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Tuesday, 28 November 2017

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) took the chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

16 DAYS IN WA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Statement by Premier

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [2.01 pm]: I rise to speak about the 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women campaign. Last Saturday, 25 November, marked International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In Australia, it is a date shared with White Ribbon Day, which is the world's largest movement of men and boys working to end men's violence against women and girls. The 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence against Women campaign is Western Australia's inaugural contribution to these efforts. Through to 10 December, as Human Rights Day, this campaign is about raising awareness, increasing positive actions and highlighting the agencies and organisations working hard to end violence against women.

My government takes this issue very seriously. We have 22 policy commitments aimed at stopping family and domestic violence in this state. We know that women and children are disproportionately impacted by this particular expression of violence in our communities. Let me be clear: violence against anyone is unacceptable, but in Western Australia we still have the distinction of having the second-highest rate of reported physical and sexual violence perpetrated against women in Australia. Knowing this and other disturbing facts, we must act. That is why one of the first actions my government took was to appoint the state's first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Hon Simone McGurk, the member for Fremantle. I was pleased to stand with her last Friday to launch the inaugural 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence against Women campaign. These are important opportunities to send the message that all women and children in this state should be able to live free of family and domestic violence. The 16 Days in WA campaign gives each and every one of us an opportunity to focus on this message over the remaining week and a half.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL STEM AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Science

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Science) [2.03 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to highlight the 2017 Governor's School STEM Awards and the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

Yesterday afternoon, I attended the 2017 Governor's School STEM Awards presentation ceremony at Government House. The awards were established in 2015 and recognise Western Australian schools that demonstrate excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics leadership and teaching. The initiative is supported by Her Excellency the Governor Kerry Sanderson, AC, and is delivered by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. A committee comprising STEM education professionals supports the delivery of the initiative, as do the eminent judges who volunteer their time to assist the program.

I would like to congratulate this year's award recipients, which were announced yesterday. Penrhos College won both the primary and secondary school categories and received the leadership excellence award. Brookman Primary School was the primary school runner-up and recipient of a meritorious leadership award, and Warwick Senior High School was the secondary school runner-up and recipient of a meritorious leadership award. The award recipients beat a strong field of finalists, all of which demonstrated great achievements in STEM education at their schools. I congratulate the five schools that were finalists in the award, with a special mention to Hampton Senior High School, which is in my electorate.

STEM skills are vital to the future of work, which is changing rapidly due to automation and globalisation. We know that 75 per cent of the fastest-growing occupations require STEM skills, including problem solving and critical thinking, and STEM skills will play an important role across all occupations. Statistics show that Western Australian students from low socioeconomic backgrounds are less likely to be enrolled in STEM subjects. Participation in STEM subjects should not be determined by your postcode. It should also not be determined by your gender. Only six per cent of year 12 girls in Australia study physics or advanced mathematics, and only 16 per cent of STEM-qualified people in Australia are female. I have asked the STEM Advisory Panel, chaired by WA's Chief Scientist, Peter Klinken, to consider these issues in developing the state STEM strategy. The strategy will build the state's STEM skills to meet the needs of Western Australia's future workforce to capitalise on the emerging innovation economy. The Governor's School STEM Awards and many other programs across the state contribute to enhancing STEM participation, and I congratulate all those involved.

“STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT 2004”*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [2.06 pm]: I rise to table the “Statutory review of the Children and Community Services Act 2004”. Reviews of this legislation are required every five years. This review was conducted on my behalf by the Child Protection and Family Support Division of the Department of Communities with the assistance of two committees with senior departmental and external membership. The terms of reference of the review were to examine the operation and effectiveness of the act, including changes to support consistent high-quality foster care standards, the principles relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the safety and wellbeing of children and adults who are victims of family and domestic violence, the provisions relating to secure care arrangements for children at high risk, and the intersection between child protection and family law proceedings. There are 70 recommendations, 53 of which involve amendments to strengthen the act or improve its operation.

Aboriginal children represent 54 per cent of all children in care. I am particularly supportive of the review’s focus on improving outcomes for Aboriginal children in care by establishing avenues for increasing the participation and involvement of Aboriginal people in decision-making processes. Promoting and maintaining Aboriginal children’s connections to family, culture and country is key to improving outcomes. Other significant recommendations relate to the court in which child protection proceedings are heard; independent oversight of out-of-home care; and the timely delivery of government services to children who are, or have been, in state care.

I would like to thank members of the committees for their time and their contributions, along with Rosemary Williamson and Emily Ohayon, the departmental officers who wrote the review.

The McGowan government’s priority is to keep children safe. The department will, of course, continue to focus on earlier intervention and family support so that wherever possible children can be kept at home with their families. Government will carefully consider the review’s recommendations. I look forward to working with the department, stakeholders, foster carers, and Aboriginal communities to discuss the next steps in improving the lives of Western Australia’s most vulnerable children and their families.

[See paper 991.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS AND QUALIFICATIONS****728. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the fact that 20 days have elapsed since information came to the public that the member for Darling Range may have been wearing medals that he is not entitled to and that during that period information has come to hand questioning his claims of employment and education. Can the Premier advise the house specifically what he or his office have done to establish the facts shrouding the member’s entitlements to the medals and his claims of employment and education?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I hope and expect that the member for Darling Range, for his sake and all of our sakes, will come back to the Parliament tomorrow or the next day to make a statement to the house about the issues to which the Leader of the Opposition referred. Any inquiries into this matter will be handled by the Labor Party state office.

MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS AND QUALIFICATIONS**729. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier ask the Procedure and Privileges Committee of this house to investigate the entitlements of the member for Darling Range to wear the medals he has been wearing and his claims of service and employment?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Any member can ask the Procedure and Privileges Committee to undertake any inquiries they might like to and then it is a matter for this house and/or the Procedure and Privileges Committee as to what they investigate.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Will you?

Mr M. McGOWAN: All I say to the member opposite is that I think it would be appropriate to allow the member for Darling Range to make a statement to this house before anything further of that nature occurred.

FORMER LIBERAL–NATIONAL GOVERNMENT — DEBT LEVEL**730. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the previous Liberal–National government’s legacy of record debt, which this government is determined to bring down. Can the Treasurer outline to the house the impact of this legacy and can he advise whether the legacy was a result of —

- (a) a lack of horsepower of the second-term Barnett government ministers and an inability to deal with things that the former Premier said were simple;
- (b) a royalties for regions program that the former Premier described as “marginal and overindulgent”;

Point of Order

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The member is asking for an opinion.

The SPEAKER: I did not hear that. Do you want to ask the question again, member for Girrawheen?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Yes, I will start at the beginning!

The SPEAKER: No, just the last bit!

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Can the Treasurer outline to the house the impact of this legacy and can he advise whether the legacy was a result of —

- (a) a lack of horsepower of the second-term Barnett government ministers and an inability to deal with things that the former Premier said were simple;
- (b) a royalties for regions program that the former Premier described as “marginal and overindulgent”;
- (c) a stimulus package that the now Leader of the Opposition said we could not afford; or
- (d) all of the above?

The SPEAKER: Member, may I just say that when asking a question, we would like them to be a lot thinner than that.

Ms M.M. Quirk: I will remember next time.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I can indeed advise the house, although I must admit it is a bit of a brainteaser whether it is (a), (b), (c) or (d), but I suspect the answer might be (d)—all of the above. I have to say that I was not here on Thursday just gone, and it appeared that the opposition got all sentimental and had a bit of a reflection on its time in power. I note the comments made by the former Premier as he proudly serves out his full term as the member for Cottesloe on the back bench. I was particularly intrigued by the comments of the Leader of the Opposition in response to the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe, when he said the following —

... most of the problems were the seeds laid in the first term. He undertook, —

Referring to the member for Cottesloe —

as he calls it now, stimulus package, and committed expenditure beyond which in the end we could not afford.”

It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition, who was Treasurer in that second term, the term that apparently had a lack of horsepower, reflected upon the first term. I recall sitting over there listening to the member for Riverton reflect on budget after budget of the first term and I want to remind members what the Leader of the Opposition said about each budget of which he is so critical of now. I turn to the 2009 budget. I quote the Leader of the Opposition. He said —

In my view, this is one of the best Western Australian state budgets brought down in the last 20 years.

He said the following about the 2010 budget, and I like this one. I quote —

This is an excellent budget. It is a budget for the times. It provides stability during uncertain times, and these are very uncertain times.

Then, of course, there was the 2011 budget.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: The 2011 budget has got some fame now, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because the Productivity Commission has highlighted the fact that this is the budget in which the former Liberal–National government assumed across the forward estimates that the GST was going to be fixed and a relativity of 0.75 was going to be embedded in the books.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr B.S. WYATT: This is what the Leader of the Opposition said then —

When looking at a budget, the first questions must be: is it responsible and does it set up the government for the long term? This one does that.

Can I tell members that certainly set up the government for the long term! I turn to 2012.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr B.S. WYATT: This statement is perhaps the highlight—2012—with the Leader of the Opposition reflecting on his own expertise. I quote —

I spent over 20 years looking at budgets, particularly at the state level, both here and around the country. This is a particularly fine budget. It focuses on the needs of today while keeping a strong eye on the needs of the future.

Then he goes on and on, including into the second term of the former government. The point I make is this: it is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition, of the Liberal Party —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr B.S. WYATT: It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition, of the Liberal Party, whilst now reflecting upon the fiscal damage and the legacy left to the people of Western Australia, is now taking the role —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the opposition, I keep warning you and you keep doing it. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr B.S. WYATT: It is interesting that the Liberal Party opposition is now taking the role of budget wrecker. Not only is it voting against its own budget savings measures in the upper house, but it is also deliberately voting against revenue measures made by the government to try to get the finances back on a more sustainable footing. But it is good that in this period of stark reflection upon the Liberal Party's record, it is now finally understanding that the legacy it has left, that it knows it has left, is there for all to see.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman!

Mr B.S. WYATT: Yet, we have a Leader of the Opposition happy to walk away from a lifetime of advocacy to do nothing but wreck budget measures trying to be enforced by this government. We understand we have to fix the mess that the Liberal Party created.

MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS AND QUALIFICATIONS

731. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Premier:

I refer to comments by the Minister for Veterans Issues about the member for Darling Range in *The West Australian* on 21 November, and I quote —

“Let's be really clear about this, his service is not in question ...

And the minister's further comments in this house, and I quote —

The Premier's been around for a long, long time and has shown himself to be very adept at taking all your muck.

Does the Premier consider community concerns over a possible false education and military honours background muck?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

That is a bizarre question, but I think the member said something of the same nature last week about comments by the Minister for Veterans Issues. He asked a question about what the Minister for Veterans Issues had to say—perhaps it was the Leader of the Opposition. I indicated to the house at that point that the Minister for Veterans Issues feels very keenly about the interests of ex-service-people, as someone who served in the Australian Army for more than 20 years, and we are very proud of his service in the Australian Army. We are very proud of it.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Do you?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I heard the Leader of the Opposition demeaning it just a moment ago.

Dr M.D. Nahan: I asked you: do you?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There he goes again, demeaning the service of an ex-Special Air Service Regiment veteran.

Dr M.D. Nahan: I ask you again: do you?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There he goes again, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am talking about a veteran of the Australian Army who served in the SAS and there is the Leader of the Opposition demeaning it again, Mr Speaker. Just so members are clear, as I have indicated, I expect that the member for Darling Range will come back and make a statement to this house, and I think matters will be clearer post that event.

MEMBER FOR DARLING RANGE — SERVICE MEDALS AND QUALIFICATIONS

732. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the media interest and the Premier's own investigations into the member for Darling Range's education and service records, will he, like the Minister for Veterans Issues, be standing side by side with his mate ahead of the interests of the community?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I do not even understand what the member has just said. I certainly hope the member was not an English teacher in his past career! I have indicated that the member for Darling Range will come back and make a statement to the house in relation to these matters. I also note—I think the Treasurer was referring to it before—the commentary by the opposition in respect of the former Premier.

Mr D.C. Nalder: What does that have to do with the question?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The opposition asks the questions and I answer them. The Liberal Party's commentary and attempts to force the former Premier out of Parliament are disgraceful.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: What is more, if the opposition wants to talk about cover-ups and about things being covered up, I note this article in *The Sunday Times*. It turns out there was a report into the Liberal Party's performance at the state election, conducted by Mr John Griffin, who I note is from Barton Deakin, a lobbying firm. I wonder where it is. I see some snippets of it.

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: This bears no relation whatsoever to the question. I ask about relevance.

The SPEAKER: Premier, you will get back to the question, please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member asked me about muck. I am referring to some muck and that the Liberal Party is hiding a report that was conducted into its election performance and is refusing to release this report. What is the Liberal Party afraid of? The former Premier wants to release it. Why does the Leader of the Opposition not get out there, release it and be accountable?

JOONDALUP INNOVATION HUB

733. Ms E. HAMILTON to the Premier; Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members on the front bench, you have got your own member on her feet asking a question. Start again, please.

Mr M. McGowan: I actually have not finished my answer.

The SPEAKER: You sat down, sorry.

Mr M. McGowan: I want to talk about the muck some more.

The SPEAKER: I think you have done enough!

Mr M. McGowan: I will just finish it, Mr Speaker!

The SPEAKER: No. The member for Joondalup, start the question again please.

Ms E. HAMILTON: I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to creating jobs and driving down the unemployment rate that upon coming to government, hovered around seven to eight per cent in the northern suburbs.

- (1) How will funding the Joondalup innovation hub, which was announced today, help create jobs in the northern suburbs?
- (2) Can the Premier outline to the house how this government's comprehensive plan for jobs is encouraging confidence in the WA economy?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

(1)–(2) The member for Joondalup and I were at the Edith Cowan University campus in Joondalup this morning, talking about the latest initiative the government is taking to create jobs in the northern suburbs. I note that when we arrived in office the unemployment rate in the north western suburbs was 7.3 per cent; it is now 6.3 per cent. If we go through each of the suburban areas—in fact, all over the state of Western Australia—the job situation is improving. The Minister for Innovation and ICT and I launched the new industries fund this morning at ECU. It is all about diversifying and providing more opportunities for jobs in technology and for a broadening and diversifying of the state’s economy. Indeed, tonight I am addressing West Tech Assemblage, a group of information technology professionals, specialists, start-ups and the like, assembling for the second time this evening. I will be addressing them about some of the issues that we are taking forward. This morning we announced \$800 000 for the Joondalup innovation hub. ECU in Joondalup has a world-class cybersecurity section that is devoted to ensuring that there is world-leading research in cybersecurity. As we know, there will be at least \$100 billion worth of that industry around the world in coming years, because it is a big issue for governments and large businesses, in particular, around the world.

ECU is at the cutting edge of that and so today we have devoted \$800 000 towards the Joondalup innovation hub to work with ECU on creating additional jobs, particularly in cybersecurity. I note a recent report on job growth in Western Australia, which stated that internet job vacancies are 17 per cent higher in October 2017 than they were in the October quarter last year. Jobs advertised online had the strongest rate of growth of all jurisdictions. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia’s survey on business confidence in the September quarter showed business confidence in WA is at a three-year high, and job figures show an additional 26 600 jobs have been created since this government came to office. We are very confident and working very carefully to ensure there are additional jobs in Western Australia. Our announcement today on the new industries fund is all about that.

MINERAL RESOURCES LTD — HELENA AND AURORA RANGES

734. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to Mineral Resources’ Jackson 5 and Bungalbin East proposal to mine between 65 million tonnes and 115 million tonnes of iron ore in the Yilgarn. After running an election campaign on jobs for WA, will the Premier be approving this project or will his government allow 425 direct jobs and 1 000 indirect jobs to disappear?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question; it is obviously an important issue. The Minister for Environment has released a report in which he has dismissed the appeals in relation to the Environmental Protection Authority report into what is commonly known as the Bungalbin Aurora mining proposal. He has dismissed the appeals. What he has now done is written to interested parties, as I understand across government, seeking feedback on that decision, prior to making a final decision on those issues. A process is currently going on that is quite an important legislative process, as I understand it, dictated by the Environmental Protection Act. I will let that process run its course, and then the minister and/or the cabinet, depending upon what feedback the minister receives, will make a decision on those matters at that point in time.

MINERAL RESOURCES LTD — HELENA AND AURORA RANGES

735. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. There are 425 direct jobs hanging in the balance and \$65 million in revenue for government.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There are 425 direct jobs hanging in the balance and \$65 million in revenue for government. When will the Premier’s cabinet do its job and make a decision?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

A statutory process is being gone through that will be followed to the letter of the law. These things are potentially justiciable. We want to make sure that we abide by the processes involved. I do not intend to pre-empt those processes because I do not want there to be any question about the fact that the government followed due process.

MINING TENEMENTS — HIGH COURT DECISION

736. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the High Court’s decision in August in the case of Forrest and Forrest v Wilson and the uncertainty and concern this decision has caused amongst many mining tenement holders.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the government is responding to the decision of the High Court?
- (2) How is the McGowan Labor government providing certainty for the WA resources sector?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member very much for a very good question. The decision on Forrest and Forrest is probably the most important issue confronting the mining sector in Western Australia. The decision was handed down on 17 August contrary to the Warden's Court, the Supreme Court of WA and the WA Court of Appeal's understanding of the legislation of Western Australia. However, of course we respect the decision of the High Court. I already announced that after the cabinet decided to act on 14 September, we would look to introduce validating legislation, because this decision has undermined the security of tenure of potentially quite a number of mining leases in Western Australia. The cabinet gave approval last week to draft the legislation and we will look forward to the draftsmen bringing that legislation back to us. I also have to let the people of Western Australia know that the advice we have is that we will need commonwealth legislation as well, because these issues affect native title. We will not be able to simply validate the tenements in Western Australia because the validating legislation would potentially be considered a future act, even though the future act processes have already been completed.

So my friend the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has written to Senator George Brandis, the commonwealth Attorney-General, and he also raised the issue at the forum of Aboriginal Affairs ministers, asking for action. We hope that the commonwealth will include action in its options paper for proposed changes to the national native title legislation, because we have to make sure that the mining tenements that underpin the success of Western Australia continue to be held valid. This is essential action. I have been surprised that the opposition has never asked me a question on this matter. It is certainly the issue that is raised with me most commonly when I meet with industry.

I note the comments today of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy that confidence has returned to the mining sector in Western Australia. I note that there has been a 14 per cent increase in exploration applications. I note the article in today's *The West Australian* online by Kim Macdonald that says that 10 000 jobs are available in Western Australia's mining and resource sector. I note the comment of DFP Resources that there has been a 26 per cent rise in job vacancies in the WA resources sector. There is confidence. As the Chamber of Minerals and Energy explains, confidence is returning to the Western Australian mining sector. We are pleased, as the Labor government, that the mining sector has responded so strongly to the election of a new government focused on jobs and outcomes.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am pleased to say that we will continue to do that, and we will continue to have a successful mining sector in Western Australia, because we are in touch with the mining sector and responding to their needs. We hope that the Liberal commonwealth government will respond as well. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the Parliament. I have spoken to the federal opposition and asked it for its support. I hope that the state Liberal Party will put pressure on the commonwealth government to act quickly, because this is an essential element of protecting the mining sector in Western Australia. If the commonwealth were to fail to act expeditiously—I am not saying it will—it would undermine mining tenements in Western Australia and therefore certainty of investment.

WAGES POLICY — TEACHERS

737. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Treasurer:

Can the Treasurer confirm that the financial impact for teachers over the forward estimates of his government's change to the wages policy from 1.5 per cent to \$1 000 a year is \$154 million in savings?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I can confirm that there are global savings of around \$440 million, approximately. I will have to go back and get that figure. Is the member's question specifically in respect of teachers?

Mr D.C. Nalder: Yes.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Okay. In light of the specific nature, I will go and hunt that down and come back to the member later today if he likes.

WAGES POLICY — TEACHERS

738. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Treasurer:

I ask a supplementary question. If we take for the moment that it is \$154 million, can the Treasurer confirm that the previous wages policy reflected CPI increases, and therefore the \$154 million in savings is in effect a \$154 million cut to real wages for teachers?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I can confirm that the wages policy that was embedded in the forward estimates—the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*—has been changed. We changed that at budget time. We made the decision prior to budget but it was embedded at budget time. That is why we end up with savings of over \$400 million.

Mr D.C. Nalder: It is less than CPI. That is the real case.

Mr B.S. WYATT: As a result, we will be paying a smaller amount than would have happened under the former Liberal government's wages policy. I can confirm that.

OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS CONTRACT

739. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Defence Issues:

I refer to the federal government's announcement that after strong lobbying by the McGowan Labor government, 10 of the 12 offshore patrol vessels will be built in Henderson.

- (1) What does this mean for Western Australian jobs?
- (2) How is the government ensuring that local businesses are in the best position to take advantage of this work?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for his question and for his deep interest in growing Western Australian jobs, particularly in manufacturing. It was fantastic news on Friday when the federal government announced publicly that it had selected the shipbuilders for the offshore patrol vessels contract. It was going to be Forgacs, partnering with the German company Lürssen, and interestingly it added Austal as part of that collaboration. That was a tremendous outcome for Western Australia.

In reference to the lobbying by the state government, thankfully, as a result of that lobbying—it is undeniable that we engaged in some significant lobbying, particularly early in the year, on this matter—the federal government categorically confirmed that 10 hulls will be constructed in Western Australia and only two in South Australia. That is a step-up in commitment. There has been a significant suggestion that the federal government might backtrack and cave in to South Australia to build more hulls than the two that have been committed. That is on the record now. We will watch, member, and ensure that those two hulls are the only two hulls that are constructed over there. It is a tremendous outcome.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr P. PAPALIA: In addition, it is projected to create 400 jobs directly and another 600 indirectly.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: What is even better than the fact that we have got confirmation from the federal government that 10 hulls will be constructed in WA is that Lürssen was the selected design. Peter Lürssen, head of Lürssen, has committed to creating in Western Australia a shipbuilding hub beyond the offshore patrol vessels to build their other designs for sale in Asia. That is potentially many hundreds, if not thousands, more jobs. That is a wonderful outcome for Western Australia. I can tell members the state government has a wonderful relationship with Peter Lürssen and the Lürssen company, and we are looking forward to working further with them to grow that opportunity to sell our Western Australian-built ships into Asia. We will also watch the federal government. Defence West is compiling a registry of all defence industries in Western Australia to ensure they are able to access the opportunities from this contract, and others. We will be asking the federal government yet again to come out and confirm now when it is going to shift the Collins full cycle docking from South Australia to WA and create 500 additional jobs, because that should happen in the near term now that this decision has been made.

JURIEN BAY MARINA

740. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the government's decision to cut \$8.7 million of royalties for regions funding from the Jurien Bay marina and to disband the steering committee aimed at addressing the ongoing environmental degradation of the marina. In light of recent fish kills, what are the minister's plans to fix the health of the marina?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for that question and his advocacy for his constituents. But I do note that the previous government had eight and a half years to fix these issues in regional Western Australia. In eight months, we have been asked to basically fix everything that they failed to fix. We have been asked to fix every road that they

neglected, every marina they did not build and every fish kill that is out there. Member, I do take issues seriously. But we have a budget process and we have a priority process. Ultimately, members opposite had eight and a half years to fix those issues, and they failed to do it. I do not expect in eight and a half months that we can deliver on all our election commitments and fix everything that members opposite failed to do in eight and a half years. That is just not possible. I understand the member's advocacy for his constituents. That is his role. But he cannot expect us to basically fund all his commitments together with all our election commitments. We will fund a range of commitments, and that is what we are delivering.

