identity, expression and belonging. It shapes the way we understand the world, connect with our communities, and preserve traditions. In many languages there is not necessarily a direct translation from one language to another, and often there may be many cultural nuances and hidden meanings within different phrases as well.

Each year, on 21 February, we acknowledge the significance of multiculturalism and the need to protect linguistic rights as fundamental human rights. In 2025, we marked the silver jubilee, celebrating 25 years of promoting linguistic diversity worldwide. In a multicultural society like South Australia, safeguarding languages strengthens our communities, fosters social cohesion and enriches our collective heritage.

Initiatives that protect cultural linguistic rights and promote the preservation of languages not only encourage inclusivity but also open the door for greater social and economic opportunities. Indeed, multiculturalism enhances educational outcomes, broadens career prospects and builds bridges between cultures. Today, we celebrate and acknowledge, in the moving of the Hon. Mira El Dannawi's motion, cultural awareness, strengthening our multicultural society and building a culturally rich society for future generations to come.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:08): I rise today to fully support the Hon. Mira El Dannawi's motion to recognise International Mother Language Day and the importance of mother languages in our multicultural society. As a first-generation Australian with a rich multicultural background, I recognise first hand the value of language in shaping the cultural identity, expression and wellbeing of our diverse multicultural community.

Looking across the chamber of the upper house of this parliament, it is wonderful to acknowledge there are a number of members of parliament here who can speak other languages in addition to English. I recall in 2010, when I was first elected, I believe the Hon. Carmel Zollo and I were the only two MLCs who communicated frequently with our family and friends in a language other than English.

After that, when the Hon. Tung Ngo was elected in 2014, he added the Vietnamese language to the mix. Then in 2018, the Hon. Frank Pangallo, the Hon. Connie Bonaros and the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos were elected, adding the Italian and Greek languages to the benches. Later on in 2023, we welcomed the Hon. Mira El Dannawi, who replaced the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos upon her retirement.

I understand that there are other members in this chamber who may know other languages but not use those languages on a daily basis. I am sure they are just as proud as I am of the way that we recognise the value of cultural diversity and the richness that every language brings to our vibrant, multicultural state of South Australia.

International Mother Language Day has been celebrated each year on 21 February since it was first proclaimed by UNESCO and later adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999. This year marked the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day with the theme, the silver jubilee celebration, marking a quarter of a century of efforts to protect linguistic diversity.

With approximately 8,324 languages in the world today, many are at risk of disappearing due to globalisation and societal changes. Out of this, around 7,000 languages are still in use while only a few hundred languages have genuinely been given a place in education systems and the public domain. Less than 100 are used in the digital world. Globally, 40 per cent of the population have access to education in the language they speak or understand.

While progress is being made in multilingual education, this figure shows the obstacles that we still face globally in preserving languages, and this makes us ask the important question of how we can do better to achieve equitable access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for all individuals. Multilingual and multicultural societies exist through their languages, which transmit and preserve traditional knowledge and cultures in a sustainable way. When languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity, including traditions, memories and unique modes of thinking and expression.

South Australia has been for a long time a state which actively promotes and supports linguistic diversity. From the previous Census data, 19 per cent of South Australian households and over 320,000 people spoke a language other than English at home, a figure which grows each year. Of these languages, Mandarin, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese and Punjabi ranked as the most spoken non-English languages in South Australia. Encouragingly, the number of speakers of Australian Indigenous languages grew by over 30 per cent from 2016 to 2022, making it one of the fastest growing languages spoken in South Australia. Other fast-growing languages include Urdu, Sinhalese, Hindi and other South Asian and South-East Asian languages.

Taking strong leadership to preserve languages in our multilingual state are community language schools, represented by Community Language Schools SA (CLSSA). CLSSA currently represents 10,400 students across 93 schools which teach 48 different languages. CLSSA also works with 1,500 volunteers who work relentlessly, passionately and diligently after hours and on weekends to support language classes. I know many of them through my representation in multicultural communities. Many of them have become really close friends. I really cherish their work and I want to commend them for their fantastic efforts.

I once again want to acknowledge the mover for bringing this particular motion about International Mother Language Day to parliament today. With those remarks, I commend the motion.

The Hon. C. BONAROS (17:14): I rise briefly to echo the sentiments of other honourable members in this place and to commend the Hon. Ms El Dannawi for bringing this motion before this place insofar as it celebrates linguistic diversity; multiculturalism (the melting pot that Australia is); the importance of cultural identity, expression and wellbeing in a multicultural society like Australia and South Australia; and also the importance it plays in relation to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of that platform for empowerment and intergenerational cultural sharing. I also commend the government more broadly in terms of its investment in multilingual education in South Australia.

I think the Hon. Jing Lee has put it very succinctly today. I know that for many of us in this place, me included, being from a multicultural background is not just about knowing a second language; it is part of who we are, it is part of our identity, it is part of our tradition and it is part of our heritage, and they all go hand in hand. You cannot really separate one from the other.

I am sure that when I was five or six or 10 years old I probably did not share that sentiment when my mum and dad sent me off to Greek school on Thursday after school or Saturday mornings, but my word am I grateful today that they did, and so many from my generation would be equally as pleased that their parents did that. Even though we spoke Greek at home—Greek and English—it ensured that we had a really firm grasp of our native tongue.