JURIEN BAY MARINA

741. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:

I ask a supplementary question. I would like the minister to explain to me why it is so much more important to invest millions of dollars into a brand-new marina in the metropolitan area rather than spend a few dollars to keep up the health of an existing asset?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth and member for Moore, you are having a great conversation, but I call you both to order. I was on my feet.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Why did the member for Moore spend \$440 million on Elizabeth Quay before Jurien Bay? Why did he spend \$440 million on Elizabeth Quay before fixing his issue? Why did he borrow —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I have an apology for the member for Perth. It was the Treasurer who I should have called before. You slid down in your chair, but your friends dobbed you in!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Moore sat quietly while his government spent \$440 million on Elizabeth Quay and did not fix the issue in his electorate. He did not say a word. I did not hear him. Did anyone hear him?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore, you have asked a question. Listen to the answer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They run around with "Metrodebt" stickers on their cars, particularly the member for Moore. Member for Moore, how much did your government borrow for the Forrestfield–Airport Link project? It was \$1.3 billion; that is what it borrowed for the Forrestfield rail line.

Mr D.C. Nalder: They've cancelled the contract.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, no, no. If we go through, how much did it borrow for the Perth Stadium? It was \$1.6 billion. Do not come in here and talk to me about priorities when members opposite were in government for eight and a half years —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Honestly, what were National Party members doing when they were in government? They were doing nothing. They were having their tummies tickled by the Liberal Party, and look at them now—all strong, all advocating for the regions. When they do not have access to the purse strings now, they are all strong, but when they had access to the funds, they did not deliver. We cannot deliver everything in eight and a half months. We are trying to, but we cannot.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN — SURVEY — STAFF MORALE, CLINICAL SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

742. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the recent survey of staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, the findings of which were reported in *The West Australian* on Friday. Can the minister advise what action is being taken to address the issues raised in the survey on staff morale, clinical safety and infrastructure?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I would like to thank the member for the question.

I have read the report presented by Bryant Stokes, the chair of the North Metropolitan Health Service, and I have to say that it makes sobering reading. It is a report that goes into the issue of staff morale at our tertiary maternity hospital—staff who are providing some of the highest level of health care to our mothers and babies in the state—and it is disturbing reading. I have said in this place before that there is only one task more important than looking after patients in our hospitals—that is, looking after the staff who provide that care. That is why we have undertaken a very careful program of valuing staff, listening to staff and making sure that we can reverse these issues when they arise. In particular, I have written to the North Metropolitan Health Service board and its chair Bryant Stokes, expressing my serious concerns about the key issues identified in the report—as I did for the Child and Adolescent Health Service board—and requesting regular reports about what it is doing to correct the issues as they relate to the hospital. It is true to say that these issues have not emerged in only the last eight months, but we are going to be taking very deliberate action to make sure we get on top of the issue associated with that hospital.

As the member said, they go to the question of staff morale. We have already held a range of staff forums—two on 24 and 27 November—and we will have another in January. It goes to the question of clinical safety. Recently a report was handed down that looked at clinical safety across our entire system, but, in particular, we want to ensure in this instance that the issues of culture and clinical governance do not put clinical safety in danger. Of course, there are questions of infrastructure associated with King Edward Memorial Hospital. Members will be aware that under the previous Labor government, the Reid review pointed to a long-term plan for our hospital system and a new big tertiary hospital in the southern suburbs, which recommended moving not only the children's hospital to the QEII campus, but also King Edward Memorial Hospital to the QEII campus to get the synergies we were looking for. I was not only surprised but, indeed, gobsmacked to hear the member for Nedlands on the radio on Sunday, saying that we should be looking at moving the hospital there because although he went there a decade ago—even though that hospital is in his electorate—he said that even back then it looked kind of old. It is true, members. It would be great if we could look to move King Edward Memorial Hospital to that site, but one thing is impacting on that objective.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Metronet.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is your mismanagement of the state's finances. We would love the luxury of completing the Reid vision for our hospital system, but we cannot because of the mismanagement of that mob. It is not that they did not want to do it. In 2011, Hon Kim Hames said, "Yes. We will be making sure that King Eddy's makes its move across to the QEII campus, and it should be there by 2015."

Mr D.J. Kelly: What happened?

Mr R.H. COOK: The same thing that happened at Royal Perth Hospital, member—nothing. This other mob in government time and time again were dangling little carrots about implementing changes to the hospital system. Instead, they found funding for projects like Elizabeth Quay and other projects, but could not get it quite within their task to either implement one of their key election commitments from 2008 or follow through with their other policies around moving King Edward Memorial Hospital to the new site. We will endeavour to fix the issues associated with staff morale at that hospital. We will move forward in deliberate action. We have a good program in place to make sure we get on top of these issues and we will fix the mess left by that mob.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — BACK OFFICE STAFF

743. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

Can the Premier confirm that there are 954 officers in back office roles in the Department of Education, and that, of those, the government is intending to cut 800 jobs, as reported by the State School Teachers' Union?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It is true that we have a range of savings across government to try to address the debt and deficit legacy left to us by the Liberal and National Parties in office. In addressing the debt and deficit left to us by the former government, we announced during the state budget process that we will have a voluntary targeted separation scheme across government of around 3 000 positions. I note that the opposition has been very supportive, up until today, of some of the measures we have been taking. In fact, I have some information here of the opposition being very supportive—in fact, from the Leader of the Opposition on 13 September no less. I will quote it just so members are aware —

We are going to hold government backbench members to account for the government's commitment to the Treasury's exceedingly tight expenditure growth in health, education, police, child protection, mental health and all the other areas. We will hold them to the targets in the budget. We will support them if the government achieves those targets via efficiencies,

We are going out there and are attempting to rein in budget expenditure that is not front line, and the opposition is now criticising us, despite saying two months ago that it was supportive of what we were trying to achieve. The fact that in question time the shadow Treasurer, no less, stands up and leads the charge against the government

trying to manage the budget says it all about the state opposition. My mind turns to the editorial on Saturday about the state of the Liberal Party in Western Australia and about the state of the WA opposition—about how it has no tactics, no ability and no prospects. I think the member for Cottesloe was being too kind in his commentary towards the Leader of the Opposition that came out last Thursday—way too kind. I would have been far harsher; and, if I were the Leader of the Opposition, I would not be so harsh back to him.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — BACK OFFICE STAFF

744. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier please reassure Parliament that cutting approximately 84 per cent of support in administrative roles —

Mr M. McGowan: How many positions?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is 800 out of 954. Can the Premier reassure this Parliament that cutting approximately 84 per cent of support in administrative roles to education is not going to impact on frontline teachers and children's education?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The member is claiming that 800 positions are being cut from education. I have never heard that figure before. In fact, the figures I have heard are nothing of that magnitude. I think it is important that we understand that the government has a voluntary targeted separation scheme, and I remind members that it is a voluntary scheme. If public servants decide to take it up, that is something that public servants will do, and we support them if that is what they want to do. We cannot just drift along, like members opposite did in government, wrecking the state's finances. Members opposite were the worst —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman, I gave you four warnings. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Members opposite were the worst financial managers in the history of this state and here they are again, standing up in question time no less, and in the votes that they undertake and the questions that they ask, just re-emphasising to the people of Western Australia that they are incompetent, useless and not prepared to make the tough decisions that this state needs to get itself back on track. That is all they are doing.

The Minister for Education and Training, no doubt at some point in time, will make clear the savings initiatives inside education, but we did announce 3 000 voluntary targeted separations. That is the figure we are working towards.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I would check with the Leader of the House; he makes the order of the questions!

CANAL ROCKS BOAT RAMP — CLOSURE

Petition

MS L. METTAM (Vasse) [2.51 pm]: Mr Speaker, I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. It has 3 694 signatures and it states as follows —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We understand the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is considering closing the Canal Rocks Boat Ramp in response to a feasibility study undertaken/funded by the previous government to address safety concerns. This ramp has been used for more than 30 years and local groups have, understandably questioned why this ramp is set to close whilst other nearby, and comparable ramps on the west coast, at Gracetown, Gnarabup and particularly Hamelin Bay, remain open.

Operators believe safety concerns could be adequately addressed with better signage outlining the risks and potential dangers; and any potential closure of Canal Rocks would lead to excessive pressure on the already busy surrounding boat ramps, potentially creating further safety issues.

Importantly, **we seek your support to ensure that this vital facility remains open.**

[See petition 34.]

COMPANION GREYHOUNDS — MUZZLING*Petition*

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands — Deputy Speaker) [2.53 pm]: It is all right; I am not going to ask a question!

The SPEAKER: That is the end of petitions—no, sorry!

Ms L.L. BAKER: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the rules of the house. It has 1 814 signatures and it reads as follows —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say we are strongly opposed to breed specific restrictions for companion greyhounds as per the Dog Act 1976—Part VI—Control of Dogs—Division 1—Dogs Generally—Section 33—Special Provision for Greyhounds—(1) that states; “a greyhound must be muzzled in such a manner as will prevent it from biting a person or animal unless a) it is in or at premises occupied by its owner; or b) it has successfully completed a prescribed training programme”. Furthermore, the following organisations and Government offices also support ending the requirement for non-racing greyhounds to be muzzled in public: Australian Veterinary Association, RSPCA, NSW Greyhound Industry Reform Panel, the ACT Government and Greyhound Racing Victoria.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Government follow the lead of the ACT Government and repeal the breed specific legislation that requires companion greyhounds to be muzzled in public in WA.

[See petition 35.]

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES*Petition*

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [2.55 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. It contains 164 signatures from the communities of Kellerberrin, Nungarin and Bruce Rock and is couched in the following terms —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say that Community Resource Centres provide a vital service to regional communities, including access to government services, technology, professional services. They provide opportunity for employment and training and partner with community organisations to attract further funding to enhance the communities they are part of. These centres have evolved beyond simply providing access to technology and are considered by communities to be an essential service in regional WA.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia to call on Premier Mark McGowan to ensure adequate funding to support the ongoing operation of all CRCs, without reducing their capacity to deliver services.

[See petition 36.]

Similar petitions were presented by **Mr P.J. Rundle** (72 signatures from the communities of Yarloop, Bridgetown and Greenbushes), and **Mr R.S. Love** (592 signatures from the communities of Dongara, Dalwallinu, Jurien Bay, Gingin and Dandaragan).

[See petitions 37 and 38.]

BILLS*Appropriations*

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the following bills —

1. Heritage Bill 2017.
2. Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

BILLS*Notice of Motion to Introduce*

1. Natural Gas (Canning Basin Joint Venture) Agreement (Termination) Bill 2017.

Notice of motion given by **Mr M. McGowan (Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)**.

2. Suitors' Fund Amendment Bill 2017.

3. Suitors' Fund Amendment (Levy) Bill 2017.

Notices of motion given by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**.

4. Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Supplementary Bill 2017.

5. Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Supplementary Bill 2017.

Notices of motion given by **Mr B.S. Wyatt (Treasurer)**.

6. Ports Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

Notice of motion given by **Ms R. Saffioti (Minister for Transport)**.

PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE*“Acknowledgement of Country” Report — Notice of Motion*

Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the first report of the Procedure and Privileges Committee report, “Acknowledgement of Country”, tabled on 21 November 2017 be agreed to.

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — FIRST YEAR PERFORMANCE*Notice of Motion*

Dr M.D. Nahan (Leader of the Opposition) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house expresses concern over the failures of the McGowan government in its first parliamentary year.

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — PERFORMANCE*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) informed the Assembly that he was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [3.03 pm]: I move —

That this house expresses concern over the failures of the McGowan government in its first parliamentary year, including cuts to frontline services, massive increases in the cost of living, broken promises and a lack of accountability and transparency.

It is time to reflect on the year that has just passed. This is the first parliamentary year of the McGowan government. It came in with probably the largest majority in this state's history after a whopping big election victory. I have to say that I could summarise that with two descriptors—dishonesty and duplicity; it showed the same in opposition and during the election campaign. The former opposition was of course the biggest fiscal wrecker of all. It spoke and voted against every reform action that we undertook—every one. The current Treasurer has agreed that that is what it did. Not only did it vote against every measure we took to restrain and, indeed, cut back the growth of expenditure, but also it argued for more and more and more. I remember the now member for Bateman responding to the budget speech in his first year here. He said he had sat through the budget responses of members of the opposition and totalled up what they asked for, and it exceeded way over \$1 billion worth of additional expenditure on top of an already large deficit.

Of course, the biggest falsehood or lie of all was the repeated claim that the GST distribution had had no negative impact or forced the deficit up. The former opposition said the GST share was always predictable, it was never a surprise and that the former government—and now this government—did not have a revenue problem; it had an expenditure problem. How the tables have turned.

During the election we saw the now government's pretty slick deal whereby it promised the magic pudding. It was to reduce debt; there would be no increases in taxes, fees and charges; no cuts to frontline services and \$5 billion worth of spending. Anybody seriously looking at that knew it was con job. That is what it was, but it worked and the Labor Party won government. Immediately upon getting into government the Labor Party tried to reinterpret history. All of a sudden the GST was a big issue—it was in fact the biggest issue facing the state. It cut expenditure and revenue, as it was doing to the government and maybe had in the past. The government flipped.

During the election campaign debt reduction was the big issue. If not the largest, it was one of the big issues that contributed to the loss of the Liberal–National government. Debt was too high, and it was going to increase. We came in with a debt reduction strategy that was coherent, complete, well defined and not radical because it had been done in most other states, including by the Victorian and South Australian Labor governments; that is, selling assets to pay down debt. It was voted out by the people of Western Australia, with the support of a whole range of heavy union campaigns. But it was real. While in opposition, this government said such a plan was not needed because it would pay down the debt like a mortgage. Well, that is a strange mortgage. It must have an interest-only mortgage, because all it is doing is paying interest on increasing amounts.

This government has had three different debt reduction programs that all turned out to be vacuous. During the election campaign it was when the iron ore price goes sky high and our GST share increases, it would pay down debt. That was never going to happen. That was a con job. The one it came up with in the budget was that if we had windfall revenues, they would be put it down to the debt; no budget predicts windfall revenues.

The bottom line is that this government came in promising to pay down debt because it was a major issue. What has happened? Properly adjusted, this year's deficit is the largest in this state's history; it is the largest increase in debt by any measure, in absolute terms relative to the forward estimates and the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. In other words, the government came in promising that it would address the big fiscal problem and it has comprehensively failed to do so. Debt will go to \$44 billion on its books.

That is not all. It left out of the budget a whole raft of expenditure commitments, including the Ellenbrook line and the expansion of Joondalup Health Campus and Osborne Park Hospital. It has not put a whole raft of expenditure commitments into the budget. More importantly, the forward estimates for education, mental health and hospitals are all for no growth beyond 2017–18—no growth. No wonder the staff at Perth Children's Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and, I hear increasingly, Fiona Stanley Hospital are in riot; they can see what is in the forward estimates—absolutely no growth in expenditure despite a continued increase in the number of patients. There will be no growth in capital expenditure. During question time today, the Minister for Health went on about why King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and other hospitals need some money. His response was to blame it on us because we spent too much and did not spend enough. In other words, the Labor Party wanted to come in and have big buckets of money and everything taken care of so it could spend big. Well, it knew what it was campaigning for, it knew the state of the budget, it knew the limitations and it has failed.

I turn to tax. Over and again the Premier said, "Under my watch there will be no new taxes or tax increases on Western Australians." The shadow Treasurer of the time was honest and said that no Labor Treasurer could make such a promise because it would not be believable. He did not make it but over and again the leader of the Labor Party did because he wanted to protect jobs. He broke that promise with a payroll tax increase. We brought in the first home owner grant bonus late in our term. The response of the opposition was, "We support it. Just do it now." It supported it in full but it withdrew that. Of course, the gold royalty has been the biggest whopper of all. We considered it and looked at this issue when revenue was in freefall. The Labor Party ran the mother of all campaigns. Its members all suddenly became goldminers wearing goldminers' hard hats with their names on them.

The Labor Party protested the increase and the now Premier said that Labor would not increase the royalty on gold because it would destroy jobs. With social media, members cannot walk away from these things, as the member for Darling Range is finding out. The now Premier said it over and again in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In the run-up to the budget, the Treasurer promised the gold industry that he would not do it, but he did it. The Treasurer, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and the Premier had the temerity to say that a 50 per cent increase in the gold royalty would not impact on any mines or undermine jobs. We did the right thing. Our colleagues in the upper house threw it out. The Treasurer has come back with another version and said that this time it might affect jobs, but the government is going to protect them. The first time, he said that he talked to industry but he did not. He gave a directive to the industry and said, "Here's what we're going to do." The Treasurer talked to only the Chamber of Minerals and Energy; he did not talk to the wider gold industry. He did not do the appropriate consultation or the appropriate model. The first time, he basically told a mistruth; that is, he said that it would not have any impact on jobs. His second go at increasing the royalty shows that the first one was untrue.

When we came into government, electricity prices were going up by 10 per cent a year for as long as it took. In our first term we significantly increased electricity prices. We inherited that but we did not increase them above the forward estimates. We kept increases in electricity prices between three per cent and 4.5 per cent a year, despite haemorrhaging money through subsidies. These guys came in and despite having called us miserly the year before for increasing electricity prices by three per cent, the government put prices up by 11 per cent and put it all on the fixed charge. Increasing the fixed charge is proper; I am not sure that it is called reform but it is proper. The government cannot increase overall electricity prices by 11 per cent and put it all on the fixed charge, which doubles the fixed charge, and expect it not to hurt the most vulnerable—that is, the pensioners. It is hiding behind so-called reform and misallocating it.

More importantly, the election campaign was largely about the sale or otherwise of Western Power. Labor promised over and again not to sell any electricity assets or privatise monopolies. With the Warradarge wind farm

project, it is essentially selling generating assets to an entity owned by a Dutch firm, basically to get the renewable energy target responsibilities off the balance sheet. We looked at it—it was in the Treasurer's in-tray—but we did not do it because it would be costlier and Treasury said that the debt would come back onto the balance sheet and the government would have a whopping large increase in debt. The simple point about this is that the government said it would not do this. It said that it would not privatise electricity assets. That is exactly what it is doing. To summarise this budget and this year, the words dishonesty and duplicity come to mind.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.14 pm]: I also rise to speak to this motion. My colleague the Leader of the Opposition talked about that broken election promise of increasing the electricity supply charge to every electricity consumer in Western Australia, notwithstanding that prior to the election, on 23 October 2016, the now Premier stated in *The Sunday Times* that he knew that families could not afford higher power bills. He knew that, and he said that a McGowan government would not increase electricity costs. That is one of the government's first broken promises and we are only seven months in. One of the election commitments that got this mob elected was a 1.5 per cent pay rise for police officers. That is gone. That election commitment was broken. Another commitment was for mandatory minimum penalties for drug traffickers—people trafficking in meth. Prior to the election, the now Premier said that he agreed with our policy of introducing mandatory minimum penalties for drug traffickers of methamphetamine, but when it came time to bring legislation into this place, the now Minister for Police got to her feet and said the government was not doing that anymore. That election commitment was broken. It was an election commitment not to increase fees, taxes or charges. We have had a payroll tax increase, and the government is making a second attempt to bring in the gold royalty increase, notwithstanding that on the steps of Parliament in 2014, the now Premier said that he would not introduce an increase to the gold royalty because it would kill jobs. That is another election commitment that was broken. He is killing jobs because he is attempting to get that gold royalty increase through. Labor also committed to gold standard transparency. Have we not had an interesting run with that? We have had a very interesting run with that.

The Premier has stood in this place and quoted from official documents, refused to table them and pretended that he was not holding documents that we clearly saw him holding in front of him. The government used its numbers to ensure that the opposition party in the Legislative Assembly did not have a representative member on the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. That is gone. There will be no gold standard transparency on that committee for members of the opposition in this house. We saw the ministerial double dipping. Good heavens! Overpayments of \$48 000 were made for a ministerial car allowance, but we saw no transparency on that. In fact, we had to drag the Premier kicking and screaming to accountability on that matter. It took us months to get answers about which ministers had received more than they were supposed to and which ministers had paid it back. Guess how many ministers have paid it back? Zero! Over there they have two sets of rules—rules for us and rules for them. That is what is happening here.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, your own member is on her feet. I want to hear what she has to say.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When we look for gold-standard transparency, we are missing a range of annual reports that have not been tabled. Reports on ministerial travel or on parliamentary officers—the employment within our ministerial offices—have not been tabled. None of those have been tabled. We have had no parliamentary scrutiny of the travel expenses of these ministers or the individuals who are being employed at taxpayers' expense in ministerial offices. Those reports have not been tabled—nada! There is no oversight and no transparency. Stunt pieces of legislation have been brought into this chamber to create a 24-hour media sugar hit to get the Attorney General and others off the front page or onto the front page in a different light. One of those is a piece of legislation that we will debate later today. The Dangerous Sexual Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill was declared urgent but it is languishing in the other place. Then there was the Western Australian Jobs Bill. This legislation has innocuous names. One piece of legislation was the Salaries and Allowances Amendment (Debt and Deficit Remediation) Bill. For goodness sake! The entire premise of that title is incorrect. In the first budget handed down by this Treasurer, expenditure is up by \$584 million from the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. The *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement* predicted expenditure of \$30.255 billion in the next financial year. What we have is \$30.797 billion. That is \$584 million of additional expenditure. We saw the prediction for the deficit move from \$1.498 billion to \$2.34 billion. That is an increase of \$842 million to the deficit. That is a problem. That is not debt and deficit repair. The prediction for net debt in the out years 2019–20 is \$43.784 billion. That is an increase in net debt of \$2.7 billion. This budget has no debt and deficit repair—none whatsoever! The government has been exposed in raising payroll tax, raising the gold royalty, increasing fees and charges, and cutting public sector jobs in the name of paying for \$5 billion of unfunded election commitments. The government had no plan to pay for any of those \$5 billion of commitments and it is taking money out of the pockets of our police, our teachers and our nurses. The government is taking funding out of our schools, cutting public sector jobs and raising taxes to pay for its commitments, contrary to the promises it made to the Western Australia community to get elected. Shame on the government. The government gets an F from us for its first eight months.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As I wind up, the last major test of gold-standard transparency is to allow an opposition the opportunity to scrutinise the actions of government. What do we see in the other place? The other place will not even sit until the middle of March next year. That means this government can run rampant. It can introduce regulations. It can introduce the gold royalty after Christmas and nobody in the Legislative Council will have the opportunity to scrutinise this government's actions until the middle of March next year. That is not gold standard transparency. It is another massive broken election commitment.