There are scores of kids here my age and older as well as kids today who would have turned up to their first day of school not knowing a word of English. I was pleased to see a report just recently saying that that is not a setback for kids; it is something that actually proves beneficial to them as they make their way through the education system. We are not just talking about kids who are born overseas. We are talking about kids who were born here and who attended their first day at reception knowing their name and not much more in English because the language spoken at home was not English.

I have to share, though, my absolute fondest memory, and that is really why I got up to speak today—because the honourable member's motion reminded me of my mum and her learning of the English language. She came here to this country not knowing a word of English, but she was already well into her teens, and I always marvel at everything she managed to achieve in this country. My dad was a lot younger, so I always say he had a head start.

My fondest memory has to be going home in those formative years of my education, along with my sister before me, who is a lot older than me, knowing that my mum learnt English through us, because when we read those readers she read them too. So that is actually how she first got a grasp of the English language. It was a give and take on both sides. We were benefiting so much from having our native tongue, our heritage—

The Hon. J.S. Lee: Mother tongue.

The Hon. C. BONAROS: Mother tongue, that is the word I am looking for—but at the same time our learning at school was also enriching the lives of mums like mine who were finally getting a grasp of the English language in a country they chose to call home, in my mum's case right here in South Australia.

I think this is something that needs to be celebrated amongst all of us. It is as applicable today as it was when I was a child or, indeed, when my mum first arrived in Australia. Once again, I commend the honourable member for acknowledging this important day and the importance it continues to have in what I call this melting pot of multiculturalism that we have in Australia.

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (17:19): I want to thank the honourable members for their valuable contributions to the debate: the Hon. Jing Lee, the Hon. Laura Henderson and the Hon. Connie Bonaros, and for sharing their personal experiences as well. It was not that long ago that I was a new migrant who had to learn to speak English to communicate at work and in my personal and social life. I highly value that experience that our migrant communities experience in the first few years of their settlement.

I also want to acknowledge the many past and current members of this place who speak another language, those who do not practice it perhaps every day but have a background or connection to another homeland and those who continue to advocate to maintain the mother language as well.

As a multicultural society we cannot talk about culture without talking about language and language preservation. It is an essential part of our cultural identity and our wellbeing as individuals, as a community and as a society. Promoting the protection of our linguistic right is a fundamental human right but also is very fundamental to our healthy multicultural society. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

Bills

SUMMARY OFFENCES (TERRORIST ORGANISATION SYMBOLS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 13 November 2024.)

The Hon. R.P. WORTLEY (17:21): I rise to speak briefly on behalf of the government on the Summary Offences (Terrorist Organisation Symbols) Amendment Bill 2024. At the outset, I indicate that the government will not oppose the passage of the bill through the council today and will further consider our position on the matter in the other place.

This bill was introduced in the last sitting week of 2024 and has two core elements: (1) extending the prohibition of Neo-Nazi symbols, legislated earlier this year, to apply to commonwealth-prescribed terrorist organisation symbols; and (2) create an offence for the desecration of the national flag of Australia or any other country, and any other flag prescribed by regulation.

The government acknowledges the merit of seeking to extend the current prohibition on publication of Nazi symbols to other prescribed terrorist groups. However, it is important that commonwealth and state law are kept consistent. The Australian Federal Police is the key body in the identification and monitoring of terrorist organisations and our definitions should be in line with theirs.

I am advised that the bill as drafted also contains the possible risk of invalidity of the new offence of flag desecration. Such a risk could be raised on the grounds of the constitutional implied freedom of political communication. Currently, there are no specific flag desecration offences in any other state or territory.

The conduct of burning a flag in a public place has previously been captured under laws around Australia by existing offences, including property damage if the flag does not belong to the burner or by offensive or disorderly conduct (if the conduct is disruptive so as to meet the definition). I am also not aware of any requests to government from law enforcement in relation to this sort of new offence. We will continue to consider this matter while the bill is before the House of Assembly, should it successfully pass here today.

The Hon. S.L. GAME (17:23): I rise to support the Hon. Frank Pangallo's Summary Offences (Terrorist Organisation Symbols) Amendment Bill. I support the bill, recognising that it addresses grave concerns about the breakdown of social cohesion and threatens the safety of Australians, particularly Jewish Australians. The display of racial hatred in protests across Australia over the last 16 months is horrifying and demands a strong united response from this country's elected representatives.

We need to reassert that we are a civil society where people from diverse ethnic backgrounds can live together in peace because we all agree to respect each other and abide by the rule of law. We cannot and will not tolerate the presence of terrorist symbols at public protests or the outburst of racial intimidation that corrode the very foundations of our society. I believe this bill strikes the right balance between protecting freedom of speech and stemming the tide of racial hatred and violence by only outlawing displays of support for prescribed terrorist organisations.

We need to be vigilant in making sure that those who advocate violence against any group of Australians are repelled; that signs and slogans of racial hatred have no place in our country. We also need to be vigilant about protecting our flag and everything it stands for. The burning or desecration of our country's flag as a sign of protest is a very serious offence. It is shocking and it is wrong. The hypocrites who enjoy all the good things that come from living in a country like Australia, and then publicly spit in the face of that country by desecrating its flag, should try living somewhere else for a change.

I want to recognise the Australian Jewish Association and other groups in our community who are deeply concerned about the increase of public support for terrorist organisations, and I stand with them in welcoming this legislation.

The Hon. H.M. GIROLAMO (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:24): I rise to speak on the Summary Offences (Terrorist Organisation Symbols) Amendment Bill 2024. I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition today and that the opposition agrees with the intent and principle of this bill and will support the passage of this bill through the Legislative Council. We will reserve our right to consider and look into it further between the houses. I thank the honourable member for bringing this important bill forward.

This bill, which is similar in nature to the Summary Offences (Nazi Salute and Symbols Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2024, goes a step further by amending the Summary Offences Act 1953 to prohibit the publication of all prescribed terrorist symbols. First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the gravity of the issue at hand. The opposition recognises the intent of this bill in safeguarding South Australians from the harmful influence of terrorist organisations and the symbols they use to propagate fear and hatred in our communities. The safety and security of our South Australian communities must always be our priority.

This bill also includes a new provision, 35E, which makes it an offence to damage, destroy or deface a prescribed flag without reasonable excuse in a public place. A prescribed flag would include the national flag of any country and any other flag prescribed by regulations. More importantly, it is essential to recognise that the significant bulk of counterterrorism legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the commonwealth; therefore the opposition believes it would be prudent for this bill to be considered in the other place to allow greater opportunity to consult with Crown law via the government.

Given these considerations, the opposition supports this bill going through this house today. We believe that a more comprehensive and well-informed approach is necessary to ensure this issue is effectively considered and the quality of the bill is considered between the houses, but we support the passage today.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (17:27): I rise to speak very briefly on the Summary Offences (Terrorist Organisation Symbols) Amendment Bill on behalf of the Greens. The Greens believe that everybody—all South Australians—should live without fear of racial violence, abuse or discrimination. Symbols have been used throughout history by movements to discriminate against different ethnicities, identities or religious beliefs.

We support the restriction on symbols used to instil hate. Meaningful democratic practice requires perspectives from a diverse range of groups, but we must also ensure that we are protecting people, especially minority groups, from harassment. This bill contemplates the types of symbols that should be prohibited. We do, however, have some concerns with the scope of the legislation that I would like to put on the record.

I note the advice that the government has provided today around some of the complexities and, in particular, the potential crossover with the Commonwealth Constitution. We certainly look forward to the government addressing those issues when the bill progresses through the houses. We also have concerns about the wording of the bill, which prohibits symbols that, and to quote from the bill, 'so nearly resemble a prescribed symbol that it could be mistaken as such'. This could be considered quite a wideranging prohibition, and there is the potential for some unintended consequences. We certainly would not want to see this capture symbols where there is no intention to replicate a dangerous symbol.

Legislating these types of prohibitions is complex, and there are obvious implications for other jurisdictions and, in particular, our constitution. We consider the government being best placed to obtain the necessary legal advice, and so it is our intention today to not oppose the bill but to allow the government to work through these issues between the houses.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:29): I rise today to speak on the Summary Offences (Terrorist Organisation Symbols) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill would make two key changes to the Summary Offences Act, introducing offences for publishing or displaying a prescribed terrorist symbol unless it is for legitimate public purposes. This follows on from the legislation that passed in this parliament last year in 2024, which prohibits the use of the Nazi salute or Nazi symbols in South Australia. The bill before us today extends a similar prohibition to any symbol commonly associated with a prescribed terrorist organisation, as specified by the Commonwealth Criminal Code or prescribed by regulations.

Further, the bill introduces an offence for damaging, destroying, defacing or desecrating the national flag of Australia or any other country and any other flag prescribed by the regulations, including an image of a prescribed flag. I spoke in support of the Summary Offences (Nazi Salute and Symbols Prohibition) Amendment Bill 2024 and was privileged to serve with other members of the Legislative Council on a select committee which considered whether legislation was required to ban Neo-Nazi symbols in South Australia. The committee heard from many community leaders and stakeholders, who strongly advocated that such legislation was needed to address the increasing trend of antisemitism and far-right extremism in our society.

I am pleased that the work of the select committee was able to inform the development of the Nazi salute and symbols prohibition bill to balance a prohibition without improperly impinging on legitimate displays of Nazi symbols for educational and academic purposes nor upon the cultural or religious use of symbols that may be mistaken for Nazi symbols.

I note that the Hon. Frank Pangallo's bill is closely modelled on that piece of legislation and includes similar safeguards for the publication of a terrorist symbol for legitimate public purposes, such as genuine academic, artistic, religious, cultural or educational purposes. The bill would enable a police officer to direct a person to remove a prescribed terrorist symbol from display, and failure to comply with such a direction is an offence with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.

It also goes further, including a provision for a police officer to confiscate any item that contravenes the prohibition. I am unclear at this stage whether this power to confiscate items that display a prescribed terrorist symbol is enlivened only after a direction to remove the symbol from display has been ignored or refused.