MR D.C. NALDER (Bateman) [3.21 pm]: I stand to support this motion and I express surprise at the extent of the government's waywardness on the commitments and promises it made to the people of Western Australia in the lead-up to the last election. In the contributions from the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, we heard about some of the issues the government has attempted to deal with, but in so doing has misled the people of Western Australia based on the commitments that it made. I will touch on a few points in the time that I have available.

We talk about the increase in debt. The audited accounts at 30 June show that Western Australia's level of net debt is just under \$32 billion. The government states that net debt will be \$43.6 billion by the end of the forward estimates and that debt is attributable wholly and solely to this government. The government fails to acknowledge, despite its pre-election promises of paying debt down like a mortgage, the impact on interest expense. We will see a 52 per cent increase in interest expense over the four years of this government, from around \$970 million a year to about \$1.485 billion a year. That is an over \$500 million increase in interest expense just on the debt that the government is accumulating for the people of Western Australia. If we look at the measures the government is undertaking—it talks about it being budget repair to fix the financial situation it inherited—they do not even cover the increased interest expense this government will face during this term of government. The government is not dealing with the past; it is failing to deal with the contribution that it is making to Western Australia's debt.

We talk about issues like cost-of-living expenses. About 15 months ago, the Premier said that it was mean-spirited to increase electricity prices by three per cent. After the election, the Premier increased electricity prices by 11 per cent. Interestingly, because the increase was to the fixed charge—as the Leader of the Opposition just mentioned—it really targeted the vulnerable. We uncovered through a freedom of information request that the Treasurer was fully aware that because electricity price rises were for only fixed charges that this would result in increases of 30 per cent and even more on pensioners and other vulnerable Western Australians. I think that is a disgrace. The Labor Party talks about itself as being a party for the people, but to increase electricity prices by 11 per cent knowing that it would target the vulnerable and particularly pensioners with an increase of around 30 per cent is an absolute disgrace and something government members should hang their heads in shame about.

During the election campaign, there was much discussion about privatisation. As the former government, we went to the election talking about the need to seriously tackle the debt situation. We took a plan to the Western Australian people to reduce debt through the sale of 51 per cent of Western Power. During the campaign, the Labor Party's main platform was that it opposed privatisation of state assets—in particular Western Power. It was recently uncovered that the government had a plan to secure Synergy's renewable energy target requirements by selling state-owned assets to a foreign company—namely, Dutch Infrastructure Fund. What a change of heart that is! The Labor Party convinced the people of Western Australia that we cannot sell energy assets and state assets, and here it is, less than a year later, backflipping on that. Interestingly, the state government is privatising specifically the Grasmere wind farm and the Greenough River solar farm to provide its seed funding in the joint venture with the Dutch company. Let us be clear; the McGowan government has backflipped on its central policy of not privatising electricity assets.

The government promised not to increase existing taxes or introduce new taxes. The reality is that during this term we have already seen a new Uber tax and two attempts to increase the gold royalty. Interestingly, in the second attempt to increase the gold royalty the government actually acknowledged that the first attempt would have impacted on jobs, and agreed to review it. Whereas, the first time the government argued for the royalty increase, it said that it would not impact on jobs. On top of that, there is a \$400 million payroll tax increase, which is purely a tax on jobs; a new foreign investment tax on properties; and the government has indicated that it is considering a new banking tax and a new wagering and gambling tax. It goes on and on.

The government talks about jobs for people, but we are seeing an attack on jobs. I highlight that the government talks about improvement in the job scene, but I would like to share with members that detailed labour force data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 23 November 2017 highlights that the median duration of job search in Western Australia increased from 12 weeks in March 2017 to 27 weeks in October 2017. This is the second highest median duration of job search behind only Queensland at 29 weeks, is nine weeks longer than the Australian average, and almost double the best performing state of New South Wales at 14 weeks. Incredibly, this is the longest median duration of job search in Western Australia since ABS records began for this dataset in 1991. This has occurred under this government's watch since it was elected. The McGowan government needs to be aware that it cannot sack and tax its way to economic growth in this state.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [3.28 pm]: Is the opposition going through the motions? I get it. It is the end of the year and the opposition has come up with a half-baked critique of the government. I think we have had a pretty good year. I think we have had a very good year. As the Minister for Transport pointed out, it is very difficult in eight and a half months to implement our election commitments and solve all the problems the former government left us. Solving all the problems the former government left this government has not been a small task, let me assure you, Mr Speaker. Every day something new comes in—a budget black hole, this contract was done badly or it did not make a decision around this. A lot of that failure to make decisions over the last 12 to 18 months of the former government has created some real issues for us and we have to deal with that and clean up that mess, but we are doing it, and I think we are doing it pretty well after eight and a half years. I think the transition of government has been solid. I think we have managed to get on the path of delivering the majority of our election commitments in the first budget. I note the Leader of the Opposition complaining that not everything that we committed to is in the budget, but that is why there are four budgets for a term of government—to do these things. We are determined to do them and we will do them. I want to deal with a few specific issues before I go through a long list of achievements of this government, and it is a long list. I doubt that in the time I have been given I will be able to go through them all.

There are a couple of issues. The first one, raised by both the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer, is the gold royalty increase. I want to be very, very clear, and I said this before to the National Party last week during private members' business—there were not any Liberal members of Parliament in the chamber at the time—that lack of agreement does not mean lack of consultation. I accepted in the budget announcements that there was not consultation, because ultimately that is how governments tend to operate at budget time. They make a decision about revenue, they announce it and they try to get it through the Parliament if they are required to do so. That is why the former Liberal–National government did not consult the Property Council of Australia about its three land tax increases. That is why the former government did not do it then. I have a slight difference of opinion with the shadow Treasurer when he says that because we are having another go, we have accepted there was a negative job impact from form 1 of the gold royalty increase. No. I accept that the industry had concerns, but I do not think that if form 1 of our gold royalty increase had made it through the chamber, there would have been any impact on the industry. I still do not think that, but I accept the industry had concerns and that is why we have come up with an alternative arrangement, not around the royalty increase, but around a package of goods and policy arrangements to try to ameliorate things for those marginal miners. In any event, the Liberal Party is very proud of its legacy of high debt and it is defending that legacy. It wants the high debt to continue and I understand that it is very proud of that legacy, particularly the Leader of the Opposition.

Of some interest was the fact that I was critiqued by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who said that over the forward estimates net debt will increase by \$2.5 billion. That is not a bad effort, because in the first term of the former government, we went from \$3.6 billion of financial assets to net debt of just under \$20 billion. I am pretty sure, in fact I am confident, that this government will not increase net debt to the same level that the former government did over its first term. I will make the commitment that I will not have the same financial impact on the balance sheet that the former government did during its first term in power.

I want to make this point about the Synergy electricity bill. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Minister for Energy raised concern about the decision to increase the fixed components of the Synergy bill. Interestingly, the Leader of the Opposition now says that that is not reform, but just an increase, despite the fact that he said, “We argue we should be doing it. It is about fairness. I have repeatedly indicated and stated that a reform in this direction is needed.” That is what the Leader of the Opposition said back in 2015 when he was the Minister for Energy, but he never had the bottle to actually implement this reform. I get that he never had the bottle to do it because of his history in this place. Despite the fact that he is now heavily critiquing the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe, about the first term of the former government, he was one of the great spruikers of the budgets of the first term, not just in this place but also around Western Australia. That is ultimately what the Leader of the Opposition's record is—saying and doing things that are very, very different when he had the levers as minister to do these things. I assume that the opposition is being sarcastic, ironic or facetious when it dares raise issues of debt and deficit. We cannot fix the fiscal problem the former government left us in one budget. As I said prior to the election, it is going to take consecutive terms of government to do so. That is why we have a new wages policy that the opposition complains about. That is why we have made the tough decisions about increasing the fixed component of the Synergy power bill to ensure that we can start reducing the subsidy. That is why we have made a range of decisions about revenue. Interestingly enough, I have been critiqued by the opposition for both the things around revenue we did not take to the election and the things we did. We will see those policies come forward over the next little while as we move to implement them. The reality is that we have had to respond to a time in government that left a very weak balance sheet. We have had to respond to that. The opposition does not accept that there have been further revenue writedowns since the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. I do not know why the opposition does not accept that, but that is just the position it has. The opposition seems to think that things are fine and dandy, that we should be back to a roaring surplus and debt should be gone with one budget in some sort of mystical policy it must have had somewhere but was unwilling to implement when it was

in government. The point I make about the so-called angst around the Synergy renewable fund is that I think it is a very good outcome to try to deliver on our obligations for large-scale renewable energy. The opposition was moving down this path, but again the Leader of the Opposition never had the bottle to get it into cabinet, through cabinet and implemented. That is the reality.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I have to do the sorts of things that the former Treasurer was unwilling to do. I have to do the sorts of things that the Leader of the Opposition only talked about, and I am determined to do them, because I think that is still the best outcome for the balance sheet and for Synergy consumers.

I want to go through a range of our successes during our first eight and a half months in government and no doubt some of my colleagues will do the same thing. Obviously, the first budget delivered was a good budget! I am probably biased in that assessment, but I think it is a good budget! We introduced the WA local jobs bill. We tore up the skilled migration list, as we had committed to prior to the election. We announced a ban on single-use plastic bags from 1 July 2018. I have to say that I am perhaps one of the great offenders; I am wondering what I will do with my rubbish once that ban comes in, but I will have to adapt to the changes around us, like we all do. We stopped work on the Perth Freight Link. We secured a Productivity Commission review on the GST. We did that; the Premier did that when he wrote to the Prime Minister. The Premier wrote to the Prime Minister and do members know what? It happened. When we first came to power, Scott Morrison was not interested in the slightest in this issue. The good Senator Dean Smith had raised it, but Scott Morrison was not interested, but the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister and what did we get? We got the Productivity Commission looking into this very issue. I am very confident in what it may find—not just the embarrassing bits about the financial management of the former government. The Productivity Commission found the assumptions under the former government in 2011–12 about a grand deal for GST and spending accordingly particularly interesting—those grand assumptions made in the budgets. We secured that review. Again, the Leader of the Opposition thought we would never do this. In fact, he said in the media that he had spoken to senior federal Liberal ministers and they had said it would not happen—that is, get \$2.3 billion in funding for our job-creating, congestion-busting infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition campaigned against that. Let us reflect on what the Leader of the Opposition has done. Not content with the level of debt that he is determined to honour as his legacy, he campaigned against Western Australia getting more capital return from the commonwealth. That is what he did. In a treacherous performance by the Leader of the Opposition, he did not want one extra cent. Not just content with the level of debt he left us, he wanted it to go up even more.

Obviously, Metronet is underway. There is investment in roads. Business cases have been submitted to Infrastructure Australia for the rail extension to Yanchep and the Thornlie–Cockburn line, which are part of Metronet. There is \$129 million for new cycling infrastructure. There is \$425 million for destination marketing and event tourism. I compliment the Minister for Tourism; Defence Issues, who has been a spectacular success as a minister. I look forward to the Minister for Tourism's memoirs. It will be a thick read full of success—“Paul Papalia: My Life Between Lounges” is what he will call it. His is quite an extraordinary career. He has already had a range of successes. The list is so long that I want to leave it up to some of my colleagues to continue to go through them.

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for South Perth!

Mr B.S. WYATT: The point I want to make, as I have said and admitted in here, is that I am not trying to suggest for a minute that the challenges in our budget and the assumptions around expense growth are ambitious. I said this again last week during private members' business led by the National Party around health and other parts of our budget, that ambitious assumptions are made. That is highlighted in the statement of risks, as it always is. We are not hiding from those. I am determined to try to deliver on those, because that is my role, as we try to get expense growth at a more sustainable level after inheriting an out-of-control budget from the former government. I am trying to do that. I want to highlight that it is not easy when the former government plays the role of budget wrecker and takes positions that I am not sure about. Sometimes it might be supporting, sometimes it might be opposing; I am not entirely sure. But the former government, now the opposition, votes against its own saving measures in the upper house. When it acts to strip out its own savings measures in the upper house, it will not be treated credibly when it comes to talk about debt and deficit. That is what the opposition did. It is now voting to again do what it never had the bottle to do and knows should be done—increase the royalty on gold. It is just doing that for sheer bloody-mindedness to try to defend that proud record of debt that for some reason it is determined to ensure stays embedded in the finances. We always made the point during the election campaign and well before the election campaign —

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: Pay it off like a house mortgage!

Mr B.S. WYATT: Thank you, member for Churchlands! He is not as slow as he sometimes appears. We will only pay it off, slowly, over time. Had the former government been re-elected and sold Western Power, its own costings

showed that net debt would continue to increase. It is only until we get to a surplus position that we are going to have a long-term impact on the debt levels. That is the reality, which is why the budget highlights that. When the opposition's budgets showed surpluses, they highlighted that debt only comes down once the government starts running and operating at surplus. That is not magical or mystical; there is no financial engineering around that statement.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr B.S. WYATT: It is a simple reality. If the government sells an asset, and so be it, it sells an asset, until it gets the deficit back to a surplus position, net debt will continue to increase year on year. That is what we are determined to do. We have one forecast in the final year of the forward estimates. Again, when we are four years out, who knows what may happen with that. It may evaporate, it may increase, who knows? We are determined to protect it and deliver on it. It will be helped, of course, by GST returning, but we are not going to assume, like the former government did in 2011–12, that a GST deal will be done and just assume a relativity of 0.75.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr B.S. WYATT: We are not going to do that because that is the fiscal madness that justified the former government going ahead with simply continuing the spending trajectory. When the Leader of the Opposition looked back and reflected upon that budget, proud of his record as a commentator for most of his career, he said —

I spent over 20 years looking at budgets, particularly at the state level, both here and around the country. This is a particularly fine budget. It focuses on the needs of today while keeping a strong eye on the needs of the future.

That is what the Leader of the Opposition said when he made that ambitious assumption around a GST fix. It allowed the previous government to continue spending on the trajectory that it was doing, and that first term in particular averaged at around 10 per cent expense growth, year on year. That is why the Leader of the Opposition has savaged the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe, in his recent commentary on the state of the Liberal Party.

I quickly want to deal with one other issue that was raised. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was concerned about annual reports. I am not sure whether there are particular annual reports that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has some angst with, but I want to refer her to a statement I made to Parliament on 12 September this year confirming that a range of annual reports would be delayed because of the nature of the sitting of the chamber. She talks about a lack of transparency; I told the Parliament this would happen. I am not sure how much more transparent we could be, but if there are a range of annual reports that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is particularly concerned with, she should feel free to let me know and we will chase those up. I have been in opposition for a long time and I know the value of annual reports. We want them in and we want them through. I want to highlight that I told the Parliament in September that they would be delayed because of the nature of the timing of the sitting weeks. We are not trying to be mischievous; that was simply the reality of the way we work. I think that was the only issue that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: The ministerial travel expenses report?

Mr B.S. WYATT: I will defer to the Premier; no doubt that is on its way.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: The ministerial staffing reports?

Mr B.S. WYATT: No doubt they are there. I have answered the questions, and the member for Dawesville raised an issue the other week around statements of corporate intent. In 2013, not one was done prior to 30 June. Why? It is because of the election. In fact, energy utilities still has not done a statement of corporate intent for 2012–13. It just disappeared or one was never done. Think for a minute. The opposition comes in here, particularly after the Liberal Party had a long time in government, and it throws around accusations, immune from the abysmal record that it brings to this place. It will own the debt and deficit. I know it does not want to and is keen not to, but the reality is that it is going to hang around the opposition's neck for a while yet. We will do what we can do, but I think most Western Australians understand that this is not going to be resolved in one or two budgets. The mess the former government created is so dramatic, there will be Treasurers after me who will continue to deal with this. We all know that the level of debt is of such a size and scale that it will take time to pay off—as the member for Churchlands says—slowly like a mortgage. That is what we intend to do. The first step in doing that is returning to an operating surplus. Hopefully we are, by and large, through the vast majority of those revenue writedowns, whether they be around iron ore or around property or payroll taxes. When a government has revenue writedowns, we cross our fingers and if we are through all that, hopefully we can start getting some revenue growth across the forward estimates, despite the best efforts of the Liberal Party to vote away its own savings measures that it embedded in the budget just a few months ago.

We have started off well and we have started off strong. We are a government with a clear direction. I think we have been well received by the community in both the suburbs and the business community, and I think the budget has been well received. People understand that we have inherited a mess of gargantuan proportions from the former government and they are willing to allow this government time to ensure that we get the finances back on a sustainable footing, which we are determined to do.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [3.47 pm]: I find it extraordinary that the opposition should pursue this matter of public interest, and I wonder whether the tactic is an effort to deflect attention from its own internal woes and complete lack of substance that exists on the opposition benches. The rabble on the other side are in such disarray—it lacks substance and does not have the ability to form a coherent argument—that its obvious strategy is to hold its breath and stamp its feet, much like my toddler throwing an ill-timed tantrum, blustering about broken promises, accountability and transparency. The former Premier has been dishing the dirt on his second cabinet, which he claims lacked horsepower. The current Leader of the Opposition is calling on the former Premier, a man who has served his constituents for 26 years and has been continually re-elected, to leave Parliament. I can only assume that it is inconvenient for the Leader of the Opposition to have the member for Cottesloe sitting on the back bench. The total lack of substance of members opposite has meant that they have failed. Yes, they have failed to land a blow on the McGowan government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: They have resorted to creating storms in teacups. My goodness, will we ever forget “Papergate”, when they got themselves into an absolute tizzy over the one or two pages that the Premier was holding. Really? We want to tie up the government time with whether the Premier was holding one or two pages of notes!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I think everyone heard your side and listened. Now just listen to the member.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker.

Delivering on our promises is what we have been doing in our eight and a half months in government. We have been planning and working on delivering congestion-busting measures, such as the widening of Mitchell Freeway south of Cedric Street. This directly affects my electorate. I am proud that the government has managed to secure federal funding to also build flyovers on Wanneroo Road at Joondalup Drive and Ocean Reef Road. We are delivering on our promises. I am not sure how we are misleading or being unaccountable to the electorate. We said that we would deliver science, technology, engineering and mathematics into primary schools. Last Friday, I was very lucky to have telephone calls with two very excited principals at two primary schools in my electorate, Dalmain Primary School and North Woodvale Primary School. Each of those schools has received funding to turn one of their classrooms into a science laboratory so that their students can learn STEM disciplines in a dedicated classroom. If that is not delivering on a promise, I am not sure what is.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: How many promises did you get in Kingsley?

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville, I know you have an attraction, because you keep interjecting. I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: I am glad the member for Dawesville brought that up. How many promises did I get in Kingsley? I have just told the member about two promises. We have delivered two STEM classrooms in Kingsley, one at Dalmain Primary School and one at North Woodvale Primary School.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: We have also delivered \$150 000 to Halidon Primary School to enable it to rebuild the administration block. The school community and the principal and former principal have been asking for that for the last 10 years. The former government was in office for most of that time. The school community was so excited about that grant that the former principal was almost in tears. She had been asking for that and had been ignored for many years. That is another promise that we are delivering in the Kingsley electorate.

Woodvale Little Athletics Club needed some extra high-jump mats, because the regulations had changed. It also needed some new storage facilities. We have delivered. We have given that club a grant to enable it to purchase new high-jump mats and to put money towards a storage facility for those high-jump mats.

Goollalal Greenwood Scout Group also asked, and we have delivered. That is what we do on this side. It needed to purchase new equipment. We delivered a grant to enable that group to buy not only a new tent and ropes, but also other equipment, and to provide a storage facility to avoid damage to that equipment.

I now turn my attention to Perth Children's Hospital. I believe, and I think many members on this side would agree with me, that the Minister for Health has been absolutely transparent in giving numerous updates to the house and getting out and speaking to stakeholders. I was very pleased to invite the minister to attend a meeting with me with parents from ward 3B at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. Not all the questions they asked of the minister were easy, but the minister answered all their questions and provided them with information about the new children's hospital. That is more than the previous government ever did. We have not been providing false hope. We have been providing accurate information. That is unlike the member for Nedlands, who has falsely and irresponsibly claimed that the new children's hospital is ready for patients to move into. Our government has been transparent, and we should be commended for that, rather than the rubbish that the opposition is putting up.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, I call you to order for the first time.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.53 pm]: When a matter of public interest motion is moved in this place, we would expect the proponents of that motion to be honest in the things they say and the arguments they use. I draw the attention of the house to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who made some claims about a report that has not been tabled. She was very grumpy. She repeated those claims a few moments ago.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It is a ministerial staffing report.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stand by that?

Mrs L.M. Harvey: That is my advice.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: With respect, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's advice is wrong. I have that document here. It is a ministerial resourcing staffing report. It was tabled on 15 June. It was available to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I suggest that before the Deputy Leader of the Opposition comes into this place and tries to build a case against this government, she does her homework. I have the report here, and I am more than happy to give her a copy. If members opposite want to talk about transparency —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you have had the opportunity to speak. You might not like what you hear, but that is the answer you are being given.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: The member for Bateman also had some things to say. He tried to build a case against the government by using some statistics about the median duration of job search in Western Australia. It was obvious to me that he had not done his homework but had simply picked something out of the newspaper.

Mr D.C. Nalder: I quoted ABS statistics that were released on 23 November.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Indeed.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, just let us hear the answer.

Mr D.C. Nalder: He did mention my name.

The SPEAKER: Oh—whacko! That does not matter. Can I just explain. When I sat on that side of the chamber and the ministers had a crack at me, I had a crack back, and I was called to order. That still remains.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: The member for Bateman says that he went to the source information to do his homework and analysed it correctly. I can tell the member what that information shows. There is nothing to back up the member's assertion. As of October, the median duration for job seekers in Western Australia was 27 weeks. The member is either looking at old information or choosing to ignore the latest information. That figure is lower than the figure in Queensland, at 29 weeks, and roughly on par with the figure in South Australia. I have more good news, member for Bateman. When it comes to long-term unemployed people who are looking for work, the median duration in Western Australia is the lowest in the country at 95 weeks. That can be compared with the Australian average of 118 weeks. That figure has dropped under the McGowan government from 107 weeks in April. If the member for Bateman looks further, he will find that the median duration for people who have been unemployed for between one month and three months is six weeks. That is lower than the Australian average. It is lower than the figure in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. That figure has dropped under the McGowan government from eight weeks in March and April. The median duration for people who have been unemployed for between three months and six months is 16 weeks. That is lower than the Australian average. It is lower than the figure in every state bar New South Wales. That figure, too, has dropped from 19 weeks in July and June. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [3.58 pm]: This government is clearly living in self-flagellating la-la land. It has no idea about the pulse of the people of Western Australia. The government's degree of accountability to the people of Western Australia sits on the dark side of the moon. It is impossible for anybody to see. We have shown time and again in this place that we cannot trust this government. This government has engaged in things like ministerial double dipping. Government members had the opportunity to come into this place and say, "We made an error. After the election, this new system rolled in. We took ministerial cars. We also took the allowance. That's double dipping. That wasn't fair. We shouldn't have done it." The amount of money that government members took and kept in their pockets for themselves is the equivalent of more than 13 weeks of the maximum amount that an age pensioner can receive. This was at a time when the government was saying to those same age pensioners, "We know you're doing it tough, and we're here to look after you." What an absolutely arrogant and hypocritical government. Its ministers drew on the resources of hardworking, battling Western Australians and age pensioners on fixed incomes when they were propelled into government. What did they do the minute they were in government? They turned their backs, double dipped and put money in their pockets and said, "Nothing to see here. It's all aboveboard. It's all according to the rules." It may well have been, but was it right? No, it was not. It was not right and it would not pass the pub test. They know it and the people of Western Australia know it, but what did they do about it? They did nothing about it because in their heart of hearts they do not care. That is the fundamental truth of what this government is.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The member for Morley can laugh while the hardworking battlers of Western Australia are out there, as the member for Baldivis just said, waiting 27 weeks for a job, as the editorial in today's *The West Australian* stated. If the member for Baldivis wants to take on and say that the editor of *The West Australian* is wrong, he can fill his boots and go for it. Today's editorial stated that it takes a person 27 weeks to get a job—that is, a person who is lucky enough to get a job—while ministers are lining their pockets with money they have not earned. Member for Morley, that is what government ministers have done and it is a disgrace. It is a disgrace to all backbenchers and the people of Western Australia that they have not fessed up and said, "It was a mistake. It's inappropriate that we took this money and we should give it back." They think they have done nothing. I tell you what, that action alone cuts to the heart of what this government is about. It is an arrogant, hypocritical government that does not care about the people who put it into power. It is more interested in itself and its own sense of self-worth. It continues to deceive the people of WA, but the people of WA will learn, mark my words.