I agree with other members, from the Labor government, opposition and the Hon. Robert Simms in stating that the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Prohibited Hate Symbols and Other Measures) Bill did pass the commonwealth parliament in 2023, which establishes criminal offences for the public display of prohibited Nazi and terrorist organisation symbols. I agree with the Hon. Frank Pangallo in his arguments that the burning of the national flag is deeply disrespectful and can be frightening or threatening. For myself and, I believe, many in our community, the act of burning a national flag crosses the line into an aggressive act that can no longer be considered a peaceful form of protest.

I just want to share my sentiments with the other members. I will not oppose the bill in this place and would like to see further development in the House of Assembly when it is dealt with by government when they have more resources to research into the matter and provide us with an evidence-based approach to handling the bill in further stages.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:33): I would like to thank the honourable members—the Hon. Russell Wortley, the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, the Hon. Sarah Game, the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Jing Lee—for their words and general support for this legislation and its intent. This legislation could not actually be more timely, given the hate, the activism and radicalisation that is breaking out across our nation. The angry and divisive politics in foreign lands has hit our shores through the extraordinary surge in migration under the Albanese government—more than one million in just two years.

Migrants and refugees, as we know, have given this country a lot and have provided their efforts in making this such a great multicultural country. Of course, we acknowledge the work that these people have done in this country and what they have contributed. It is just sad that there is a small proportion of these migrants and refugees who came into this country and were not adequately screened by our security agencies. They have gone on to commit crimes and also have tried to destabilise our society. Now we find that our social cohesion is at risk.

These radicals are also trying to infuse their troubling views—not shared by the majority of Australians in this country—into influencing our Indigenous people into contemplating some kind of revolution against what is happening in this country, or against what is not happening, actually. They also snub our laws and acknowledge organisations that instil terror and commit murder—wholesale murder and slaughter of innocents, slaughter of the elderly and slaughter of children.

At rallies in this country they display the symbols of dozens of prescribed terrorist organisations. There is a reason our government has issued this list of prescribed terrorist organisations: it is because of the way they conduct themselves, so that we do not want to be associated with them. We and our governments certainly are strongly opposed to what they do in the countries in which they operate.

I note the comments of the Hon. Russell Wortley, particularly in relation to the bill. Yes, it probably does need some tinkering here and there—my office does not have the resources—but the intent of this bill I think would be supported by the vast majority of Australians, without a shadow of a doubt.

Regarding the comments in relation to the burning of national flags, it is probably one of the most disrespectful acts that someone could commit in public, whether it is the Australian flag or any other nation's flag. Again, it is usually done in acts of hate and violence. There are people who would be offended by seeing their national flag being burnt openly as a symbol of opposition to the country in which they reside. I was appalled when I saw the Australian flag being burnt at protests in Canberra. I just could not comprehend that people would resort to that extent to show their hate of the country in which they actually live and which supports them and does so much for them.

This legislation may be a first for this country, but I think it is a good first. Again, I am confident that the vast majority of Australians would support it. In fact, when I flagged this legislation—and I

was on national TV about it—the network received numerous calls, letters and emails of support for what we are planning to do here.

As for the other mentions, I think the other aspect of Mr Wortley's remarks was about having uniform laws and that perhaps it is best that it is done with the commonwealth first and to then let them enforce it through the Australian Federal Police. Seriously? Why can we not have our own laws in South Australia? Why do we need to rely on the Australian Federal Police to enforce legislation that would apply in any other state?

The Hon. R.A. Simms: Quit while you're ahead, Frank. You've got the numbers.

The Hon. F. PANGALLO: No, that is okay. Are you in a hurry to go? I have nearly finished. I wanted to make it quite clear that you cannot just rely on commonwealth laws in relation to this. We can do it in South Australia and we should be able to do it, just like we did with the Nazi symbols. We followed the commonwealth with that.

I hope that this legislation is taken up by the government in the other place. I do note that they want to take a closer look at it, but I also hope that they do act on it and not just provide empty words to this place. With that, I commend the legislation.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

Bill taken through committee without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. F. PANGALLO (17:43): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Motions

PAKISTANI AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia (PAASA) for reaching the special milestone of their 40th anniversary in 2024;
2. Recognises that PAASA is a pioneering organisation established in South Australia by volunteers to support migrants and international students from Pakistan;
3. Acknowledges the important work of founding members, current and past presidents, committee members and volunteers of PAASA for their hard work, dedication and contributions in delivering 40 years of outstanding community services including information workshops, cultural events, sports and recreational programs for the Pakistani community in South Australia; and
4. Reflects on the many achievements of PAASA over four decades and its important contributions to multicultural South Australia.

(Continued from 16 October 2024.)

The Hon. M. EL DANNAWI (17:43): I rise to speak in support of the honourable member's motion. On behalf of the South Australian government, I want to congratulate the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia on their 40th anniversary. I was honoured to attend the celebration on behalf of the Hon. Zoe Bettison, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, in Carisbrooke Park last year, which was also attended by His Excellency Mr Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia, councillors, community leaders and members and families of the Pakistani community.

The Pakistani community in South Australia is one that is growing. In the last census in 2021, there were 5,666 Pakistani-born South Australians. It is wonderful to see this growing community supported by the work of PAASA and the small grouping of community members that established the association 40 years ago. In fact, 40 years ago, it was a group of migrants that created not just an association but a home for new migrants from Pakistan.