The government has gone on in the media about the opposition being too hard on the member for Darling Range. We have not once focused our attention on the member for Darling Range; we have only ever focused our attention on the Premier and the Minister for Veterans Issues to be accountable to the people of Western Australia for their decision-making and how they have been conducting their research into this very serious matter. Not once have we targeted the member for Darling Range. We have only ever focused on the leadership of the government. That is what we are interested in. That is what the people of Western Australia are focusing on.

Can I just say that the last time Labor was in government, it did nothing about job creation. It was like a google-eyed tropical gecko that is stuck to the side of a cabinet room wall, thinking, "What do we do about jobs? I know, we'll just stick here on the wall and hope that the economy turns around and hope that something will happen." That is all that this government is about. To hope is not a good task verb, members. That is what the government is banking on. It is hoping that the GST will turn around, that the economy will turn around and that jobs will increase so that it can say to the people of Western Australia, "There we go; we produced jobs." The government knows it is not producing any jobs. In fact, all it is doing is pork-barrelling the people of marginal electorates with big fake cheques—real taxpayers' money—with the names of local members of Parliament on them. It is disgraceful. We have a hypocritical, arrogant government that is out of touch with the people of Western Australia.

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta) [4.04 pm]: In the 30 seconds left to debate this matter of public interest motion, I want to make a couple of points. If I had had time today, I would have talked about the election commitments that have been delivered in the electorate of Balcatta, such as the Osborne Park Hospital and Balcatta Senior High School, but I do not have the time. Those promises were not pork-barrelling in my seat; they also affect some of the seats held by members on the other side. I wanted to speak on this MPI because I have sat here every week listening to opposition members. There has been no research or work done on this MPI. We need a stronger opposition than this. I know what is being proposed for private members' business tomorrow and it is the same again—it is a lazy MPI.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, your time has expired.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr T.J. Healy) casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (15)

Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr K. O'Donnell
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr A. Krsticevic	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr P.J. Rundle
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	Ms L. Mettam (<i>Teller</i>)
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	

Noes (36)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr M.J. Folkard	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms R. Saffioti	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Mr T.J. Healy	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms A. Sanderson	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)

Pair

Mr P. Katsambanis

Ms J. Farrer

Question thus negatived.

CIVIL LIABILITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ACTIONS) BILL 2017*Declaration as Urgent*

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [4.09 pm]: In accordance with standing order 168(2), I move —

That the bill be considered an urgent bill.

Perhaps the opposition could indicate its consent for this motion.

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [4.09 pm]: Yes; we are happy to proceed to the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading

Resumed from 22 November.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [4.10 pm]: I stand to contribute to the second reading debate on the incredibly important Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. When the Attorney General introduced this bill to the house last week, he stated —

On behalf of the McGowan state Labor government and the people of Western Australia, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this bill that fulfils an election commitment to remove the limitation periods in respect of civil actions for child sexual abuse. As members will be aware, this is a historic bill. In some respects, the government's legislation will go further than any similar legislation in any other Australian jurisdiction to date.

Those words are very important. It is a very historic bill and, in some respects, it does go further than any other jurisdiction in Australia, which is quite interesting because until this bill is passed, Western Australia has arguably the most draconian Limitation Act in Australia. I will talk about that a bit later. The ability to take a civil action outside the limitation period is non-existent in Western Australia. That is why this bill is very important. The issue of being able to take civil litigation regarding child sexual abuse has become topical over the last 15 to 20 years with the stolen generations and the British child migrants, and we now have the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. If we look at other issues that do not necessarily relate to sexual abuse but to stolen wages, we find that all those possible civil actions that people would like to take regarding wrongs that have been committed were barred as a result of the statute of limitations. The reason we have limitation periods is very important in our judicial system and I will talk about that shortly.

The Attorney General mentioned that this bill will arguably go further than any other legislation in existence in Australia at the moment. As I said, up to now, we have probably had the most draconian legislation for limitation periods. We can look at cases that have succeeded in other jurisdictions. The Trevorrow case in South Australia

has been the only successful case for the stolen generations. There were the Cubillo and Kruger cases in the Northern Territory. There was also the Williams case in New South Wales. These cases were all able to proceed outside the limitation periods. Trevorrow and Cubillo were able to proceed under limitation acts in South Australia and the Northern Territory because the acts allowed a discretion to waive the limitation period in certain circumstances, one being what is known as the discoverability rule. Often, the problem is that a person does not know that they have a cause of action, especially if they are a child; they may not realise they have a cause of action until many years after the statute of limitation period has been barred. The discoverability rule allows that once a person discovers they have a cause of action, the clock starts ticking. It may tick for a year, so they have to bring an action within one year of knowing that they had a cause of action. That is not the case under the Western Australian legislation, but in South Australia and in the Northern Territory, it was.

The Trevorrow case did not directly deal with child sexual abuse but it definitely dealt with child neglect and it was a stolen generation case. The Cubillo case dealt with numerous causes of action, but not child sexual abuse. The Kruger case went to the High Court on constitutional grounds and was, unfortunately, very unsuccessful because it should not have been argued on constitutional grounds. The Williams case in New South Wales dealt with a young Aboriginal girl who was removed to an institution. The action did not succeed in the end, but it was able to continue outside the limitation period on the basis of the action being in equity. The action was taken on many different fronts, but one was a breach of fiduciary duty. A breach of fiduciary duty comes under what we call equity and, under the New South Wales legislation, Justice Kirby stated that actions that have been commenced in equity are not caught up by the statute of limitations. That is the general legal principle: actions based in equity do not get caught up by the statute of limitations. They can be caught up by an equity defence known as laches, but not by the Limitation Act.

In Western Australia, that is not the case. Our legislation includes all actions, whether they are in common law or in equity. In Western Australia up to now, a potential plaintiff who sought to take an action outside the limitation period basically had no chance. That was brought home more recently, I think in 2013, by the Collard case that was heard in the Supreme Court. That action was commenced outside the limitation period and one of the arms they tried to bring in was its breach of fiduciary duty, which, of course, is in equity, but it is quite clear under our legislation that all actions are caught whether they are in equity or common law. Potential plaintiffs in Western Australia also faced another hurdle if they sought to sue the state or a state institution: the Crown Suits Act. The historical viewpoint was that an action could not be brought against the Crown, but the Crown Suits Act created an action against the Crown—a right to sue the Crown. The Limitation Act basically tries to narrow the action a person has against individual parties because the traditional view was that the Crown could not be sued but, of course, non-Crown persons or organisations could be sued. The view was that a limitation should be put on that right to sue because of evidentiary issues and not wanting to unduly prejudice the defendant due to the passage of time whereby evidence and memories may have long gone. This has been talked about for many years. I am sure that the Attorney General would recall that when Hon Jim McGinty was the Labor Attorney General, a Law Reform Commission report about limitation periods came down. We have changed the limitation period over time; we brought in an amendment to the Limitation Act to allow victims of asbestos diseases to bring an action out of time. It is not that it has not happened in Western Australia, but it was in a very limited situation regarding asbestos diseases. We have never taken this step to allow victims of child abuse—in this case, historical child abuse—to bring actions out of time. That is why this very historic bill is before the house. I mentioned the Crown Suits Act. It was a major hurdle for people who sought to bring an action against the Crown. As a result of a piece of legislation that was passed in 2005, the Limitation Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act, the specific limitation period that applied to the Crown Suits Act was basically abolished so, by analogy, the Limitation Act also applies to actions that would normally have come under the Crown Suits Act. That, of course, is very important to realise.

That is basically what we have before us today. There are three parts to the legislation, including part 3, which is the substantive part. The Attorney General mentioned that this bill, in many respects, goes further than any similar legislation in other jurisdictions. One of the reasons it goes further than any other limitation act in Australia is that the provisions introduced in part 2 of the bill ensure that an action that would otherwise succeed is not barred because the defendant no longer exists—when the defendant cannot be identified. For example, a certain institution may no longer be in existence. A child may have been sexually abused in 1965 at institution A that may no longer be in existence. Part 2 of the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017 will, as the Attorney General mentioned, pierce the shield and allow an action to commence and not fail due to that institution no longer being in existence.

Members know that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has now been in existence for a number of years. As to limitation periods, page 52 of its report on redress and civil litigation states —

... limitation periods are a significant, sometimes insurmountable, barrier to survivors pursuing civil litigation.

...

We are satisfied that current limitation periods are inappropriate given the length of time that many survivors of child sexual abuse take to disclose their abuse.

...

We recognise that there are benefits to all parties if civil proceedings are determined as close as possible to the time the injury is alleged to have occurred.

...

Notwithstanding these considerations, we are satisfied that the limitation period for commencing civil litigation for personal injury related to child sexual abuse should be removed and that the removal should be retrospective in operation.

...

It seems to us that the objective should be to allow claims for damages that arise from allegations of institutional child sexual abuse to be determined on their merits.

...

It is also desirable that national consistency be sought in this area.

...

We acknowledge that institutions may face additional claims if limitation periods were removed with retrospective effect. However, we are satisfied that limitation periods have worked great injustices against survivors for some time. We consider that institutions' interests are adequately protected by the need for a claimant to prove his or her case on admissible evidence and by the court's power to stay proceedings in the event that a fair trial is not possible. Institutions can also take steps to limit expensive and time-consuming litigation by offering effective redress and by moving quickly and fairly to investigate, accept and settle meritorious claims.

Removing limitation periods may create a risk that courts will interpret the removal as an indication that they should exercise their powers to stay proceedings in a more limited fashion. We consider that it should be made clear that the removal of limitation periods does not affect the courts' existing powers.

...

We consider that state and territory governments should implement our recommendations to remove limitation periods as soon as possible. Our recommendations on the duty of institutions and identifying a proper defendant —

Being recommendations 89 to 95 —

... may take longer to implement. However, our recommendations to remove limitation periods should be implemented without delay.

The Attorney General has sought to comply with that recommendation with the introduction of this bill and seeking to have it passed before we rise on Thursday.

The commentary in the royal commission's report on redress and civil litigation states that limitation periods are needed to ensure that defendants are not unduly affected by people not having taken actions when they should have, but we are here dealing with historical child abuse that can have had massive effects on the victims. The victims may not have had the ability or knowledge to bring an action. Actually, until this bill passes, people outside the limitation period who suffered through child sexual abuse cannot bring an action in Western Australia. I have stated that we have the most draconian Limitation Act in Australia.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr A.D. BUTI: This bill was very carefully crafted to ensure that the existing justice system around the bringing of an action will not be completely removed. The normal need to prove a case will remain. This legislation will not mean that people can claim to have been sexually abused and automatically be successful in their case. They will still have to go through the very stressful process of revisiting a very painful period in their lives. That is obviously why other forms of compensation such as redress schemes and so forth are looked at. The point is that the removal of the limitation period is a redress scheme in itself. It is reparation. That can be seen in international law. Reparation has become a very important feature of the political and legal system internationally and in Australia since the early 1990s. In Australia, we have had the stolen generation, British child migrants, institutional child abuse and stolen wages, but Canada has had residential schools and there have been genocide prosecutions that have gone over decades in other parts of the world. All have looked at reparation models.

Members should look at the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Theo van Boven's principles on reparation for human rights abuses. Child sexual abuse is obviously a human rights abuse. The van Boven principles state that reparation should guarantee the human rights abuse will not be repeated. We should establish rehabilitation measures like counselling and so forth,

and restitution in the form of monetary compensation. One recommendation often made is the removal of a limitation period so that a person can bring an action. This bill is a reparation measure in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

People who have suffered a historical wrong should not be denied their day in court if they want it. Some will not want it. If this bill brought before the house by the government is passed, it will become a reparation measure for victims. It is also symbolic. It tells child sexual abuse victims that this government, and hopefully this Parliament, acknowledges the wrongs that have been committed on them sometimes by state institutions and sometimes by non-state actors. Whether someone utilises the ability to bring an action that would have otherwise been out of time, the fact that we have removed the statute of limitation for historical child sexual abuse is in itself a reparation measure that will result in tangible monetary consequences if those people are successful, but will also have symbolic worth. That can provide major therapeutic benefits to child abuse victims. This government will look at this among other measures. This is a justice measure. Members could see it as restorative justice, restoring justice; corrective justice, correcting a past wrong; or distributive justice, trying to ensure that a victim of child sexual abuse whose ability to maximise their economic potential may have been severely reduced due to psychological or physical harm as a result of that abuse. Allowing monetary compensation provides some form of redistribution—that is, distributive justice theory. It could be corrective justice, distributive justice or restorative justice, but whatever justice members want to call it, it is good justice; that is what it is. It is in line with our commitments under international law and the commitments that we took to the election. It is in line with justice theories and being a government that cares about its citizens and, hopefully, a Parliament that cares about its citizens. Let us not be under the illusion that this is necessarily a panacea. It is an incredibly important measure. I repeat that the Attorney General has brought a historic bill to this place. Litigation should not be seen as the answer to all wrongs in our society, but it is unjust to continue to deny victims of historical child abuse the ability to gain justice due to a Limitation Act that is the most draconian in Australia. I worked at the Aboriginal Legal Service for a number of years and we had clients who were part of the stolen generation. Not all were subjected to child sexual abuse, but quite a number were. I dealt with many members of the Collard family, who took the action I mentioned previously that went to the Supreme Court in, I think, 2013. What they went through was appalling, but they were not Robinson Crusoe, because many clients at the Aboriginal Legal Service were part of the stolen generation, who told horrific stories of being removed from their families—arguably for their own good. When the state took over the loco parentis duty, the state, as their parents, failed in its duty. Sometimes it was not the state; it was another institution. But if they became wards of the state, the state had that responsibility. They were supposed to have been taken away to be provided with a better opportunity in life. I do not want to get into the debate about other agendas.

Of course, in the “Bringing them home” report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, other accusations or claims are made about the real agenda behind the stolen generation experiment. It was an experiment—an experiment that failed. Of course, some people who were removed were not subject to abuse and received a good education et cetera, but people should not have to be part of an experiment that went wrong to be ensured of a proper education in our society. Leaving that aside and concentrating on those members of the stolen generation, I still remember many of those people. Unfortunately, many have passed away, so they will not be able to be beneficiaries of this bill that is before the house, but a number of members of the stolen generation are still alive today. I will not encourage them to take action, but at least they will have the opportunity to take action if this bill is passed. I often think about the late Robert Riley, who was the CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service—a great orator and one of this state’s great statesmen. He was the CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service when I worked there and was the instigator of the stolen generation project that I was fortunate enough to be the coordinator of. As a young child he was removed and sent to Sister Kate’s Children’s Home. I interviewed him in his office and he relayed the story of being raped as an eight or nine-year-old. It was the first time that he had told anyone about that episode. It was kind of a cathartic experience for him and he relayed that story at the launch of *Telling Our Story* at the old Sister Kate’s Children’s Home in Queens Park. He also relayed the story of asking the people who worked at Sister Kate’s at the time whether his mum or dad would come to see him. They told him that his parents had died, but they had not; his mother was alive. He was punished for asking about his parents. Unfortunately, within 18 months, Robert Riley took his life at that hotel in Bentley on Albany Highway. His was a tragic story. He was a very strong believer that we needed not only a political solution to those issues, but also a legal option. One of the arguments that we ran at the Aboriginal Legal Service at the time was that the limitation period should be removed or discretion should be allowed to take an action out of time if certain conditions were met. This bill before the house goes a lot further than I would ever have expected. It is incredibly comprehensive and the Attorney General and the government should be congratulated for bringing this bill before the house. I trust that the opposition is also of the same view and will be very supportive of this bill. In a civil society, we cannot have a situation in which historical wrongs have taken place but people are denied justice because of something that is out of the control of the plaintiff. The statute of limitations is not really a legal technicality; it is a bit more substantive than that. The discoverability rule that many limitation acts have is quite a good measure because it allows people to take an action once they realise they have a cause of action. This bill goes even further than that. As the Attorney General

mentioned last week, this bill does not provide a definition of child sexual abuse. We will leave that to the courts, which will be interesting. On normal legal principles, I imagine that the judiciary will have to look at the standards of the time. I think, though, that child sexual abuse has always been child sexual abuse. Of course, the courts will have to make sure that it fits within the period that the alleged wrong took place, but I do not see that as being a problematic issue because, whenever it happened, child sexual abuse is child sexual abuse.

I reiterate that this bill fulfils one of our major election commitments and will ensure that we are a civil, just government and, hopefully, Parliament, if the bill is passed. It honours our obligation under international law and will remove the infamous distinction of Western Australia having the most draconian statute of limitations legislation in Australia. It is appalling that we have a Limitation Act in Western Australia that denies justice to victims of historical child sexual abuse. We are not saying that this is a panacea, but it is an incredibly powerful reparation measure because, if anything, it is for victims of child sexual abuse acknowledgement and recognition that we care and we understand the wrongs that have been committed against them and the damage that they have incurred. That on its own is incredibly powerful, but there is also the monetary compensatory element. It is often asked how monetary compensation for victims of child sexual abuse is determined. It probably goes with a lot of civil actions. It is not an exact science, but the court will work out a way to determine that as it does for normal tort actions. This is an action in tort: economic loss, pain and suffering et cetera is worked out. It is nothing novel in that area. I think more importantly it says to victims that they now have the option of going down that route. But if victims do not want to go down that route, at least they know that this government, and hopefully this Parliament, understands and has empathy for the suffering they have endured.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [4.41 pm]: I am not the lead speaker on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017, but I rise to offer my and my party's in-principle support for the legislation. I commend the government for bringing this bill to the house.

It is a difficult issue and difficult legislation to draft, and, appropriately, it has taken some time. As a Parliament, we owe it to the victims of child abuse to pass such legislation. Importantly, we have an obligation to make sure that the legislation is right and addresses the wrongs that it seeks to address and provides the pathway that it seeks to provide. The Liberal and National Parties would have liked to have passed such legislation during our time in government. A private member's bill was presented to the previous Parliament during the last term. Of course, in principle we supported that legislation, particularly its aim to remove the statute of limitations, but we needed to make sure the legislation would do what it stated it would do. It would have been an insult to victims and their families if we did not ensure that the legislation would do the task that it set out to do; that is, to remove the statute of limitations and provide a pathway for actions against the institutions that allowed, or in some cases perpetrated, sexual abuse against children. In other words, the legislation needs to be watertight for victims of child abuse so that they could pursue their victimisers. It is a matter of record that that did not happen. The legislation was not up to scratch. We followed up with a subcommittee to examine the matter because the consensus was that injustice had to be corrected. The subcommittee was led by the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and she will probably speak to that later, when she speaks to the bill. The subcommittee heard representations from a range of victims and victims' loved ones, from institutions and from others. The former government and this opposition is committed to allowing survivors of child sexual abuse the ability to take civil action against perpetrators and when relevant and possible against the institutions that failed to protect them as children. Like the government, we are committed to introducing legislation as a matter of urgency. As I said, drafting this legislation is difficult and, once again, I commend the government for bringing this legislation to this chamber, and I wish it well.

I acknowledge that the government faced myriad issues in getting this legislation right. Noting the difficulties, let me indicate the opposition's in-principle support to removing the statute of limitations to enable victims of child sexual abuse to take action against their perpetrators and when relevant and possible against the institutions that failed them. Sexual abuse is traumatic. Some of us can go online and read the reports of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I think it is now into its second or third year. It is one of the longest and most drawn out royal commissions of any time. It is a shocking story of human beings inflicting such pain onto children—it is unimaginable. But through history humanity has sometimes done terrible things to each other, and that is why we need laws to protect our most vulnerable—our children. Many times, children were put into institutions for care, for moral guidance, for education and either the institutions or the people within the institutions failed to do that in the most unimaginable way—whether it was sexual, physical or psychological abuse. That abuse has impacted victims throughout their lives. They were, after all, only children. The people inflicting the pain were adults who were there to protect, teach and guide them and to give them moral values, and they abrogated that in the most atrocious way.

Many victims will be unable to take action. Sadly, some victims have passed away and some have taken their own lives. Others had their lives ruined. They did not get through school, they struggled through work and they had difficulty in relationships with family and other loved ones. They had poor life choices forced on them by the abuse when they were children. We need to remove the statute of limitations for these victims. I am no psychologist or lawyer or expert but, clearly, anyone who has interacted normally with children knows that children hold things in, particularly of this type, for years, if not decades. They are afraid to come forward or to talk about it with their

parents or their loved ones. They hold it in, and when it does come out many years, if not decades, later it has already had an indelible and often negative impact on their lives. That is why the statute of limitations, despite its use and utility elsewhere, simply should not apply to victims of child sexual abuse. I congratulate the government for addressing this issue.

When the Premier was in opposition he brought up three relevant examples. First is the former boys from Katanning who were abused at St Andrew's Hostel—the victims of Dennis McKenna. The person running the hostel sexually abused them and their stories were not believed. The evidence is that he did that over many years. He was an icon in the community and respected by many. Even when there were signs that he was doing such things, they were overlooked or ignored. When victims expressed their stories and concerns, they were ignored. It was not only the abuse inflicted on the children, but also that they needed to overcome and battle with questioning an icon of the community when people did not believe them. The Premier also told of those men finding the courage to come forward, but that by the time they did so, the capacity to take legal action had passed. Likewise, the Premier highlighted the victims of HMAS *Leeuwin*. These victims went through HMAS *Leeuwin* as boys in the care of men. Boys aged 14 and 15 went to *Leeuwin* and it took years—decades—for them to come to terms with the abuse that they endured. By the age of 24, their opportunity to take legal action had expired. This highlights the importance of removing the statute of limitations. The victims had been through the most harrowing of experiences and for them to discuss it with the people closest to them, let alone a court of law, was worse than difficult; it takes time.

Well known Western Australian Eoin Cameron also had stories. He had access to the bully pulpit. He was a morning show presenter at ABC Radio, and had been a radio presenter for many decades in many radio stations around Australia. The Premier referred to a radio interview with Eoin in which he recounted his experiences of boarding school. He told stories of being called to the office, his pants being taken down and the pain he felt when he was abused. As the Premier indicated, when I heard this story, I wondered how many people this happened to and how many were only now coming to terms with it. Eoin recounted his story publicly and passionately, and it helped others who had similar stories to come out and express their concerns, to get the pain of their chests and hopefully someday to have the perpetrators held responsible. I am also aware that he supported many victims by speaking on their behalf at the Royal Commission into Institutionalised Response to Child Sexual Abuse or encouraging them to make submissions. He encouraged many people to seek assistance and support, and those people now deserve the opportunity to seek compensation. That opportunity will present itself with the removal of the statute of limitations, which this bill seeks to do. As I said, there is in-principle support for this legislation, and we want to get it right. I look forward to it progressing through Parliament.

I will just ask a couple of legitimate questions. Looking at Eoin Cameron's experience, and I never discussed it with him even though I had many long discussions with him, the issue is that I am not sure whether he was personally subject to sexual abuse, but there was clearly physical abuse of a most horrendous type. Indeed, physical and sexual abuse sometimes appear to go together. Maybe we should expand the legislation to cover not just sexual abuse, but physical abuse, and perhaps also psychological abuse. Going back to the essence of the story, when young children are put by their parents or society into the care of an institution, and a leader of that institution or a person condoned by the institution perpetrates either sexual violence or physical violence, it should not be tolerated in society. That is what this bill seeks to address, both by removing the statute of limitations and allowing us to peer through the various trust arrangements and other legal protection mechanisms so victims can get access to retribution, reconciliation and recompense from the agencies and institutions that perpetrated the abuse. As we well know, many of these institutions are religious in nature. They are the representatives of God and they perpetrate this abuse. In some cases, those institutions clearly protected the perpetrators from the courts and actions. Those institutional cover-ups should never have been allowed and they should not be able to be perpetrated in the future. They should be broken through to achieve recompense for the victims of the past. These are some of the most important institutions in society, one of which I have been involved in for decades.

This is a very important piece of legislation. It is one we will not see the end of, because I am sure the royal commission into the sexual abuse of children will come up with a whole range of recommendations requiring commonwealth and state laws, and we will follow through with those. This is the correct path. I guess in life we ask why things have taken so long, and the response would be that perhaps it is a failing of humanity sometimes not to see when there is a blatantly obvious need for action. Sometimes it is only certain crises, in this case the Katanning hostel, that bring the issue to the attention of everybody and then action is precipitated. I am confident that with the comprehensiveness of the royal commission, this bill, once passed, and others that will be precipitated by the findings of the royal commission, will be able to bring on more concerted action to stop this stuff from happening and to address the pain that has been inflicted on many people. I commend the bill.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley) [4.54 pm]: It is with a great sense of pride that I stand to speak on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. It is incredibly humbling. As all members will be aware, prior to entering Parliament as the member for Mount Lawley, I practised as a lawyer and I practised extensively in the area of personal injuries matters in seeking compensation on behalf of people who

suffered injury, loss and damage. The law firm I used to work at spent a lot of time in the 1990s pursuing the Catholic Church on behalf of hundreds of victims of child sexual abuse at locations such as Castledare, Bindoon and Clontarf. As I come to the end of the first year that I have spent in Parliament, it gives me a chance to look back and reflect. Often people said to me that I was mad and asked me why I would go into Parliament when I had this great job as a lawyer in which day after day I was acting for victims and representing people in their pursuit of justice. People asked why I was giving all of that away so I could go into Parliament and play this political game. It is legislation such as this that makes the hair on the back of my neck stand on end, because my answer to those people was, "Wait one moment. Parliament is the place that makes laws." Although on a day-to-day basis I might have been able to assist one person in his or her pursuit of justice, when a person can be part of a Parliament that passes legislation such as this that will enable justice for hundreds of people, I realise that I made the right decision in order to be able to participate in that process and in this debate. I say at the outset that to be standing here speaking about this legislation is incredibly humbling.

I thank the member for Riverton for his comments indicating the opposition's support for the bill. I also note with interest his comments about victims of physical abuse. One of the things that we saw in litigation involving the Catholic Church during the 1990s and in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is that sexual, physical and emotional abuse often go hand in hand, so I was interested in the comments of the member for Riverton in that regard.

In my speech this afternoon I propose to do a few of things. Firstly, I want to talk about the importance of limitation periods in making sure that justice is served and the role they play in the legal system. Secondly, I want to talk about why this legislation is unique. Further, I would like to talk about the four things it seeks to do. The member for Armadale has already touched on these, as has the member for Riverton, but I want to explore why the bill seeks to do those things, the ways it will achieve those things and what the consequences for victims or plaintiffs will be as a result of those positive changes to the legal process that this bill will result in. I want to finish by passing on some comments from colleagues and friends of mine in the eastern states who have had some connection with the royal commission.

At the outset, it is a well-established principle in common law jurisdictions that statutes of limitations, or limitation periods, have an important role to play in the legal system. The effect of a statute of limitations is to encourage a plaintiff with a valid cause of action to pursue that cause of action diligently. It also provides justice between the parties, because if a stale claim is allowed to be litigated, the defendant may not have access to the necessary evidence to defend the claim. I set that up as a general context in which statute of limitation provisions operate. I do that so that members in the chamber can be aware of why the particular circumstances pertaining to child sex abuse claims put those claims into a separate category in which those legal principles, which underpin the limitation periods, do not have proper application. The other area in which we have had law reform on limitation period questions in the last two decades is with asbestos victims. Again, that was a unique provision in the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act amendments that were passed in 2003. Those amendments were passed not to remove the statute of limitations but to properly categorise them and clarify that if a person is a victim of an asbestos-related disease or asbestos exposure, their time for bringing a claim was counted from the moment they had knowledge that they suffered a disease. Even though there were latency periods of 20 to 40 years, once a person was diagnosed with having an asbestos-related disease, the statute of limitation period began to run. It was necessary to amend the statute of limitations for asbestos sufferers, because if we counted the time back to when they were exposed, the six-year limitation period would have well and truly passed.

The first thing that the bill seeks to do is lift the statute of limitations. Secondly, it provides for, in effect, the suing of unincorporated associations. At law, unincorporated associations do not have the necessary legal capacity in order to be respondents to legal proceedings. The example I would give is from the legal proceedings commenced against the Catholic Church in the 1990s on account of the victims of the Christian Brothers. Proceedings for those plaintiffs were brought to bring justice for victims in Western Australia. Because of the strict statute of limitations provisions that operated in Western Australia, which the member for Armadale has already alluded to, the lawyers brought those proceedings in Victoria and in New South Wales. The Victorian proceedings were unsuccessful because Justice Hayne, in the Victorian Supreme Court, said that it was inappropriate to bring proceedings for Western Australian victims in the Victorian court. Proceedings in New South Wales commenced and were allowed to proceed, notwithstanding that they were on behalf of Western Australian victims, but unfortunately the Catholic Archbishop of Perth made an application to be removed as a defendant. At the first instance, the judge, Justice Levine, refused that application. The solicitors for the archbishop appealed and it was successful, so the archbishop could not be a defendant in those proceedings. The solicitors for the plaintiffs sought special leave from the High Court to appeal to the High Court and that special leave was refused. By virtue of that decision, the legal principle that an unincorporated association cannot be defended in legal proceedings was maintained and in the explanatory memorandum to the bill, members will see the reference to the Ellis defence, the decision of the Court of Appeal in New South Wales in the trustees of the Roman Catholic Church against Ellis, whereby that legal doctrine was upheld. However, the bill provides that rather than having to sue the unincorporated association, a plaintiff in these sorts of proceedings can proceed against the office holder. That is the first thing.

Secondly, it places the office holder today in the position of the office holder at the time that the act was committed. For example, if it was the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth who was the office holder in 1980 when the offence was committed, then the proper office holder who can be a defendant to those proceedings is the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth. That problem was identified by the New South Wales Supreme Court and the High Court in the 1990s, and it was identified by the Court of Appeal in the New South Wales Supreme Court in *Ellis* in 2007. That is the second nuisance that this bill responds to.

The third legal problem is that even if a person were to sue the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, what assets are available to that office holder? Again, in a masterful stroke of legal drafting, the bill allows for the office holder, in consultation with trustees who are related parties, to call upon the property held in trust, notwithstanding that the trust deed may have particularly narrowed provisions that allow for the dispensation of property only in particular circumstances. The exemption that is allowed for means that the available trust money can then be applied in the settlement of damages claims. That is the third legal problem that the bill addresses.

The fourth issue the bill addresses, which is again a testament to the drafters of the legislation, is that it provides an opportunity to, notwithstanding the historical nature of the claims made, trace back through organisations. As the member for Riverton just said, a lot of the organisations and a lot of the defendants in these proceedings are likely to be religious organisations. The information that I have from Victoria and New South Wales is about similar provisions. For example, today in Western Australia we have the Uniting Church in Australia. The Uniting Church was formed by the amalgamation of the Methodist congregation, the Presbyterian congregation and the Congregationalists. In Victoria, the moderator of the Uniting Church has accepted that they will be the office holder who will respond to claims brought against any of those preceding organisations. Members can see that notwithstanding that it might have been the Methodist church or the Presbyterian church that was responsible for committing the act historically, there is a person, an office holder, who can be the party to the legal proceedings. That framework is excellent. It is a brilliant piece of legislative drafting that creates the entirely appropriate context in which the people who ought to have been responsible for discharging their duty of care to these children can now take their proper place as defendants in proceedings whereby these children will be able to seek access to justice.

The reason it is so important is that it comes back to the very point that we started; that is, what is the unique particular characteristic of victims of child sexual abuse that allows for the lifting of the limitations period and people to access justice in these circumstances? If we look at all the material that has come through from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and all the evidence that has been presented about the way in which child sexual abuse is reported, there is a significant period that passes whilst people come to terms with the incredible trauma that has been inflicted upon them. If the ordinary set of circumstances was allowed to persist in respect of the limitation period, none of these victims would have the opportunity to pursue claims against the wrongdoers. This legislation marks a departure from a well-established and, in my view, appropriate legal principle that we have limitation periods, but it does so in circumstances whereby that departure is entirely justified by the particular circumstances. It is for other people, much more versed in the psychological and emotional effects, to go through that.

I do not propose to go through in chapter and verse some of the incredibly distressing stories that have come out from the royal commission. I commend to people who are interested in the Western Australian circumstances a report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse titled “Report of Case Study No. 11”, published in December 2014. The subtitle of the report is, “Congregation of Christian Brothers in Western Australia response to child sexual abuse at Castledare Junior Orphanage, St Vincent’s Orphanage Clontarf, St Mary’s Agricultural School Tardun and Bidoon Farm School”.

For members who are interested in the legal battles that were fought by the plaintiffs against the Christian Brothers in the 1990s, I strongly commend the book *In the Shadow of the Cross: The Story of VOICES* by Bruce Blyth. The foreword of the book is by Hayden Stephens, a solicitor at the law firm that acted on behalf of the Christian Brothers victims. I also recommended the book *That disreputable firm ... the inside story of Slater & Gordon*, in particular chapter 14, “Taming the sexual tiger”. That will provide members with an opportunity to see the many complicated and intractable legal problems that existed for these victims of child sexual abuse as they endeavoured to seek justice and compensation. I join with the Attorney General in placing on the record my personal gratitude to the Solicitor-General, the Department of the Attorney General and the Parliamentary Counsel’s Office for the work that has gone into drafting this legislation.

I have a note from Prue Gregory, the principal lawyer at knowmore, who are the solicitors assisting the royal commission. Ms Gregory asked me to pass on her thanks to the Attorney General for introducing this legislation. She says the following in her note —

This is a really good piece of legislation.

...

Division 2 is a stand-out—there are so many clients who will benefit from the provisions in this division.

...

I am particularly pleased with the treatment of prior compensation payments in Division 3.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am reminded by the memo from Ms Gregory that a consequence of the unsuccessful prosecution of cases against the Christian Brothers in the 1990s was that a lot of claims were settled for paltry and meagre sums of compensation, sometimes as little as \$2 000. Other cases were statute-barred by virtue of the operation of the statute of limitations. Those cases were settled without proper contemplation of what a plaintiff might ordinarily be entitled to, consistent with the principles of the law of negligence and damages, and consistent with putting the plaintiff back into the position in which he or she would have been had it not been for the wrongful act that had been committed.

Another provision of this bill that deserves comment and for which the Attorney General deserves to be congratulated is that this legislation will not preclude a person who has received a compensation payment from pursuing a further claim. Obviously, the principle against double recovery will apply. That means that whatever compensation a person may have received in the past through a redress scheme or settlement negotiations will be taken into account, but that will not act as a barrier to the person commencing and prosecuting further proceedings.

I want to make one last comment about how I expect this bill will operate. This is particularly pertinent for plaintiffs who are giving consideration to instituting and prosecuting proceedings. I can say from my experience—as a practitioner with, as I have said, no psychological or emotional training—that one of the most difficult things about these types of legal proceedings is that they are often extremely distressing. I have spoken to a number of practitioners in light of the introduction of this legislation, and I have received the almost universal response that they will endeavour to adopt a sensible and pragmatic approach to bringing these claims forward and negotiating settlements of compensation before the matter proceeds to trial. To my mind, it is a testament to the character of the participants in the litigation that they will apply their experience to ensuring that the smallest amount of distress as is possible is occasioned, and that resolution is reached as economically, as efficiently and as quickly as possible. I am optimistic that the legal profession will acquit itself well in this very unique set of circumstances.

With those comments, I will return to the point at which I started. I am incredibly proud to have the opportunity to stand in this place and endorse this legislation, and I hope it will have a speedy passage through this Parliament.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [5.16 pm]: I rise to contribute to the second reading debate on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. I wish to start by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the Attorney General. The Attorney General has been a tireless advocate for social justice throughout his entire working life, and more broadly an advocate for righting the many wrongs of the past. I also wish to congratulate the Premier on bringing this very important legislation before the Parliament. I hope this bill will go some way towards helping those victims whose lives have been totally shattered and ripped apart by child sexual abuse to find some peace or at least a path towards peace.

The purpose of this bill is to help implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This inquiry has been far-reaching and wideranging and has been taking evidence from across the entire country over the last few years. The royal commission was established to uncover systems within institutions that failed to protect children. The findings have been nothing short of horrific. I refer to an article on www.news.com.au of 6 February this year titled “Catholic authorities reveal 4,444 people allege they were victims of child sexual abuse at hands of church”. The article reveals some truly shocking statistics that have come to light through the findings of the royal commission. According to the article, over the last 35 years in the Catholic Church alone, there were over 4 400 reports of child abuse, and the average age of the victims was 11.6 years for boys and 10.5 years for girls. Since 1960, 1 265 Catholic priests and religious brothers have been accused of child abuse.

Needless to say, we have failed to protect thousands of children across this country against the most vile and monstrous perpetrators. This should never have happened. It is important that we take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge that we have failed these victims and say sorry for the wrongs of the past. The interim report of the royal commission recommends that all state and territory governments legislate to remove any limitation periods that apply to claims for damages. This is due to the nature of the injuries inflicted on the survivors. They feel a great and deep sense of shame. They are often unable to come forward for many, many years—in fact, decades. The royal commission found that the average time taken to disclose abuse was 22 years. Currently, the statute of limitations in Western Australia is six years. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory have already moved to abolish these limitations.

The royal commission has heard over 5 000 personal stories. I would like to share one of those stories with the Parliament today. Some of these stories are very harrowing, but it is important that we hear these stories, particularly in this place. They tell stories of systemic denial, disgraceful cover-ups and the prioritisation of reputation over the protection of children. As a mother of two young children, reading these stories whilst preparing for this speech today was deeply upsetting on a personal level. In fact, it was more than upsetting; it was sickening, and it really broke my heart to read what happened to these victims and, of course, their families. I would

like to share the story of a man named Scott—his full name was not disclosed—as told to the royal commission and as published on its website. I quote —

When Scott was growing up in Western Australia, it was common for children from country areas to board in towns at state-run hostels, adjacent to the schools. Harold Fletcher was warden at the hostel where Scott was accommodated and over three decades, sexually abused many boys and girls, including 12 year old Scott.

Scott told the Commissioner that Fletcher’s brother and sister-in-law also worked at the hostel, and as a former Citizen of the Year, Fletcher was held in high regard by the community.

To quote Scott directly —

‘He controlled the town, he was that powerful. To anyone over 20, he probably looked like the nicest man in the world. There was no-one to tell about the abuse, and they wouldn’t have believed you if you did.’

Within a few weeks of Scott’s arrival in 1978, the hostel residents went on a camping trip. Fletcher shared a tent with Scott and during the night started fondling him.

He told the commission —

‘I didn’t know what to do. I already knew that to be accepted, you didn’t make waves. If you did, you’d get isolated, and then you were gone.’ Over the next year, Fletcher regularly came to Scott’s bed at night and tapped him on the foot.

Then he stated —

‘That meant you had to go to his room, and that’s where he’d rape you. I couldn’t go to school one day, because of what he’d done the night before. He said, “Your brother’s coming soon, isn’t he?” I felt so terrible that I couldn’t protect my brother.’

Scott told the Commissioner that Fletcher abused many boys in his dormitory, though none of them ever spoke about it. He said Fletcher stopped abusing him after about two years. ‘Once you were a bit older, you didn’t get the tap on the foot anymore. He’d move on to the younger ones.’

In 2011, Scott learned that charges of child sexual assault had been brought against Fletcher by several past residents of the hostel.

He recalled this moment to the commission very clearly —

‘I was listening to the radio at work and when I heard it, I broke down. I thought I’ve got to fix this. It was eating me away, but I had kids and was paying a mortgage and working, and there was so much going on that I’d never had time to think about it.’ Scott called the lawyer involved in the case and disclosed that he’d also been abused. More victims came forward and in 2013, Fletcher’s existing jail sentence was extended to a total of 22 years. ...

...

Scott’s wife told him that learning about the abuse made clear to her a lot of his past behaviour. He’d never felt comfortable touching or hugging his children and was still hesitant about showing affection to his grandson. ...

In 2012, the Western Australian Government announced a limited redress scheme for people who had been abused as children in hostels. Scott applied for and was awarded the maximum compensation amount of \$45,000.

I listened to all the stories on the website of the royal commission and found it really hard to stomach and to listen to all of them in their entirety. They are absolutely harrowing. Scott’s case is just one example of many of how this abuse ruins lives, beyond repair in many instances. This abuse was not limited to only state-run hostels; it was endemic across church care as well.

The eleventh case study examined by the royal commission was the Congregation of Christian Brothers in Western Australia’s response to child sexual abuse at Castledare Junior Orphanage, St Vincent’s Orphanage in Clontarf, St Mary’s Agricultural School in Tardun and Bindoon Farm School. In taking these children into care, the Christian Brothers, a Catholic organisation, was obligated to provide care and to educate the children. This obligation was not fulfilled, with many students receiving little to no education and put to physical labour. In addition, 11 men came forward to report sexual abuse against 16 named brothers. The abuse involved being observed while showering, as well as being abused in the dormitory rooms and the rooms of the brothers. They also spoke of sexual abuse being committed by other boys. This sexual abuse was combined with intense emotional, psychological and physical abuse committed by some of the brothers. Most of the boys did not report the sexual abuse; and, if they did, they often received a belting.

The relevant Christian Brothers provincial council knew of the allegations of sexual abuse against some of the brothers in the Christian Brothers institutions around Australia. In each instance, allegations of child sexual abuse were raised against brothers who had also been the subject of earlier allegations. Although correspondence reveals that they knew the damage that sexual abuse could do to children, they viewed engaging in abuse as simply a moral lapse or a weakness. Despite this, at least one brother was transferred to another institution, where he continued to have contact with children after being the subject of an allegation involving children.

The Christian Brothers issued a full apology to former residents in 1993 and took a number of steps to redress the situation. In mid-1993, Slater and Gordon began to research and consider the causes of action for damages it might pursue on behalf of the men. It became apparent early in the research that the Limitation Act 1935 would likely prevent the men from bringing their claims in WA. The Limitation Act required that a claim for damages must be brought within six years of the date of the tort, and in these cases that meant within six years of the abuse. At the time Slater and Gordon received instructions, the men were already decades outside the limitation period for bringing a claim. Criminal proceedings were often not possible, with the then Director of Public Prosecutions deciding not to prosecute the named brothers as, due to legal reasons, they were not able to combine several charges with different complainants into a single case, and there being essentially no confirmatory or corroboratory evidence, this would have made convictions significantly less likely.

Nationally, according to the royal commission, over 775 allegations were made against the Christian Brothers, with 196 allegations related to abuse at the four institutions I have just mentioned. The 196 allegations were made by 101 complainants, with 96 complainants receiving a monetary settlement. The total amount paid in compensation in response to those allegations was over \$3 million, with an average settlement payment of around \$36 000 per complainant.

It is simply disgraceful that this abuse went on for so long, especially with extremely vulnerable children in the care of the state or the church. The Australian Institute of Family Studies, which is a federal government body, published a paper in 2013 that found strong links between child sexual abuse and the onset of depression, alcohol and substance abuse, as well as an increased risk of re-victimisation. The AIFS research stipulates, and I quote —

... evidence now clearly demonstrates the link between child sexual abuse and a spectrum of adverse mental health, social, sexual, interpersonal and behavioural as well as physical health consequences.

In women, child sexual abuse is linked to a higher chance of eating disorders; and, in men, it is linked to anxiety-related disorders. This research by the AIFS links child sexual abuse with personality, and psychotic and schizophrenic disorders. The same research also found a heightened risk of suicidal ideation and, in fact, suicide.

This bill is just one piece of the puzzle for ending child abuse, but it is an important one. This bill cannot and will not change the past for many of these survivors, but it is crucial in allowing them to seek redress. Abolishing the limitation period for child sexual abuse provides survivors a chance to seek some justice through the courts. The royal commission found that without the removal of these time frames, victims who often do not report their abuse for decades, as mentioned, well after the time frame has expired, would be robbed of their opportunity to have their claims addressed and determined by courts on their merits. This legislation is rectifying that injustice.

The victims of child sexual abuse carry the scars of their trauma throughout their lives. I cannot begin to imagine the hurt, despair and anger they have gone through in their lives. I wish to offer my sincere sympathy for what they have endured. It is horrific and I am so sorry they have had to experience such trauma. I truly hope that this bill can begin to heal some of the pain of the past for victims.