Great credit must go to the founding members. Dr Ashfaque Ahmed was the first President of the Australian Pakistani Association, which later in 1984 became PAASA as we know it. The leadership team of PAASA was Mr Shamim Noori as president, Dr Khalid Farooqi as secretary and Dr Farooq as treasurer. Throughout these four decades, the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia has carried the torch of the founders and has been a steadfast pillar of support in our local community. It has been at the forefront of efforts to promote cultural understanding, unity and the vibrant traditions of Pakistan.

Their contributions have enriched the multicultural fabric of our state and have served as an example of how diverse communities can thrive together. The growth of the Pakistani community more recently has shown why this association is so important. Over the years, they have supported generations of Pakistanis to settle in South Australia. PAASA has been a critical support and source of comfort, ensuring the community is served with crucial guidance, services and support to keep new arrivals connected to their heritage while becoming active participants in our broader South Australian society.

This support has been critical in the success of the contributions made by the Pakistani community in South Australia. Whether it is economic or cultural, South Australia is a much better and stronger community with the Pakistani community in it. Events conducted by PAASA, such as Pakistani Independence Day, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr—which I am lucky to have been invited to this year—Sufi Night and the new migrants meet-and-greet celebrations, are all festive events that bring about connection and are also wonderful events in sharing Pakistani culture with the broader South Australian community.

These activities help bring people together and generate a sense of belonging that is deeply appreciated. That is why the Malinauskas government is proud to support the various activities of PAASA. I want to especially take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to all past and current executive members, volunteers, supporters and sponsors of the association. In particular, I want to thank Mr Abdullah Memon, the current Chairperson of the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia, and his executive team: Kashif Ashraf, vice-chairperson; and Nomia Khadim, general secretary. The South Australian government wishes the association well, and we look forward to their 50th anniversary.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (17:47): I rise today, as the lead speaker on behalf of the opposition, to support the Hon. Jing Lee's motion. In doing so, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia on their 40th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to their dedication, resilience and contributions to the Pakistani community in our state.

Since its establishment, PAASA has been a pillar of support for Pakistani migrants and international students, helping them navigate new beginnings in South Australia. It has provided a range of services, from airport pick-ups and accommodation to job-ready workshops, ensuring that new arrivals feel welcomed and supported as they integrate into the South Australian way of life. Founded by volunteers with a vision of a strong, connected and vibrant Pakistani community in South Australia, PAASA has facilitated information workshops, cultural events, sporting programs and recreational activities.

It has provided not only practical assistance but also a sense of belonging, creating a space where cultural heritage can be celebrated while embracing the values of an inclusive, culturally diverse Australia. We recognise the incredible efforts of PAASA's founding members, past and present leaders, committee members and volunteers. Their hard work has strengthened not only the Pakistani community but the broader multicultural fabric in South Australia. Once again, I congratulate PAASA on their significant milestone and thank them for their 40 years of service to the Pakistani community in South Australia.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:49): I would like to thank the Hon. Mira El Dannawi and the Hon. Laura Henderson for their wonderful contributions. I am very certain that the Pakistani Australian Association of South Australia will enjoy reading the many wonderful words about the association and how it enriches multicultural South Australia. With those remarks, I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

AUSTRALIA MALAYSIA BUSINESS COUNCIL SA

The Hon. J.S. LEE (17:50): I move:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Australia Malaysia Business Council SA (AMBCSA) for reaching the special milestone of its 30th anniversary in 2024;
2. Recognises that the AMBCSA is a pioneering business chamber that was established by the Malaysian-Australian community with the objectives of fostering, supporting and promoting business, investment and cultural opportunities between Australia and Malaysia;
3. Acknowledges the important work of founding members, current and past presidents, committee members and volunteers of AMBCSA for their hard work, dedication and contributions in fostering bilateral relationships between the Malaysian and South Australian business communities;
4. Commends AMBCSA for working collaboratively with businesses and educational institutions to deliver its flagship annual event 'Merdeka Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation', which serves two main purposes: to celebrate Merdeka—Independence Day of Malaysia and to present Outstanding Students Awards to recognise educational achievements and community contributions by Malaysian students who are studying at South Australian universities and TAFE;
5. Recognises two former Governors of South Australia—former AMBCSA patron, Sir Eric James Neal AC and its current patron Hon. Hieu Van Le AC—for their important contribution and support to AMBCSA; and
6. Reflects on the many achievements of AMBCSA over the three decades and recognises the impact of AMBCSA in the advancement of trade, business and cultural connections between South Australia and Malaysia.

It is my privilege today to congratulate the Australia Malaysia Business Council of South Australia (AMBCSA) on reaching the special milestone of a 30th anniversary. The Australia Malaysia Business Council was established in 1988 and operates as a member-based business organisation with independent Australian state chapters. The South Australian chapter was established in 1994.

As a first-generation migrant from Malaysia it is no surprise that I have a close working relationship with the Malaysian community of South Australia, and a long association with the Australia Malaysia Business Council. It is a great honour that I have the opportunity, in parliament today, to recognise the AMBCSA for being a pioneering business chamber that was established by the Malaysian-Australian community with the objectives of fostering, supporting and promoting business, investment and cultural opportunities between South Australia and Malaysia.