I wish to commend this bill to the house.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [5.30 pm]: I am the lead speaker for the National Party and I rise to make a relatively brief contribution to the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017, which is very important to our party. Can I firstly acknowledge all the child sex abuse survivors, and I would like to make special mention of Kirsty Pratt who is here in the Speaker's gallery today. Kirsty has been a great advocate for all the victims and I really admire her determination to turn up here every day. I have no doubt that she has harassed the Attorney General on many occasions. I think it is a real credit to her that she is here every day and she has decided to see this legislation through. I really want to acknowledge Kirsty. I would also like to mention some of Kirsty's family members and other people who were here last week when the Attorney General introduced the legislation: Jodie Greasley, Janelle Shand, Louise Oversby and also some family members in Jillian and Kim Beale; Di Darlow; Tricia and John McPharlin; Tony Pratt, Kirsty's husband; Oaklee Greasley; and Peter Gersmanis. I think it was great that all those family members were here last week to support Kirsty when the legislation was introduced.

Firstly, I would like to point out why this legislation is so important to me. Being the member for Roe, I think it probably affects my electorate almost more than any other electorate. I would like to share a couple of experiences I have had over the last year or two and tell members why this legislation is so important to me. My first experience was of the constituents of both Esperance and Katanning who had such a big effect on me. Last year while I was

campaigning for the seat of Roe, I was at the Esperance show and our Leader of the National Party, the member for Central Wheatbelt was there. We were introduced to Jillian Beale, whose family members were abused, which really demonstrated to me how she was hurting and how her family was hurting. Even though I was only a candidate at the time, it really brought home how much the legislation means to those families.

At this point, I would like to mention my predecessor, Graham Jacobs, the member for Eyre. Graham was a great advocate for his community in Esperance. He brought on a private member's bill that really triggered this legislation in a lot of ways. At the time when we were at the Esperance show, Parliament was in the throes of discussing his private member's bill. Obviously, as I think we are all well aware, it was not progressing that well. To see Jillian's passion when she came up to me really demonstrated how important the legislation was. I took it upon myself that if I did happen to be successful in running for the seat of Roe, as it is now, I would certainly try to do what I could to help pass this legislation. Harassing the Attorney General and the Premier the other week with questions on the length of time it has taken to bring this legislation on was an important part of that because the victims have been waiting. The previous government's promises to bring this legislation in were certainly front and centre in the victims' minds, so I felt it incumbent on me to ask those questions. I am very pleased that the Attorney General has brought on this legislation. Also in relation to the Esperance community, the history of the Condingup Primary School also had such a big effect on so many people.

Likewise, when I was at the Katanning show, which happened to be I think two weeks after the Esperance show, Parliament was also in the throes of debating legislation brought on by Graham Jacobs. I received a substantial amount of grief from people who survived abuse at St Andrews Hostel in Katanning. Although I expressed to them at the time that I was a candidate and not in Parliament, it demonstrated to me how important the legislation was to them. It reiterated to me that if I was successful, I would do something about it. The likes of Roy Addis, Joan Jolly, Mick Hilder and Todd Jefferis were victims of abuse at St Andrews Hostel where Dennis McKenna was the hostel warden in the mid to late 1970s. I attended Katanning High School at that time and many of the borders who were coming in from the outlying regions had been at the hostel and had unfortunately been subjected to his abuse. It is quite ironic, in a lot of ways, how these things can be hidden. Dennis McKenna was awarded citizen of the year in Katanning. That shows how the general community may not know what is going on. The grief we saw from the community shows how, even now, we are looking at what we are going to do with the hostel's premises, which I know the member for Cottesloe is well aware of. The hostel is a good facility but there are memories of what happened in the late 1970s. It is really hard to reconcile whether we will ever find another use for it.

I wanted to explain a little bit of that background information about why this legislation is so important to me. For me, Todd Jefferis' quote says it all. Todd was one of the victims of abuse from St Andrews Hostel. Todd said that enabling a wronged and powerless person access to a process for redress is a small thing that the government can do for survivors. This legislation leads into that.

Andrew Murray is one of the royal commissioners. I regard him as a good friend. I was on the Western Australian Regional Development Trust with him until he was called away to be on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I have spoken to Andrew a couple of times about the legislation. The royal commission has been a guiding light for all states with its potential legislation and for looking at some of the things that can be done. The royal commission found that 22 years is the average time for people to disclose sexual abuse. That is a very important finding. The amendment to the Limitation Act 2005 will remove the limitation periods for prospective and retrospective sexual abuse litigation. That is a very important point. All members know that many of the victims are young, and removing the statute of limitation time frame will give them the opportunity to have a think about it and perhaps come to terms with it. Obviously, not everyone will come to terms with it, but it provides them with the opportunity to commence an action many years down the track. The royal commission really has led very well in its finding about the 22 years.

The amendment of the Civil Liability Act 2002 will provide the legal basis for victims to sue institutions in the name of their current office holders, and enable the use of assets to discharge of any child sexual abuse liability. I think that is just as important as the amendment of the limitations legislation because it will enable a link to be created and clarity provided on defendants. No doubt one of the biggest problems with previous legislation is that if something happened in the late 1970s, as it did in Katanning, there may be no-one left to defend the claim and the current office holders or office bearers of the institution or the church or whoever it may be have been able to wash their hands of the situation. I think this legislation will provide that important link. As important will be the ability to claim against an individual or the institution; I believe that will provide flexibility.

Another part of the bill contains detailed directives to determine the proper defendant. That probably flows from the previous point. When I have seen coverage of this issue on TV and through other media over the last few years, I have noticed that we have not really been able to identify the correct defendant. I am pleased to see that is a part of this legislation. The bill will also allow courts to consider ex gratia payments or compensation payments made by non-government organisations when determining the damages payable. There will now be flexibility. There have been previous redress schemes and so forth, and this legislation will allow the courts to take those into account. That is important.

Another provision in the bill is the cap on legal fees. I congratulate the Attorney General for including that as part of the legislation. We do not want specialist lawyers coming up with exorbitant fees. Two or three legal firms have been quite active in this space, and one of the lawyers flew across from Sydney last week when the Attorney General introduced the legislation. That demonstrated to me how important it was to that firm and that lawyer, and I think that is key for the victims this legislation is designed to help.

To summarise, we all recognise how important this legislation is. I certainly do, and it is such an important issue in my electorate. I look forward, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, to providing a good result for the victims in the electorate of Roe and the wider state. In summary, the time frame is the most important thing, followed very closely by the link that it provides, following on from the recommendations of the royal commission. The royal commission is ongoing, but a lot of its recommendations have been incorporated into this legislation. The member for Armadale said that under the statute, the ability to commence litigation outside the limitation period is non-existent; he was exactly right. There is absolutely no ability. This legislation is very important, and the Nationals support it and the victims in our electorates. We look forward to the legislation going through.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [5.46 pm]: I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. My learned colleague the member for Roe stated that the average time for the disclosure of child sexual abuse is approximately 22 years. This bill will lift the statute of limitations for the bringing of child sex abuse court actions. That lifting of the statute acknowledges that trauma suffered by victims of child sex abuse is very different from trauma suffered by most other victims of crime. The legislation acknowledges that it may take a long time for victims to process what has happened to them, and to then disclose. There may be many reasons why a child may not disclose sexual abuse at the time of, or shortly after, the crime. Shame, terror, confusion and self-blame are some that immediately spring to mind. Disclosures made to public officials have also sometimes been ignored, particularly in the St Andrews Hostel case. Disclosures were ignored or the victims were not believed, and in some instances they were actively rejected. Threats of legal proceedings for defamation often occurred, and in some instances, including those at St Andrews Hostel, expulsion from the hostel could have effectively ended schooling for the students if they had nowhere else to go, and that was used as a measure to keep victims in line.

As to lifting the statute of limitations and time span of disclosure, feelings of shame and guilt are often fostered by the perpetrator to create a mindset of the children believing they are responsible for the abuse or that they have in some way encouraged or wanted the abuse to occur. That makes it very difficult for any child to process what has happened to them and disclose it to a person who will help them. Some victims may feel obliged to remain silent out of family loyalty if the perpetrator is a family member. Some victims might not be able to comprehend what has happened to them or have the emotional maturity to vocalise their experiences. For many, the fear of not being believed would also be a significant factor in their decision to disclose. During the inquiry into St Andrews Hostel and other institutional responses conducted by Peter Blaxell in 2011–12, many victims disclosed for the first time. Although their abuse had been suffered in the late 1970s and 1980s, it was not until 2011 and 2012 that they felt confident enough to disclose what had happened to them. The Blaxell report identified that many former students made their disclosures for the first time during the inquiry, that it was the first time they had spoken about their experiences since leaving the hostel, and that some of them had not even discussed these matters with their closest family members. The inquiry was concerned about victims who made disclosures, so it employed Crisis Care to provide support. The report stated —

Crisis Care has provided this high level of support throughout the Inquiry, and it has been of great assistance to many of the witnesses. Crisis Care has always remained independent of the Inquiry and has not disclosed any confidential information to Inquiry staff without permission from the relevant witness. However the evidence generally as well as the feedback received from Crisis Care does indicate that many former victims of sexual abuse continue to experience:

- feelings of anger, fear, depression and anxiety
- difficulty in relationship development and nurturing because of betrayed trust issues
- confusion of sexual relationships and sexual identity
- addictive and compulsive behaviour
- guilt and self-blame
- feelings of isolation and dissociation.

All these feelings, which most adults would have difficulty processing, were inflicted upon the young victims of child sexual abuse. This legislation not only recognises the requirement for a change to the statute of limitations, but also provides mechanisms for victims to make claims and receive payments. I can think of nothing worse than a child or an adult who has suffered child sexual abuse making a disclosure and attempting to make a claim against the perpetrator only to find that they are not able to do so because of a legal technicality or that they are not able to claim compensation because the person responsible is not able to access assets to pay compensation. In the past,

if an institute was no longer in existence or was very different from its previous form, there was no way to make a claim against it. Also, if the head of a non-incorporated institute had changed, legal proceedings could not be brought against that institute. It is my understanding that legal proceedings need to be brought against a person or an incorporated body. Therefore, if the head of a non-incorporated body had changed, there was no way for a victim to bring proceedings against it because it could not be named specifically. This legislation seeks to amend that and to give victims the opportunity to make a claim against an institution even if the head of that institution has changed. The current head of the institution would be named as the person being claimed against. The continuity of mechanisms for the legal proceedings provided by this legislation will give further support to these victims. As I said, there would be nothing worse than a person making a disclosure and finding out that they cannot make a claim against the institute that was involved in the abuse. The ability to access assets held by or for an institute is also very important, as it provides reassurance to victims that if they are found to require compensation, these institutions can access assets to provide compensation.

Finally, an important part of the bill that I will highlight is that victims who settled for smaller amounts in the past can investigate the possibility of reopening proceedings if those smaller settlement amounts were taken because of the statute of limitations in existence at the time. This is really important because there may be many victims who settled because they felt that they had to and that they had no other choice. This legislation will give them the option of investigating whether their situation can be dealt with under this new legislation. I think it is a very important piece of legislation. As somebody who has been part of foster families for many years, I have seen the impact of abuse—sexual, physical and emotional abuse—on children who are in state care or who have been put into the foster care system. Those experiences have affected children for their entire lives. If they were not too traumatic, sometimes they have been able to use those experiences to change how they proceeded with their lives, but sometimes they have not been able to escape what has happened to them. I know that this is not something that is exclusive to the foster siblings I have had over the years. It is something that can be seen across the board. I think that this is a very important step. My understanding is that it is just the first step. I know that the royal commission report will be handed down mid-next month and that it will be very important in informing any future steps that we take to ensure that these vulnerable children—whether they are still children or are now adults—can be supported by our system and can see the appropriate and proper compensation for the traumas they experienced as children.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [5.56 pm]: It is fitting that I rise to speak on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017 wearing the colour orange. Along with many of my parliamentary colleagues, I wore orange today in recognition of the 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women campaign. It is acknowledged that violence includes physical, psychological, economic, emotional, spiritual and sexual abuse. It is a fundamental violation of human rights. Violence in all its forms is abhorrent and the perpetration of violence against another is completely unacceptable. When that violence is of a sexual nature and committed against a child by a person who is in a position of trust, it is an act of such great depravity that I cannot possibly state or give adequate description to it in language that is suitable to this place. Child sexual abuse is not easy to discuss, let alone to develop appropriate legislation for—that is, legislation that does justice to the enormity of the issue. I acknowledge the efforts of the Attorney General and everyone involved in the preparation of this bill. In particular, I thank the Attorney General for the compassionate manner in which he has approached his task. He has ensured that the people who will be most affected by this legislation, the victims of child sexual abuse, were always uppermost in his mind. The image of the Attorney General walking hand-in-hand with one of those who had suffered sexual abuse as a child is a perfect illustration of the compassionate manner in which he approached his task. I extend my personal gratitude and admiration to him. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tenacity and commitment of the many survivors of historical child sexual abuse who have campaigned continuously to have this legislation brought to this house, such as Kirsty Pratt and many others who have campaigned tirelessly and with single-minded purpose. They have been here in the gallery day after day and are there now as we debate this historic legislation. I greatly admire their ability to overcome the devastating experience of childhood sexual abuse to seek a long overdue opportunity for justice. Nothing will return their lost innocence, remove the memories of pain and violation, or return the many lost years that followed the abuse for far too many. I cannot know what life is like for those who suffered childhood sexual abuse and all the ways that the evil acts done to them in the past have impacted them throughout their lives. I hope that with the passing of this bill, the future for the survivors will be a more positive and hopeful one.

The sexual abuse of children is a crime of unimaginable horror for everyone who has not experienced it. For those who have, the fact that those crimes may have happened many years ago should not be a barrier to being able to seek justice and compensation in our civil courts. The Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017 seeks to remedy this. It is the first stage of legislative reform in Western Australia in response to recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its “Redress and civil litigation” report, which was tabled in the commonwealth Parliament on 14 September 2015. The two parts of the bill to be dealt with in this debate and the subsequent passing of this legislation are part 2, which deals with amendments to the Civil Liability Act 2002, and part 3, which deals with amendments to the

Limitations Act 2005. It is noted that the bill contains the first set of amendments in this state that focus on historical child sexual abuse. The royal commission has made many other recommendations in areas of both civil and criminal law and the McGowan government will continue to consider all these recommendations.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made many other recommendations in areas of civil and criminal law. The McGowan government will continue to consider all these recommendations and, where required, further tranches of legislation will be introduced. The amendments to the Civil Liability Act 2002 under part 2 of the bill provide a legal basis for commencing actions against institutions in the name of their current office holders for historic child sexual abuse. It can be very difficult to identify a proper defendant when decades may have passed between the historic childhood sexual abuse being committed and a victim being ready to seek justice for those crimes. Provisions within these amendments enable that identification to occur. This is particularly important when there is a lack of perpetual succession in unincorporated institutions. These difficulties were highlighted by the royal commission as creating impediments to justice for child sexual abuse survivors. Part 2 of the bill will ensure that liable institutions meet their liabilities to survivors of child sexual abuse. There will be provisions for responsible parties, such as institutions, trustees and office holders, to use assets held by liable institutions to pay compensation. The bill goes further to ensure that in the event that a person has already received compensation from a child sexual abuse action, there will be provision for a court to take this into account to avoid double compensation.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that the average time for a victim to disclose child sexual abuse was 22 years. Part 3 of the bill deals with the amendments to the Limitation Act 2005 to remove the limitation periods for all child sexual abuse actions, both retrospectively and prospectively. The royal commission found that it typically takes many years for survivors of child sexual abuse to report their abuse and seek justice. Without the removal of the limitation period, many survivors of child sexual abuse would be unable to seek justice or compensation.

In closing, I would like to give some human context to the issue of historical childhood sexual abuse and its lifelong impacts. I have heard many stories of abuse at the hands of a parent, sibling, relative, trusted family friend, teacher, coach or other influential and known adult, but there is one story that stands out more than any other. A good friend of mine survived historical sexual abuse at the hands of one of the most trusted and influential people in his life—his father. The secrecy of the abuse was to such an extent that it was not until much later in life that he discovered that other siblings had also suffered the same abuse. Far from being destroyed by his experience, he has achieved much in his life and has given many years to the service of others. In later life, he found a way to deal with the damage done to him—through painting. I attended one of his exhibitions a few years ago and there was one painting that affected me deeply and which I can still see clearly today. He had painted a shadowy and indistinct image of a man lying behind a small child. It was not graphic; the intent was simply suggested. What struck me was the image of a third person in the painting; it was of a woman looking out the window with her back to the two figures on the bed. The woman was looking the other way. With this bill, we are looking ahead with a steady gaze to enabling legislation that will provide access to justice and compensation to the survivors of historical sexual abuse. It is a good thing that we do here today and it is important that we take a moment to acknowledge that. The passing of the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017 will remove many of the impediments to justice for the survivors of historical child sexual abuse. I thank the Attorney General for this historic piece of legislation and I commend it to the house.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.05 pm]: I, too, rise to support the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. As members have heard, there is no doubt that the existing limitation periods are a significant and sometimes insurmountable barrier to victims of child sexual abuse seeking a civil remedy or pursuing civil litigation. The existing limitation periods in WA are inappropriately short for claims because of the unique nature of the impact of abuse on children. As many members have said, victims often do not find themselves in a position to disclose abuse until many years after the crimes occurred. I am pleased that the government has brought this legislation forward. I also appreciate the government's consideration of the position the opposition finds itself in today, with our lead speaker unfortunately too unwell to attend Parliament this week. The opposition acknowledges that this legislation is complex. Indeed, it was a legislative amendment that we were trying to work our way through at the end of last year. I am very pleased to rise and support the bill today. I hope the member for Hillarys will recover to good health in the near future and I look forward to his presentations and contributions to Parliament when we resume for the autumn session.

When looking into this issue in the final months of our government, I was privileged to chair a committee and to meet with many victims, advocates and various representatives from institutions, government, the school sector, various religious institutions and other institutions that had responsibility for the care and wellbeing of our state's children. From our committee deliberations we determined that it would be beneficial to include in the remit of the legislation victims of serious physical abuse and other abuse perpetrated in connection with sexual or physical abuse against a child. I am interested to know from the Attorney General in his response to the second reading

debate why the government chose to deviate from the definition of “child abuse” in the New South Wales legislation. Section 6A of the New South Wales Limitation Act 1969 defines “child abuse” as —

- ... any of the following perpetrated against a person when the person is under 18 years of age:
- (a) sexual abuse,
 - (b) serious physical abuse,
 - (c) any other abuse (“**connected abuse**”) perpetrated in connection with sexual abuse or serious physical abuse of the person (whether or not the connected abuse was perpetrated by the person who perpetrated the sexual abuse or serious physical abuse).

That comprehensive definition of child abuse actions allows for those individuals who have suffered other forms of child abuse to also seek a civil remedy under legislation. No-one in this chamber would argue that victims of child sexual abuse suffer immeasurably over many years. For some, the scars of the abuse render them incapable of forming loving relationships with their partners and children. Many suffer from substance abuse. Many have ongoing mental health issues. Many suffer as a result of absences from school or, indeed, because the trauma they have suffered renders them incapable of concentrating or learning in an environment in which they may have experienced horrific criminal acts being perpetrated against them. Many find it difficult to find fulfilling and successful careers. Although many victims gone to have very successful lives and to form meaningful relationships, there is no doubt that the lives of some have been catastrophically altered and their outcomes catastrophically adjusted as a result of their victimisation as children. However, in the committee deliberations, I found out that these effects are also felt by many victims of serious physical abuse. Indeed, I was not aware until meeting some of these victims during that committee deliberation process of the ongoing health issues and consequences suffered by victims of serious physical abuse, many of whom spent their childhood malnourished and were often subject to brutal beatings and hard labour. I heard of adults with serious arthritis and other ailments directly linked to malnourishment as a child and the direct result of beatings they had received as children when medical attention was not sought and bones were not healed properly. The commitment we arrived at was to ensure that victims of serious physical abuse could also be included. I hope over the summer recess the Attorney General may consider refining the definition to include these victims as well.

I believe that victims of child sexual abuse from within family settings will now have the ability to use this legislation to seek a civil remedy against the family or household member who was the perpetrator of abuse. Given that most child sexual abuse crimes are committed in households by family members, this is certainly going to be of benefit to those many victims of child sex abuse and domestic violence scenarios. However, as I mentioned earlier, victims of serious physical abuse or neglect will not be afforded that same opportunity. We all know that domestic violence extends across every demographic, with some perpetrators likely to have significant wealth. Extending the definition to include serious physical abuse such as the case in New South Wales will ensure some civil remedy for those victims as well.

The Parliamentary Counsel’s Office has done a thorough job in navigating the very complex area of ensuring that an institution can be identified as a proper defendant. This is a very complex area of law, and, indeed, it is somewhat fair to say that some institutions have deliberately restructured themselves in the past in an attempt to avoid being held accountable through civil actions such as those that will be possible once this legislation passes.

I am also pleased that the government has ensured through clause 7 that the Crown Suits Act 1947 is also included to ensure that children who were offended against in government-run institutions will no longer be statute barred from that legislation and will be able to seek a civil remedy from the state government for actions suffered while in the custody or care of the state, be that in a school, hostel or foster care arrangement.

One area in which the legislation is silent is in its intersection with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 2003. Section 21 of that act provides that the criminal injuries compensation assessor may require an applicant to explore other available remedies if the applicant has reasonable grounds for taking proceedings independently of the CIC act for damages, insurance payments or to obtain compensation. Although this may sound like a curious issue to raise, in the stories I heard from many victims during that committee process many of them felt that although some of them had received compensation through the criminal injuries compensation process, that it would be unlikely that they would have the emotional support or strength, or indeed the support structures around them, to pursue a civil litigation claim. However, many said that they had benefited from a criminal injuries compensation claim by accessing professional counselling services that had given them a better sense of self, made them stronger emotionally and generally placed them in a position whereby they felt that they could stand up for themselves. Many victims will need this level of support and counselling to get to a point at which they can articulate their story to a lawyer in a court. It is a brave thing to attend court and to talk of experiences such as these, particularly if the victim is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, for example, as many of whom do, as they will effectively be reliving the experience as they retell it. There is an ability in this legislation for any compensation payment received from other sources to be considered and potentially deducted from a damages judgement or settlement, but I would not like to see victims denied the faster, easier route to some compensation from the

criminal injuries compensation scheme that might set them up emotionally to then pursue a civil claim. The legislation allows for that compensation payment to be taken into consideration by the court as part of a court damages order or settlement process. It would be interesting also to see whether after the success of a civil claim the government could, through amendment of the CIC act, pursue the perpetrator or responsible institution for the value of the compensation paid for by taxpayers to these victims. However, the legislation is silent on this matter and hopefully after the briefing today that the opposition received, the Attorney General may be given information or perhaps an amendment to the legislation that contemplates an exemption for victims of child sexual abuse from being directed to a civil remedy by the assessor, thereby potentially putting the victim at an emotional disadvantage to pursuing justice. It could be a simple amendment that would allow for a victim of child sexual abuse to have the ability to apply for criminal injuries compensation without having to pursue a civil remedy.

I expect that the first few cases brought about once this legislation is passed will be a learning curve for lawyers, authorities, institutions and the courts, and that it is likely in the future that amendments may need to be revisited, given the complex legal matters that were considered through this process. I hope that the institutions that will be subject to potential civil actions will act in good faith and not attempt to hide assets or victimise victims with protracted court processes. I hope that the institutions charged with the care and safety of our children and that failed to deliver them a safe environment free from abuse, neglect and the criminal actions of vile individuals will ensure that they have made provision for victims to pursue claims that will hopefully follow a process of meaningful mediation and just settlements, rather than the practices in the past of denial and manipulation that have further exacerbated the sufferings of these victims of child sexual abuse. In fact, I believe that the community expects these institutions to stand up for victims and to be honest about their failure to execute their responsibility to protect our children who are in their care and to provide them with a safe environment. Anything short of taking total responsibility stands in the way of a full recovery for these children and for the institutions to be respected by the community. Although it will take time to pass through this Parliament, it is correct to have the legislation interrogated thoroughly to ensure that victims will not be caught up in anomalous outcomes that can result from hastily executed legislation.

I have remarked in debate in this house at other times that one of my biggest regrets that I will carry with me for a long time is that as a government we did not pursue amending legislation such as this at an earlier point in our term. When the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse started handing down and releasing recommendations, other jurisdictions sought immediately to look at ways they could implement its recommendations, and, sadly, we did not do that. As a result, victims in Western Australia have had a harder fight to seek civil remedy and to see the statute of limitations lifted. That is a regret that I and many members of the former government now in opposition—the few who are left—carry with us; it is a regret about something that we did not achieve while we were in government.

Although we talk about victims of child sexual abuse, I do not like the word “victim”, because the individuals who I have met through this process do not appear to me as victims. They have had terrible things done to them. Atrocious things have been perpetrated against them. Those victims have come forward to report the abuse to a relevant authority. Many have made numerous attempts during their lifetime to try to have their claims heard. They have tried to have somebody in an institution or someone in authority take them seriously—even a police officer to take them seriously—and not discount their claims. They have had to fight to bring forward any kind of action or attention to some of the shocking things they have endured. Not only that, every time they have fought to be heard, they have had to relive their experience by retelling it to another entity, and then continue to retell their story. For some of these very brave people, the retelling of their story gives them an opportunity to heal a little more. For some, it just makes it exponentially worse every time they have to revisit it. That depends on the psychology of the individual involved. It is also perhaps dependent on the extent of the abuse they have endured.

Many of us in this chamber know victims of child sex abuse. Sadly, it is so prevalent in our community that most people can report knowing an individual close to them, or an individual they went to school with, who was a victim of abuse. I am certainly one of those individuals who has had close experience with victims of child sex abuse and family violence. It really frightens me that some of the victims who have been so traumatised, and have locked away some of the experiences and actions that led to the abuse, end up being re-victimised. They end up being victims of different forms of abuse again and again in a pattern that they find difficult to see emerging in their lives. An even more frightening thing is that we see that the children of those victims are also becoming repeat victims of various forms of abuse. When those individuals become parents, they have no insight or ability to identify the behaviours that are indicative of somebody being subjected to child sexual abuse or physical abuse. We need to grapple with some of these issues as a society by introducing protective behaviour programs and trauma counselling being more readily available right across the state.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Those individuals in regional areas have an even bigger problem with access to services that can help them overcome the trauma and get to a point at which they might be able to go to a police officer and lay out a claim of historical child sexual abuse.

These are the areas that we need to consider. As a community, we need to look at some of the outcomes from the courts for these perpetrators of child sexual abuse. One of the things I found particularly frustrating about some of the issues in Roebourne was that hundreds of victims of child sexual abuse are in that community. Perpetrators of child sex abuse have recently been released back into that community. People who have offended against children before have received very short, three-year sentences. Offenders are returned to a community of vulnerable children—children who have already been groomed by seniors in those communities to be victims of child sexual abuse. Until the courts start to recognise that these crimes against children need to carry a serious offence and that these perpetrators need to be separated from victims for longer periods, I fear that vulnerable communities will continue to be exploited in this way by serial offenders. That was one of my concerns when I was Minister for Police. I found it very disturbing to see the very long sentences that were dished out, for example, to the so-called Evil 8 offenders. The young girl in that case was a victim of a paedophile ring that had repeatedly abused her. Some of the perpetrators of her abuse received long sentences of eight years or more. In an Indigenous community, why do we see that offenders against Indigenous children receive much shorter sentences? That is a hard question that we need to ask of our judiciary, and it needs to be looked at. When I was starting to observe and get to a point of informing policy around the last election campaign, I saw discrepancies there. Nobody in any Aboriginal community will say that the sexual abuse of children is in any way, shape or form culturally acceptable. It has never been culturally acceptable. We are seeing some kind of bizarre mismatch because the sentences handed out to people who have offended against Indigenous children are inconsistent with the sentences handed out to those who offend against non-Indigenous children. We need to have a cold, hard look at that and examine whether a cultural issue in our courts means that children in Aboriginal communities are more vulnerable and the perpetrators of abuse against those children receive much shorter penalties than offenders against children in other communities.

I do not wish to add too much to this debate. I hope that the Attorney General, in his response to the second reading debate, will articulate why the government has limited this legislation to just victims of child sexual abuse and not victims of serious physical abuse or even connected abuse. I would have been supportive of that and I believe the opposition would have been supportive of that, given that all victims of these shocking abuses against children have a lifetime of healing ahead of them if they are going to have successful lives.

I commend this bill to the house. I congratulate the government and Parliamentary Counsel's Office on delivering this commitment. Once again, I place on the record my sincere regret that this was not achieved under the former Liberal government's watch. I stand very pleased in this chamber to support it today.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [7.27 pm]: I will not speak very long on the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. I want to draw the attention of the house to page 4 972 of *Hansard* on Thursday, 19 October 2017. The member for Scarborough asked the Attorney General a question. I will read the question out. It states —

I refer to the Attorney General's previous answer about his failure to introduce legislation to remove the statute of limitations for victims of child sex abuse to seek compensation. On the one hand the Attorney General says he does not have the resources of Parliamentary Counsel, but on the other he says the legislation was debated last year. Is it not true that the Attorney General has not introduced the legislation not because of Parliamentary Counsel, but because he was rolled by the member for Cannington and other party colleagues?

I rise briefly to express my absolute anger with the suggestion by the member for Scarborough that somehow or other I was opposed, or am opposed, or at any time was opposed, to this legislation. That is a despicable personal slur on me. It was provided to the chamber with no evidence. The member has not yet apologised for having made that slur on my character. It is despicable that anyone would suggest that I have somehow interfered with this legislation to prevent its debate by Parliament. It is a despicable lie—there is no other word for it. Anybody with character would apologise for having made that despicable slur on me. I will not let this disgraceful behaviour go unremarked in this Parliament.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [7.29 pm]: The National Party, as our lead speaker has already articulated, supports the passage of the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. Before I get into some of the detail—some of which has been covered by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because we served on the same cabinet subcommittee of the previous government—I will note that this legislation was supposed to be one of the current government's priorities. Bringing this legislation on in the final week of Parliament is better than not at all, certainly for those who have been waiting for it. Victims and their families placed their faith in the Attorney General and Premier who, when in opposition, made a commitment that this legislation would be a priority for a Labor government. For them it has probably been a confusing and frustrating year, or past few months, as they have waited for this day to come.

Many members have risen to speak on this bill; some have related stories of victims that they know, while others have worked in an environment in which they have faced the gruelling process of listening to and advocating on behalf of victims of child sex abuse. That says one thing: that this issue is all too prevalent in our community, and it is a horrible reflection of that reality that all members who have risen to speak on this bill have spoken from both

personal and work-related experiences. Having said that, being in the position of advocating for and listening to victims and receiving that information pales into insignificance compared with the experiences of those who every day have to live with the memories and impacts of the abuse that was visited on them at a very vulnerable time of their life. I cannot pretend to understand or relate to that experience at all, and I sincerely hope no-one I know—family, friends or colleagues—ever knows it either, but that is the reality of this world. It happens, and that reality has been reflected in this chamber during this debate.

In common with other members, I have known for many years families who have dealt with the impact of abuse. There are others whom I have come to know through my parliamentary role. As many members will understand, we have all sorts of issues coming through our electorate office doors in our communities. I will be the first to say that when I first became a member, this was one of the things I was wholly unprepared for, because it is enormously confronting. Firstly, it is confronting for someone to be trusting enough to share that information, but it is also confronting to be asked to advocate on their behalf and to be part of the change that could potentially make their lives better. It is heartbreaking, sickening and disempowering for the people who have lived through it and there seems to be an utter inadequacy in offering comfort or assistance in some cases. This legislation is a real and tangible offering to those who have had this cruelty visited on them at their most vulnerable time of life, and to their families.

As I said before, I was a member of the previous government's cabinet subcommittee on civil litigation for child abuse, along with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I note the work that was done by the previous member for Eyre, Dr Graham Jacobs. It was the desire of the previous government to ensure that all legislation was properly canvassed and examined by the appropriate stakeholders before being introduced to the Parliament.

That debate was probably one of the worst I have sat through during my time in Parliament, which is not as long as some other members sitting in this place. At the time, the then opposition's proposal was that Dr Jacobs' private member's bill should just fly through and that the then government should just support what Dr Jacobs had brought to the house. The bill was debated with vehemence. I note the remarks made by the member for Cannington just before I stood to speak. For members who were not part of that debate, some of the comments made in this place were tantamount to accusing those of us who did not support the progress of the bill of being supporters of paedophiles. Many of us sat in this chamber and listened to that accusation coming to us from the then opposition with the same indignation and horror as the member for Cannington has just expressed. I can assure members that no-one in government at that stage sought to downplay the importance of what Dr Jacobs had done, or was unsupportive of trying to find a remedy for victims who had advocated for justice for so long. It was distressing to have that accusation made by members who are now in government. If the member for Cannington is going to come into this place and make statements like that, he should remind himself of that debate and of some of the statements that were made by members last year. For me it was arguably one of the more distressing debates I have had in either house of this place, and we have had some fairly serious and very personal debates on issues that have long-lasting ramifications for the people we are talking about. Given the passage of time between the Labor Party taking office and this legislation being brought to the house, I am sure the Attorney General has discovered that it is quite a complex issue and that a number of things needed to be canvassed beyond what Dr Jacobs brought to this house.

From my reading and recollection, we are the fifth Australian jurisdiction to bring some version of this legislation into being. I understand that Victoria, New South Wales, the ACT, Queensland and now WA all have some version of this legislation. It will provide an opportunity for justice for those victims who have had to live with the darkness brought into their lives by not only the perpetrators of the crime but also those who turned the other way. A previous member spoke about people who have ignored the issues or who have enabled, created and sustained systems that resulted in these children falling through the cracks. We, as a society, have consequently been unable to protect some of our most vulnerable members.

Much has been said about the royal commission findings and the growing acceptance in our community that there can be absolutely no legal, scientific, ethical or practical justification for maintaining a limitation period for crimes of this nature, particularly when we are talking about crimes perpetrated against children. Members have spoken about the fact that it is well understood that it takes many years for someone who has been the victim of child abuse to reconcile the fact and be in a position to be able to tell their story. Through that royal commission and through many of the other investigations and inquiries that have been held in various different Parliaments around this nation, we as a community and a nation have reached an understanding that this is something we can no longer ignore.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised some issues that we canvassed in the previous government's subcommittee, which the Attorney General might like to address. I am sure advice was provided in relation to the rationale for limiting the legislation to deal only with sexual abuse. That is not to say that we are trying to create a catch-all. Much of the evidence that was provided to us by victims and advocates made it clear that it is very hard to delineate between sexual and other forms of abuse. Often it is all bound into one; physical abuse accompanies sexual abuse and mental abuse, and it is very hard —

Mr J.R. Quigley: That's why we've left the definition open-ended.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Okay, we look forward to hearing the explanation. We genuinely had a quite significant conversation and we asked victims, advocates and institutions to provide us with advice on our deliberations.

I am also interested in the interaction between the criminal injuries compensation scheme and what is being proposed. This is a complex area and we certainly discovered things raised by some of the people who provided evidence to the subcommittee that we had not even turned our minds to. If those following this debate have already had any interaction with the criminal injuries compensation scheme, it will be of interest to them as the debate starts to unfold.

We have reached a time at which these issues are being aired because victims and their advocates have been brave enough to tell of their experiences. As I said before, we now have responsibility as a community to make sure that we provide them with an avenue to justice. Other members of Parliament have acknowledged that at moments like these in debates in the Parliament, we can understand the full power of the chamber and our roles as members of Parliament to provide some relief and recourse to those who require assistance, and empower these people. I share the thoughts of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on the terminology of “victim”, because so many people who have been in this situation do not see themselves as victims, but we need to provide some recourse and empower them to bring the perpetrators to justice, as well as those who turned a blind eye and created the system that allowed these things to occur. I trust that the implementation of the legislation, once we have debated it in this place and the other house, is done in a manner that will not re-victimise those who seek to bring their abusers to justice. This measure will be welcomed not only in my community. I have shared conversations across the state with the member for Roe and many others who are watching very closely. I know the Attorney General understands, as he has no doubt had discussions with very similar people, if not the same people. I commend the bill to the house, and look forward to its passage through the Parliament and its implementation in a way that provides some relief to those people who have been watching so keenly.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 9 November.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [7.42 pm]: I would like to speak about a few topics today as part of the debate on the supplementary appropriation bills. In the short time that this government has been in office it has already been able to achieve some great things in the regions and throughout the electorate of Murray–Wellington, providing it with some certainty for its future. This has included committing over \$50 million in this year’s budget towards developing industrial parks, with both the Peel Business Park in Nambeelup and Kemerton Industrial Park receiving funding. These projects will create tens of thousands of jobs for years to come. We have also provided long-term security for the first time for the RAC south west rescue helicopter, ensuring that people in the state’s south can be transported quickly when it is needed the most; and put in place a ban on fracking throughout the south west, something that the community had campaigned very hard for.

Since March we have seen the delivery of our election commitments as part of the government’s Local Projects, Local Jobs program. Through this program, the state government has been able to fund a number of worthy projects across the state. Within Murray–Wellington, these projects have helped communities expand facilities and services, with funding directed to a new playground in Ravenswood, a new shed for the Waroona men’s shed, an upgrade of the Preston Beach community hall, a hard stand for Lake Clifton Fire Station, a new skate park in Australind, upgrades to the Harvey Cultural and Recreation Centre, lighting for the Leschenault Leisure Centre, and a contribution towards the Brunswick River Cottages. Funding has also been put towards projects that will encourage tourism throughout the electorate, with money going towards developing facilities at the historic Lake Clifton lime kiln, redeveloping Ridley Place on the Australind foreshore, and the redevelopment of the Dwellingup and Pinjarra town centres.

Further developing tourism opportunities throughout the electorate is important, as this industry can create jobs and fuel the local economy. The area of Murray–Wellington covers some of the state’s most amazing natural landscapes, offering tourism experiences for all kinds of people. The towns within the electorate are also in prime locations for day trips and weekend stays as they are all short distances from Perth, Mandurah or Bunbury. Above all else, this electorate has stunning natural environments, and many of the area’s tourist attractions are based on this. At the southern end, Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park offers plenty of fishing, crabbing and water recreation activities amongst dolphins and some beautiful wildlife. Leschenault, Australind and Binningup also sit along pristine picturesque beaches which are very popular amongst both tourists and locals in summer.

The south west is known for, other than wine, dairy and cows. This is made very clear in Brunswick, which is otherwise known as the “Cream of the South West”. Cows greet people on the town’s entrance sign, and the cow on the corner, Daisy, sits right in the middle of the town. It is also home to the Brunswick Agricultural Show, the

biggest one-day show in the state. At the recent show in October, over 14 000 people passed through the entry gates. The town itself has a population of just over 1 000. The show is run by the Brunswick Agricultural Society, which does a fantastic job putting the show together each year.

There is a lot of history throughout the electorate, with Brunswick and Harvey both recognised at the Brunswick pioneer wall that honours the rich history of the area, and the war memorial in Harvey, which I would dare to say is the best memorial in the south west. Harvey is also home to some of the state's best produce, including Harvey Beef and Harvey Fresh. This is showcased in the town's annual Harvest Festival, which also shows the area's distinctive Italian heritage to the wider community. Harvey is also home to one of WA's "big" attractions—the Big Orange, which overlooks Harvey Fresh's orchard. Sitting between Brunswick and Harvey is the small town of Wokalup. Like many small towns, the main attraction is the local pub. The Wokalup Tavern has over 100 years of history and is a very popular spot amongst the locals and those from the greater area. It also has the advantage of being next door to Harvey Cheese, another one of the region's superb local produce outlets and tourism destinations.

The rebuilding of Yarloop will bring new tourism experiences into the region. The Yarloop workshops were internationally recognised as one of the most intact examples of early twentieth century railway workshops in Australia before they were sadly destroyed in the 2016 bushfires. Plans have been put in place to develop a workshops precinct, which may offer an insight into the town's rich timber and rail history, and bring back tourism to the town.

Further north in the electorate, Waroona, with neighbouring Preston Beach and Lake Clifton, are small but unique towns, still very much tourism destinations in their own right. In Waroona, Lake Navarino, or the Waroona Dam, is one of the region's best-kept secrets. Surrounded by forest and wildflowers, the lake is popular for recreational activities and for camping through spring and summer. Currently the town is also holding the Sea to ART Exhibition at the Waroona Visitor Centre, showcasing a range of works from local artists throughout the whole month of November. Also on at the moment is the Waroona Yarn Bomb, which sees the town colourfully decorated with yarn art. In October of each year the Waroona Agricultural Society holds the Waroona Show, a one-day event that brings in thousands of people from around the state. These community events help promote Waroona as a diverse town.

On the coast, Preston Beach is known for its four-wheel driving along the sand dunes and its fishing, plus it is close to a number of accommodation options. The beach is also surrounded by a very welcoming local community that makes visitors feel at home as soon as they arrive. Preston Beach and Lake Clifton are also part of the Yalgorup National Park, which contains one of the largest thrombolite reefs in the southern hemisphere, along with walk trails and an abundance of wildlife. Growing up, I was lucky enough to spend a lot of time in this area, so I am very aware of the positive impact that tourism has on local businesses and the community in these areas. One of the local businesses is the Lake Clifton Tavern, the iconic local pub that has successfully relied on predominantly drive-through tourists for many years.

The town of Pinjarra holds a lot of history, with the 125-year-old Edenvale Homestead in the centre of town. The homestead has a machinery museum and local artwork displays and is surrounded by the town's most beautiful gardens. It is also where the Pinjarra Festival is held. The Pinjarra Festival is a two-day free event held over the WA Day weekend that brings locals and people from Perth and the south west into the town. Within walking distance of the homestead is Cantwell Park, which sits on the Murray River and has become a popular location for events in the town, as well as being a tourism spot in its own right, with a suspension bridge that crosses the river. Pinjarra is also home to Peel Zoo, which has over 45 000 visitors each year. We also have the award-winning Pinjarra Bakery and Patisserie, which has some of the best pies and cakes in the state. More tourism opportunities are being created in the town. There are plans for the Exchange Hotel, which sits in the main street of the town, to be redeveloped, whilst retaining its heritage components. Built in the mid-1860s, the hotel's redevelopment will bring value into the town centre and it will become a tourism drawcard for the region.

Down the road in nearby Ravenswood, many houseboats travel up and down the magnificent Murray River, where sits a great local pub that has become one of the region's most popular gig venues. Every year it is home to the Ravenswood Hotel Chilli Festival, one of the few family-friendly chilli festivals that also has notoriously hot chilli-eating competitions.

Just north of Pinjarra is Fairbridge, another town that is known for its heritage. The historic Fairbridge Village is internationally recognised for its culture and environmental significance, and was recently the backdrop for a new film, *Three Summers*, directed by Ben Elton and starring some iconic Aussie actors. In the words of Molly Meldrum "do yourself a favour" and see this great film. It was filmed locally, and created local jobs and involved many extras from the region. Fairbridge Village is also the location of the Fairbridge Festival, which ran for the twenty-fifth year in April. The festival is the state's most popular camping festival and is unique in that it caters to a family audience and has a number of activities just for children.

The last spot, and arguably one of the most beautiful tourism spots, within the electorate is the town of Dwellingup. The town is the gateway to WA's jarrah forests and is a significant global hotspot of plant biodiversity. There is

a huge range of activities and experiences in and around the town, including the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway, one of the few places in the state where people can experience a ride and have a meal on a vintage steam train. Every year Dwellingup holds the Dwellingup Pumpkin Festival, a unique combination of a school fair and a giant pumpkin competition, which this year had over 13 000 people in attendance. In 2018, this festival will be held on Easter Saturday and we expect this to be bigger and better. This event greatly benefits the local community, as all money raised goes to the Dwellingup Primary School Parents and Citizens Association. Also in the town is the Forest Heritage Centre, a not-for-profit centre that offers guided tours throughout the forest, as well as accommodation, educational tours, and art and craft workshops. The centre is also a place where local artists can sell their work to the public.

Just outside Dwellingup is Lane Poole Reserve, a very popular camping and recreation area within the forest. Situated on the Murray River, the reserve is also home to the Trees Adventure, WA's only obstacle course in the trees. The town is also surrounded by a number of trails that make the area a nature lover's paradise, including the 1 000-kilometre Munda Biddi Trail for off-road cycling and the 1 000-kilometre Bibbulmun Track. This government is currently exploring the possibility of making Dwellingup a trail hub for the state, which has the potential to further promote the town and the wider region as a tourism destination.

Spread throughout the electorate are a number of boutique wineries, craft breweries, local markets and distinctive cafes that would be seen only in a country town. This, alongside a range of accommodation options in each town site, makes the region an easy day trip or a weekend stay. The vast range of tourism opportunities within the electorate shows that there is a great opportunity to diversify the local economy by promoting this region. We cannot rely on one industry to keep these towns going forever. Investing in tourism is one way that we, as a government, can create jobs and provide economic certainty for the future of our regions. With the unique experiences around the region, it would be a waste of natural resources not to show it off to the rest of the country and the world. I encourage members in this place to stop and visit the small towns of our great state. We are fortunate to have such beauty and diversity in WA.

MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth) [7.56 pm]: I am quite excited about what I am going to talk about tonight, and, at my age in life, I do not often get that excited! Electorates like South Perth do not get much funding.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: South Perth gets very little funding from governments of either persuasion. I have found that Liberal governments spend very little money in my electorate. I have to fight very hard. I fought for 12 years to get an on-ramp to the freeway at Manning Road and it will be delivered by the Labor Party, but only because the federal government got involved, and it really wants to win the seat of Swan. The federal government has said to the McGowan government that it will give the government the funding as part of its plans for the future, but part of that funding has to go towards Manning Road. I am excited about that.