I want to express my thanks to the founding members and past presidents, particularly the leading business leaders I have had the pleasure to get to know and work with over the years. In particular, I wish to highlight the enormous contributions from three past presidents: Wee Keat Chan, Sathish Dasan and John Kweh. These wonderful gentlemen are successful Malaysian business leaders in their own right, and they continue to be an integral part of AMBC. They continue to be a great sounding board for the current management committee and provide invaluable knowledge, a wealth of experience and exceptional business connections to AMBC.

AMBC has been a leading business council that has attracted highly committed and qualified individuals to join their board. I want to acknowledge the great work by the current executive board by thanking the president, Dr Evelyn Yap OAM; the joint vice-presidents Alan Lim and Terry Lai; the treasurer Esther Wong; the secretary Xiao Wen Tan; and the vice-secretary Rachel Tan; as well as Shanice Mah, Loh Voon San and Melvin Lee. Each board member brings with them their diverse skills and the enthusiasm to manage the affairs of the council, and through their hard work and efforts they have successfully worked collaboratively with businesses and educational institutions to deliver many initiatives.

Strong leadership is the driving force of successful organisations, and I would therefore like to particularly highlight the contributions of the current president, Dr Evelyn Yap OAM. Dr Evelyn Yap is a distinguished figure in both the medical field and in community service, with over 30 years of dedicated service in Adelaide. She is a partner at Benson Radiology and is the Senior Staff Consultant at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as Senior Visiting Medical Specialist at BreastScreen SA.

In addition to her distinguished career as a radiologist, Evelyn has selflessly contributed to supporting migrants and multiculturalism through her involvement on other boards, including as a board member of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, a board member of the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, chair of the Council of Migrant Refugee Women, ambassador of the OzAsia Festival, past president of the Australian Chinese Medical Association SA, past president of the Malaysia Club of SA, and previous trustee of the Australian Chinese Medical Association SA Foundation.

Evelyn's influence extends across multiple facets of community life. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2023 for her outstanding service to medicine and multiculturalism. She was also awarded Woman of Distinction by the Asia-Pacific Business Council for Women in 2019.

I think it is most appropriate to use the phrase 'standing on the shoulders of giants' to describe the next two significant figures of AMBC I would like to mention. AMBC has been able to grow and expand because of the collective mentorship of two giants, whom all honourable members in this parliament would know exceptionally well. The AMBC has been incredibly fortunate to enjoy the tremendous support and patronage of their former patrons Sir Eric James Neal AC and current patron the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, both very influential former governors who are passionate about multiculturalism and developing business relationships between South Australia and other countries.

The Hon. Hieu Van Le is a well-known champion of multiculturalism and has worked hard throughout his life to advance multicultural organisations and causes and to enrich our vibrant and diverse state. He has brought this experience with him to provide guidance to AMBC SA members and to help the group develop further. Sir Eric James Neal was also a well-respected patron of the AMBC for many years and shares a strong connection with the Malaysian business community in our state. As Governor, Sir Eric Neal used the role as a de facto trade commissioner for SA, leading delegations to Malaysia, China, Sweden, the US and the United Kingdom, playing a vital yet discreet role promoting SA as a business destination.

Thank you to Sir Eric Neal and the Hon. Hieu Van Le for their strong patronage of the AMBC SA. Through their leadership, alongside the executive board, the AMBC SA has been able to deliver strong business connections and opportunities to its members and the wider community in South Australia.

The Malaysian community in South Australia continues to grow, with close to 10,000 people living in South Australia listing their country of birth as Malaysia, according to the 2021 census data. That would include me as well. Adelaide continues to be a key education destination for thousands of Malaysian international students. Over the years, many graduates have chosen Adelaide as their home and they become an important part of our workforce, contributing professionally across many industries and to our local economy.

In order to continue fostering the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and South Australia, the AMBC SA engages in several activities such as trade delegations, government advocacy and business networking, and hosts or has hosted many seminars and webinars. They also support international students through their flagship event, the Merdeka Gala Dinner and awards presentation.

The Merdeka Gala Dinner is the AMBC's annual charity event, which also celebrates Malaysia's Independence Day, known as Merdeka. This esteemed event not only serves as a pivotal fundraising initiative for various deserving causes but also fosters a spirit of community and shared heritage. Past beneficiaries include the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation, Foodbank SA, the Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation, KickStart for Kids, the Little Heroes Foundation and many others.

The highlight of the gala, though, are the Merdeka awards, which are presented to outstanding Malaysian students in their final year of university and TAFE studies in Adelaide. They celebrate academic excellence, community service and leadership, embodying the spirit of Merdeka, or independence, through the achievements of the Malaysian student community in South Australia.

Over many years, I have had the great pleasure of attending many Merdeka galas. I have always been impressed by the scale of the celebrations and the huge number of supporters across the business and multicultural communities who come together to celebrate our diverse state and to also generously give back to the community.

Once again, I want to congratulate the AMBC SA for reaching the significant milestone of their 30th anniversary. I thank them for strengthening bilateral business and cultural relationships for 30 years, and I wish the AMBC SA much success and growth into the future. I commend the motion.

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

POLISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN ADELAIDE

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. J.S. Lee:

That this council—

1. Congratulates the Polish Women's Association in Adelaide (Kolo Polek) for reaching the special milestone of their 70th Anniversary in 2024;
2. Recognises the Polish Women's Association in Adelaide as the oldest Polish women's association in Australia;
3. Acknowledges the important work of pioneering Polish women, founding members, current and past presidents, committee members and volunteers of the Polish Women's Association for their hard work, dedication and contributions in delivering 70 years of outstanding community service in South Australia;
4. Commends the Polish Women's Association for their charitable contributions and philanthropic endeavours, particularly through their support of local charities and aged-care services for elderly members of the Polish community;
5. Acknowledges the remarkable work by Kolo Polek in compiling the 70th Anniversary Exhibition that showcases the history, legacy and memorabilia that demonstrate the strength, determination, compassion and spirits of Polish women over the last 70 years; and
6. Reflects on the many achievements of the Polish Women's Association over the seven decades and recognises the impact of the Polish Women's Association and its contributions to enrich multicultural South Australia.

(Continued from 16 October 2024.)

The Hon. T.T. NGO (17:58): I rise to speak in support of the Polish Women's Association (Kolo Polek), one of Australia's oldest Polish women's associations. I thank the honourable member for her motion and the opportunity to highlight the association's unique contributions as we mark the 70 years of service and support it has provided.

The association was established in Adelaide in 1953 with a mission to support Polish refugees. Kolo Polek's humanitarian aid in the 1950s and 1960s stands as one of the association's great achievements. This organisation has rescued, supported and given hope to displaced Polish people who have lost everything in the war.

In order to highlight the support and services our South Australian Polish women have provided over many decades now, it is important to reflect on the courage and resilience of Polish women in their homeland. History tells us that Polish women have never been passive in service. They have fought, resisted, led, educated and nurtured their families and communities through some of the most difficult periods in European history. When Poland was invaded by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II, many women were at the forefront of the Warsaw uprising, one of the largest resistance efforts against Nazi occupation.

Polish women served as special operation agents, undergoing parachute training, acting as couriers, intelligence operatives and radio operators for the Polish resistance. Over time, the ability to adapt and overcome challenges has become a hallmark of the Polish women's character. Irena Sendler is a shining example, a Polish social worker and nurse who smuggled 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto, saving them from death in the Nazi concentration camps. It was not until the 1990s that her incredible bravery gained international recognition. The world learned decades later how she used fake documents to place the children in Catholic orphanages, convents and Polish

foster homes, sometimes sedating young infants so they could be smuggled out in toolboxes, coffins or under train seats.

During the 1980 solidarity movements, Polish women continued to play a part in helping to overthrow communist rule by working in underground publishing, organising strikes and smuggling banned books, ensuring that information and resistance efforts continued, despite the government's efforts to suppress them. These women made significant contributions to keeping their native language, their history and their culture alive.

Over the past several decades, Australia has benefited enormously from Polish migrants who, during those first waves of migration, helped build our infrastructure with that same Polish strength and resilience. Employment opportunities in South Australia, particularly in Adelaide, Whyalla and Port Augusta, included growing industries such as construction, manufacturing and mining, where many Polish migrants were employed.

In more recent times, after Poland joined the European Union in 2004, our Polish migrants migrated on a range of visas, including skilled migration, pathways, excelling in business, medicine and academia. The Kolo Polek Association's continued commitment has strengthened Polish identity in South Australia, helping those who could not return to their homeland to still feel connected to their roots. The work of Kolo Polek has not only changed lives but has also built a lasting legacy of generosity, resilience and compassion within South Australia's community.

Adelaide's Polish Women's Association has done so much more than lay the foundation needed to help migrants begin building a new life. It has inspired future generations to continue the legacy of helping people in need, regardless of their background. On behalf of the Malinauskas Labor government, I thank Kolo Polek for the difference that they have made to the lives of many, for reaching out to Adelaide's wider community, and by doing so enriching the multicultural fabric of South Australia.

The Hon. L.A. HENDERSON (18:04): I rise briefly to support the Hon. Jing Lee's motion. As lead speaker on behalf of the opposition, I take this opportunity to recognise the remarkable 70th anniversary of the Polish Women's Association in Adelaide (Kolo Polek). Reaching such a milestone is a testament to the enduring spirit of this organisation and the ongoing dedication of leaders, committee members and volunteers to the vision of its founding members.

As the Hon. Jing Lee's motion indicates, Kolo Polek is Australia's oldest Polish Women's Association. The organisation has been instrumental in preserving Polish heritage and providing a support network for Polish women and their families. They are well-known for their charitable and philanthropic endeavours, offering humanitarian aid to displaced Polish people following World War II, supporting Polish patients in Adelaide hospitals, fundraising for local charities, supporting aged-care facilities and organising cultural celebrations.

We celebrate not just their past but their ongoing impact in enriching our society. Their contributions remind us of the power of community, heritage and service. I commend the Polish Women's Association for its outstanding work and proudly support this motion in recognition of its legacy.

The Hon. J.S. LEE (18:06): I would like to thank the Hon. Tung Ngo and the Hon. Laura Henderson for their wonderful words in congratulating Kolo Polek on their 70th anniversary. Their contributions will be valued by the association.

Motion carried.

CANTEST HEALTH AND DRUG CHECKING SERVICE

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

That this council—

1. Notes that CanTEST Health and Drug Checking Service:
 - (a) is Australia's first fixed-site health and drug checking service, launched by the Australian Capital Territory government as a six-month pilot on 21 July 2022, and has been extended for another six months;

- (b) provides a confidential pill-testing service that analyses contents of drugs to help service users better understand the unknown and potentially dangerous substances in illicit drugs; and
 - (c) provides appropriate information, counselling and advice to service users based on their specific test result, to encourage choices that reduce overall drug use and the harms associated with taking illicit drugs.
2. Recognises that drug checking is a harm reduction service that leads to most users of the service opting to discard tainted drugs.
 3. Calls on the Malinauskas government to establish the fixed-site health and drug checking service in South Australia.

(Continued from 22 February 2023)

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (18:07): I will speak briefly to this particular motion and note that it has been established Greens policy to support pill testing or illicit drug testing, I think it is. In this case 'pill' can be a much more generic term, which could refer to a range of things, including legal and controlled manufactured drugs.

This particular motion follows an initiative in the ACT in which the ACT government initiated Australia's first fixed-site health and drug-checking service, the CanTEST Health and Drug Checking Service, as a six-month pilot project. I understand the intention is to reduce drug-related harm through pill testing and provide health consultations and referrals for those individuals using illicit substances. Such services have been available in other jurisdictions for approximately 25 years.

Proponents of these measures argue that it can positively impact the illicit drug market and creates an opportunity to provide support to users and information. I do note that in more recent years, organisations such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners have been more in favour of it. I understand the broad opposition from the medical profession and pharmacologists and the like has over a period of time been because the efficacy of such services can be very questionable, in that a dose which has an impact on one person can have a very significant different impact on other people depending on their particular make-up in terms of cell receptors, their size and age, and a range of other measures.

I think there are still concerns that remain in relation to the safety of these matters, and concerns about the accuracy of some of the services, and, in terms of illicit drugs that are not made through the purity of a proper regulated laboratory, there can be a range of other substances which may not be immediately detected by onsite drug-testing services and require fairly sophisticated laboratory equipment. The risks, we believe, remain and therefore we will not be supporting this motion.

The Hon. T.T. NGO (18:10): I rise to make some brief comments on behalf of the government on this motion. The government does not have any policy position to support pill testing in South Australia. As a result, we are unable to support this motion.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS (18:10): I thank members for their contribution: the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the Hon. Tung Ngo for what was a very brief contribution. He was not kidding when he said it was going to be brief.

The PRESIDENT: Hear, hear!

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: It was briefer than I had possibly imagined it could be.

The PRESIDENT: A marvellous contribution.

The Hon. R.A. SIMMS: Might I say, I am disappointed to see the two major political parties in this place failing to adopt a position in favour of drug and pill testing. South Australia is at odds with almost every other jurisdiction in our country now. The ACT has pill testing available. New South Wales is trialling pill testing at the moment. Victoria is trialling pill testing. Even the conservative government in Queensland is trialling pill testing. Why not South Australia? Why are we not going down this path? I think it is very disappointing that the two major parties are avoiding taking a position on such an important issue.

The fixed-site drug-checking facility I had the opportunity to visit in the ACT when it first opened up is a really impressive facility and I encourage members of this place to check it out when they are in Canberra and have a look at the incredible service that is being provided. This is not about being soft on drugs; this is about saving lives.

I know from discussions that I have had with many parents who have children who are in their teenage years in particular that this is something they welcome because it gives people information about potentially dangerous substances and encourages them to make safe choices. It is also important to note—and this was confirmed to me when I spoke to the health workers in the ACT—that no drug-testing facility encourages people to take drugs, and all drug-testing facilities make it very clear to the people who use those facilities that taking illicit substances is always dangerous, it is always risky.

The whole purpose of the exercise is to mitigate risk and to save lives. It is certainly clear from what has unfolded, particularly interstate in Victoria, where young people have suffered long-term adverse health consequences, that we should be doing everything we can to provide our young people in particular with the information they need to make smart choices. I encourage the two major political parties in this place to show some leadership on this issue and to listen to the health advice. This is backed by the AMA and a range of other organisations. This is not a radical Greens idea; it is mainstream and it is time for the two major parties to get with the program.

The council divided on the motion:

Ayes2
Noes.....13
Majority11

AYES

Franks, T.A.

Simms, R.A. (teller)

NOES

El Dannawi, M.
Hanson, J.E.
Hunter, I.K.
Maher, K.J.
Wortley, R.P.

Game, S.L.
Henderson, L.A.
Lee, J.S.
Ngo, T.T. (teller)

Girolamo, H.M.
Hood, D.G.E.
Lensink, J.M.A.
Pangallo, F.

Motion thus negated.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO AND OTHER JUSTICE MEASURES) BILL

Final Stages

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

At 18:18 the council adjourned until Thursday 6 March 2025 at 14:15.