Tonight I want to talk about a story that was in *The Sunday Times*. I was briefed on this some time ago, but it has now been made public. The headline of the story on page 15 by Josh Zimmerman, whom I have never met but I think is a fine journalist, is "South Perth gets set to stun". I liked that, because I am a modernist and I want my area to stun and be exciting. The newspaper has finally revealed that the City of South Perth has a very bold plan to turn the great Mends Street precinct, with the Mends Street jetty, the only area in the whole of Western Australia that is serviced by a regular commuter ferry service, into a tourism destination. I believe that this is great vision by the Mayor of South Perth, Sue Doherty, and the councillors, because they can see that, with the popularity of Elizabeth Quay and the fact that we will soon have a Ritz-Carlton hotel and other big hotels in that precinct, a lot more tourists will come to Perth. The Minister for Tourism tells us that jets will be flying down from Japan and China every day, bringing thousands of Asian tourists to our great city. We can make Mends Street, which is on the other side of the river from Elizabeth Quay, a place where tourists will want to go. I have been saying for some time that the new stadium, which will open in January, will be a huge attractor for tourists, but mainly football fans because AFL games will be played 22 weeks of the year, with West Coast playing one week and Fremantle the next. We will attract thousands of tourists from other parts of Australia who want to watch their teams play at the magnificent new stadium. I think we have to try to capitalise on this and make better use of the river. The shadow Minister for Tourism is back in the chamber now and I am sure that she is as excited as I am; indeed, what better place for tourists who come to Perth to spend some of their time than our magnificent Swan River? I have always said that the Swan River is very underutilised. Of course, people can go to the river and then to Rottnest Island and do trips to Fremantle, but we should have more hop-on, hop-off ferries around the inner city area.

Ms C.M. Rowe: Belmont?

Mr J.E. McGRATH: The City of Belmont is very keen to get a ferry service, even a commuter service. It is planning on more development; as the population grows, we have to build more residential developments. The City of Belmont spoke to us when we had a working party that looked at having more ferries. It is very keen. I have raised this issue with the Minister for Transport and I think she understands, but what comes first—the chicken or the egg? I guess we have to get the population there and then we can take a ferry to the population.

The City of South Perth has just released its master plan called “Connect South Mends Street”. As I said, it seeks to capitalise on Mends Street’s access to ferries and its uninterrupted views of the central business district skyline. Anyone who has been to South Perth has to agree that the best view of the city skyline is from the South Perth foreshore. The city skyline can be seen from Applecross and places like that, but the South Perth foreshore is opposite the city and there is no better view at night than the one from our beautiful South Perth foreshore. The City of South Perth wants to call it the civic heart and tourism destination. Part of the plan incorporates a new pier so that in addition to Mends Street jetty, another jetty will be built west of Mends Street jetty, meaning that there will be two jetties at Mends Street. I believe that there could be cafes and restaurants on the second jetty similar to what can be seen in Sydney at Woolloomooloo and those places at which all sorts of tourism attractions are built on jetties and old wharves. Upgrades will be done to Mends Street jetty, which is heritage listed. For some time it has been in need of an upgrade and that is part of this plan. The City of South Perth is also looking at alfresco riverside dining opportunities. Anyone who goes to Mends Street any time on a hot summer’s night or on weekends knows that thousands of people walk along the South Perth foreshore. The City of South Perth wants to make sure that if people are there, they can enjoy proper amenities and therefore enjoy their visit to our city. The Mends Street jetty upgrade will incorporate a boardwalk that will be connected to a piazza that will double as an events space. When people get off the ferry—the *Philip Pendal* or the soon-to-be renamed Shelley Taylor-Smith—there will be a piazza area that is an attraction to people. I can see that the Acting Speaker (Ms J.M. Freeman) is getting excited about the prospect of coming across to South Perth on a ferry.

Mr S.A. Millman: A ferry from Mirrabooka!

Mr J.E. McGRATH: She could catch the Metro Area Express light rail from Mirrabooka and get straight onto a ferry—that is a great plan.

The other thing that really interests me—I do not know who came up with this concept but I know that the city put it out to a professional company—is the concept of an animal parade; that is, a canopy of animals that will pay homage to the first animals that went to Perth Zoo. The animals will be a pair of lions, a tiger, four ostriches —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: No pair!

There will also be two monkeys and an orangutan. That reminds me of a story that I heard. Perth Zoo has been there for over 100 years, so the first animals were taken there a long time ago. When the first elephant was brought to the zoo, it obviously had to come by ship from India or wherever it came from. It was unloaded onto a barge at Fremantle, brought up the Swan River and walked onto Mends Street jetty. South Perth residents and people from all around who knew that the elephant was coming lined the Mends Street strip as the elephant handler led the elephant up Mends Street and into Perth Zoo. That was a long, long time ago, but it is a part of South Perth’s history and it is also a part of Perth’s history because it is not called South Perth zoo, it is called Perth Zoo. These animals will light up at night and will be seen as far away as Kings Park, which will be fantastic. There are also plans for laser video projections as part of the precinct development in South Perth. There will be new play equipment, seating, shade structures on the foreshore, upgraded streetscapes and public art. It is important. The City of South Perth and the historical society would like Mends Street to be recognised as a place of great history. There are a number of heritage-listed buildings in Mends Street, including the old police station, which will be there forever. The post office is owned by the commonwealth and there is some dispute about whether it is still heritage listed. People are looking at that at the moment. There is also the old heritage house and the Old Mill theatre. All those places are heritage listed and, of course, one of my favourite places, the Windsor Hotel, is also heritage listed. The city believes that with proper lighting, people who walk down Mends Street at night will be able to see the heritage buildings highlighted similar to what is being done at Perth Stadium. These days the use of lighting can create a good visible aspect. Where will we get the money from? This is where I am about to speak very nicely to the new McGowan government. Stage 1 alone, which will be completed by December 2019 and will be at the end closest to Mends Street jetty, will cost \$7.5 million and will be partially funded by the City of the South Perth and its residents. I am a resident and a ratepayer. The city has also been guaranteed \$2.5 million in grants from the federal government. I have to compliment Steve Irons, the member for Swan, who advocated very strongly for this project. Through his hard work, he managed to get the \$2.5 million federal grant.

What I want to say tonight is that it is very important that the people of South Perth get involved. The plan is now out for public comment. Public comment closes on 22 December and it will then go back to the council. I know there is a bit of anxiety among the older and longer-term residents about too much change. People worry about change and what density will do to the area. I do not think the Mends Street project will greatly impact on residents who live in the area of Mill Point Road that goes down to the Old Mill. I think it will really enhance the Mends Street area in general.

There are already other plans for Mends Street. A six-storey building right opposite Cocos has started. It will include a restaurant underneath and some very expensive accommodation. I could not afford to buy one room in the four-bedroom apartment there. A 20-storey building will be finished in the next six months or so. People who

have driven through South Perth will have seen that building. It is the next street down from the corner of Harper Terrace, the next one down on Mends Street. In the Mends Street triangle, on the site where the developers have had some problem with water, they wanted to build five storeys of car park underground and found that the water issues were too great. That building was going to be 37 storeys and would have been the tallest building in the precinct of South Perth. It now looks as though they might build only two 14-storey buildings. That is a bit of a shame because planners tell us that the higher the building, the smaller the footprint. Two 14-storey towers take a big footprint, but 28 storeys create a small footprint, so there is more room for airspace, visuals and people to move around the building. But at this stage it looks as though it will be 14 storeys.

I do not know how often people in the chamber go to South Perth, but in the Mends Street arcade there used to be an IGA store. That has been knocked down and is being rebuilt so there will be a new IGA supermarket with a Quest Apartments complex above it. I think a lot of tourists will come to Perth and stay at Quest Apartments. That will add to the vibrancy of the streets, the area and the local businesses, which have done it a bit tough of late due to the construction there. Once construction starts, it makes it difficult to get people to come because they are worried about parking and disruption in general. Once it is all finished, those businesses will benefit once again from the greater number of people who will live in and travel to South Perth.

I am very pleased to support the appropriation. The McGowan government is now in charge of the state's finances—the state's progress moving forward. I will speak to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Tourism. I do not know whether any applications have been made by the City of South Perth, but I am sure they would have; the City of South Perth would have been talking to the ministers. I think it will be fantastic for tourism in Western Australia if the state government gets behind this development on the foreshore and builds a new jetty and upgrades the existing Mends Street jetty. In time, there will be more ferries on the river. At a briefing I was at, Department of Transport people indicated that eventually they might even be parking ferries in South Perth overnight because there will be more ferries. If more ferries are put on the run, there has to be more room for them to be parked at night, so even on the South Perth side, there might be ferries parking overnight.

I think the future is fantastic. I am pleased that the Minister for Transport is keen on seeing more activity in and around the CBD. I am pleased that the Minister for Tourism has a lot of vision for more people coming to our state and, more importantly, to our great city. I think the stadium will be a terrific boost for our city and for tourism. If we want people to come to Perth, we have to make sure they have something to do. We used to go to Melbourne quite a bit—not with the member for Swan—and people would say, “What do you do when you go to Melbourne?” My wife and a couple of her girlfriends used to go to Bridge Road because a lot of shopping outlets are there. People might say, “What do you do when you go to Perth?” I would like to think that people can say to tourists when they come to Perth, “If you get to Perth, you can jump on a ferry at a place called Elizabeth Quay, go across to the other side and find a place called Mends Street where there are cafes, bars and restaurants and, if you are really interested, you can walk a bit further and see the zoo.”

Ms S.F. McGurk: If you really want a good outing, go to Fremantle.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Please! South Perth is very handy. They can see Fremantle on another day.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: They can go on the Midland–Fremantle line.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Is Guildford in your electorate, member for Midland?

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Absolutely, Guildford.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Eventually a ferry will be going to Guildford where there will be markets on Sundays, so we will all share in this great tourism boom, but I have to pitch for South Perth and hope we get the lion's share. Pardon the pun! Thank you.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [8.15 pm]: I want to take this opportunity during this appropriation debate to inform the house of the launch of the Snowdome Foundation in Western Australia in August this year. The Snowdome Foundation was formed in Melbourne and is a fundraising foundation that supports the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. It is the only public hospital in Australia specialising in the treatment of cancers. The Snowdome Foundation concentrates particularly on raising funds for the treatment of blood cancers. This includes myelomas, lymphomas, leukaemias and such like. As the chamber knows, I was stricken with a blood cancer in 2005. I was told at the time that it had no known treatment regime and that it was a very serious cancer—in fact, with more than likely a terminal outcome. I was referred to the Peter MacCallum cancer hospital where I had the good fortune to meet Professor Miles Prince, now the director of the Snowdome Foundation. At the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, since Snowdome was formed about 2010, many millions of dollars have been raised for specifically developing the area of genomics in cancer treatment—that is, to take a particular cancer cell and study its DNA make-up so that a personalised, targeted treatment can be delivered to the patient that will attack that particular cancer cell once it has been identified by the team at Peter MacCallum. Peter MacCallum cancer hospital is not only developing the genomics of cancer cells but also, linked with many companies around the world, particularly in the United States, is involved in the delivery of trial drugs.

As it happened, in 2005 when I went to Peter MacCallum, Professor Prince put me on a drug called depsipeptide. There were 10 of us on the trial and a little under half of us survived. It was a cutting-edge drug. I am now told it is a fifth-line drug. I was treated by infusion, but now that drug is delivered by tablet. Five more generations of different sorts of drugs have been delivered since then, giving wonderful outcomes for people, which I had with T-cell lymphoma. At that time, Professor Prince had just returned from the United States where he had been on sabbatical. When he was introduced to this drug in the United States, as I understood the situation, the Food and Drug Administration in America was approving the trial of the drug in 150 humans. Professor Prince was assigned a cohort of 10 for when he went back to Australia and I was fortunate to be in that trial of 10.

Each week I had to travel to Melbourne for the delivery of the drug, because it had to be controlled by Professor Prince. After about nine or 10 months, maybe more—I cannot remember now—Professor Prince got permission from the drug company in the United States to have the drug infused into me at the Western Australian cancer centre located at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. That centre is run by Professor David Joske, who is a very gifted haematologist. I am pleased to announce that we in Western Australia are very fortunate that Professor Prince and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne have chosen Perth to be the second site in Australia for the Snowdome Foundation and its genomic diagnosis of particular cancer mutations and the specialist delivery of drugs to suit patients with particular mutations. We are very fortunate that Western Australia will have only the second hub in Australia. The hub in Victoria is run under the auspices of Professor Prince at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre hospital in Melbourne, and Dr David Joske and his wonderful team of haematologists at the cancer centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will run the hub in Western Australia. It will deliver to all Western Australians cutting-edge world-class treatments for blood cancers. From my experience, I know that it was a really arduous task to have to fly to Melbourne every week for an eight-hour infusion. I would be as crook as a camp dog after that and fly back here for Parliament on Tuesday. However, all these cutting-edge treatments will be available for delivery at the Sir Charles Gairdner Cancer Centre in Hollywood.

The aim of the Snowdome Foundation is to raise \$10 million in 10 years, in concert with Maddie Riewoldt's Vision. Maddie Riewoldt is the late sister of the famous St Kilda footballer Nick Riewoldt and she was taken by blood cancer. Maddie Riewoldt's Vision, which was started by Nick Riewoldt and the family, won the inaugural charity award at the 2016 Telstra Australian Business Awards in recognition of its outstanding work. The Snowdome Foundation has been the beneficiary of a very generous gift by Mr and Mrs Bruce and Christine Wilson, who have pledged \$5.5 million over the next four years towards the target of raising \$10 million over 10 years for the genomic diagnosis of blood cancers. It is a very generous gift. Significant fundraising events will be held in Western Australia and I am pleased to announce that in March next year Mr Adrian Fini is hosting a major fundraiser for the Snowdome Foundation.

It is interesting that the Cancer Council of Australia raises funds for cancer research, but for only solid tumours. The Snowdome Foundation is concentrating on bloodborne cancers. Interestingly, bloodborne cancers, as I found out with mine, have no known histology. There is no known background or precipitating event that causes them, whereas, for example, cigarette smoke will precipitate the mutations that bring about lung cancer.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Not always, because Bev Gallop never smoked at all and ended up with lung cancer.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: That is true. It is not in all cases, but there are known risk factors. It is the same with skin cancers; exposure to the sun will induce a skin cancer. But with many of the blood cancers, such as the sort that I was stricken with, T-cell lymphoma, there is no known precipitating factor for the mutation. The immune system just does not clear those cells. As Professor Prince said, it is a miracle that more people do not get these serious cancers because we have a billion cells in our body dividing all the time and it takes only one of these cells when dividing to cause a mutation that sets off the chain that leads to catastrophic outcomes for the patients.

With the advent of genomics, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne has the ability to examine the cells, and a lot of it is done with very high powered computing and cutting-edge specialised laboratory processes and instrumentation performed by haematologist Dr Piers Blombery and his team of scientists and technicians and bioinformaticians at the molecular haematology laboratory in the pathology department. It is a specialised and high-powered unit at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, which is a brand-new hospital with 2 500 employees concentrating on only cancer. I think we can see how fortunate we are that the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre has chosen Perth for its second hub in Australia. Perth will have cutting-edge treatments available for blood cancers. Specimens will be taken and sent straight to Melbourne for diagnosis. The genomics of the cancer cell will be analysed at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre by the specialist scientists before the information is sent back to the cancer centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, which is, as I said, led by Dr David Joske. He and his very talented team will deliver in a public hospital setting—I stress that it is a public hospital setting—world-first cutting-edge treatments for blood cancers. I wanted to rise this evening to draw Parliament's attention to this issue and to recognise Professor David Joske. I still go there every six months for check-ups and I am familiar with his wonderful team of haematologists. Western Australians can count themselves very fortunate to have such talented haematologists down at the WA cancer centre.

I want to do a little plug. If anyone reading this evening's *Hansard* googles "Snowdome", they will find on the website a button whereby interested parties can donate to Snowdome. I stress that the millions of dollars that the public has donated so far are going towards an excellent cause in developing the genomics for the medical treatment of bloodborne cancers. Although childhood leukaemia is now regarded as a chronic illness that is treatable, lymphocytic leukaemia that people get later in life is absolutely deadly. Now there is hope on the horizon with the laboratories at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre being able to diagnose the actual DNA structure of the mutated cell and deliver very specialised treatment. I rise this evening to pay tribute to those doctors. I had the pleasure of catching up with Professor Prince when he came over here in August to launch the Snowdome Foundation and of sharing a meal with him and Professor Joske from the WA cancer centre. All power to them. I just want to acknowledge, support and give due praise to Snowdome and the treating scientists.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [8.30 pm]: I rise to make some comments on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the big investments in my electorate of Belmont that have been announced by the McGowan Labor government. In September, the Treasurer and his team delivered a budget in very difficult circumstances. It was tough but fair. It delivers on our election commitments in Belmont and delivers significant investments in job-creating projects around the entire state. When I have been out and about in my electorate over the past few months, the feedback from residents has been overwhelming in support of the measures our government has taken to pay down the debt and restructure the state's finances for the future. People are reasonable. They recognise the situation that the state's finances are in, they acknowledge that the medicine for fiscal repair has been fairly split across the community, and they know that our government has a plan to put us back on the road to a surplus.

When former member for Belmont Hon Eric Ripper, MLA handed over the state's books in 2008, there was \$1 673 in total public sector net debt for every person in the state. At 30 June this year, that figure had grown to \$12 592 per person. I remember that Eric was often criticised at the time by some in the media and the public sphere for his conservative approach, but his final budget delivered an operating surplus of \$2.6 billion and total public sector net debt of just \$3.6 billion. This was also in the context of delivering infrastructure to the state, such as the Mandurah rail line and Fiona Stanley Hospital. It was also a very strong financial position to be in heading into the height of the global financial crisis. The state government in 2008 had the ways and means to invest in Western Australia because of its strong fiscal position. Before entering Parliament, I was a financial planner for an industry superannuation fund. I helped members plan for their retirement and invest for a rainy day. A rainy day is when something fundamentally changes; it might be some catastrophic health diagnosis, a redundancy, being laid-off or when funds are urgently needed to help a child or grandchild. A rainy day for WA is another global market failure or another big drop in iron ore prices. The reality of our current financial position is that the state does not have all the levers it had in 2008 to buffer the state economy. If there were to be another downturn or shock to the local economy, we would not have those same reserves to draw down on. Governments need to be able to respond to current economic circumstances, but it is also the responsibility of governments to plan for the future prosperity of the state.

I would like to cover some of the local projects funded in my electorate and talk about the fantastic commitment the McGowan government has shown to the people of Belmont. Firstly, our state budget includes the implementation of an important election commitment, including our plan for jobs and Metronet. It includes funding to complete the Forrestfield–Airport Link, with two new stations in my electorate. One station is currently called Belmont, but a survey was recently undertaken to determine whether residents want to change that name. We will wait to see the results of that. The second station in my electorate will be Airport Central. Metronet is a truly transformative public transport plan that will create thousands of new construction jobs and apprenticeships. I recently attended the Belmont train station precinct and toured the construction site and spoke at the commencement of the direct factory outlet construction nearby. These projects will drive lasting economic development in our area and will prove a big boost for local jobs for decades to come.

There is also funding in the forward estimates for a new performing arts centre at Belmont City College—we are delivering on our election commitment. Belmont City College offers a contemporary drama program. This investment will give local students the ability to learn in modern and up-to-date facilities, which only a Labor government has been able to deliver. This is important infrastructure for the school community and will ensure that our kids get a top quality education in facilities that support their modern educational needs. The new performing arts centre will feature stadium seating for more than 3 500 people, large screens and an open space for exhibitions, shows and performances. Students will be able to explore their creative and artistic talents in dance, theatre and music. They will thrive in these state-of-the-art facilities. Construction is due to commence in early 2020 and is expected to be completed by 2021. I am really proud of the Labor government for this initiative.

There was also plenty in the recent budget for schools, with 300 additional education assistants, 120 teachers and 50 Aboriginal and Islander education officers to be employed in WA schools over the next few years. Many of these will be in my electorate of Belmont. I know for a fact that my local schools will be absolutely delighted to have additional resources, especially with education assistants coming back into the classrooms. As a parent, I can

certainly see that this is a really crucial support resource for not only the students but also teachers. I am very proud that classroom mental health support will be boosted, as the budget provides for 0.1 FTE of a level 3 teacher's time to help oversee the delivery of evidence-based mental health programs.

Significant funds are being invested in Belmont through Local Projects, Local Jobs grants. In fact, Local Projects, Local Jobs funding will be delivered to every public school in Belmont and to many of our local community groups, which have a real investment in our local area and community. I would like to highlight some of those commitments. The Belmont Districts Football Club—the Bombers—will receive \$80 000 to fund extra lighting, which is critically needed at its training facilities at Forster Park in Cloverdale. The club will also enhance and upgrade the current landscape, particularly for training in winter. The Belmont Cricket Club will receive \$35 000. That club also needs extra lighting and new astroturf for the cricket nets at the Peet Park training ground. The club also needs new scoreboards and extra storage facilities for equipment. The \$35 000 grant will go a long way towards improving the club's facilities for its players. They are really excited about this grant. The Belmont Park Tennis Club in Cloverdale has some of the most beautiful grass courts in WA. However, two of the hard courts require resurfacing. The \$31 000 that the government is committing to this club will go towards resurfacing the hard courts and upgrading the men's toilet facilities.

Belmont City College, which is the local high school, not only will get a new performing arts centre costing about \$5 million, but also has a commitment of \$80 000 from the government to go towards upgrading the gymnasium bathroom facilities. Hazelmere is also part of my electorate. The Hazelmere Hall on Bushmead Road will receive \$100 000 for upgrades. The entire community in Hazelmere will be able to enjoy those new facilities, which are well and truly overdue. The footbridge that links South Guildford to Guildford requires an upgrade, as it currently floods in winter, making it completely inaccessible. The funding commitment of \$150 000 will deliver a bridge that will be accessible all year round. The Belmont community gardens at Wilson Park in Rivervale are run by a local group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. They are passionate about sustainable gardening and bringing the community together. We promised \$10 000 to go towards garden beds and infrastructure for the group. That is already being delivered. The Belmont Men's Shed was promised \$20 000. That was to go towards additional wood and metalwork machinery. I am pleased to say that that has also been delivered and they are very pleased with their new equipment. The local residents at Redcliffe have been asking for barbecue facilities at one of their local parks, Selby Park. We have committed \$50 000 to put that in so that all residents around that area can enjoy the barbecue facilities.

The local Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre has approximately 670 members. It required additional closed-circuit television cameras in the bar area, both function rooms and the barbecue area. We have given \$50 000 towards that, as well as providing additional capacity to have electricity outside so if they wish to run a farmers' market or anything like that, they have the capacity to do so. Belmont Junior Soccer Club trains at Miles Park in Cloverdale. The club needed some fencing to protect particularly its young members who play in that area. The area is along some major roads, including Wright Street. I am pleased to say that I drove past recently and saw that that fence has already gone up. That \$10 000 has gone a long way towards making the park safer for young players. The Belmont Villa Soccer Club train locally at Gerry Archer Reserve in Belmont. The club needed additional storage for its sporting equipment. We committed to fund \$30 000 to ensure it was able to get the storage facilities it needed.

As I have said, we have delivered \$50 000 to every single state primary school in the electorate of Belmont. That includes \$50 000 to Belmont Primary School. That went towards new courts for all its students to enjoy. Also, \$50 000 went to Carlisle Primary School. I believe that is going towards upgrading its netball and basketball courts. Kewdale Primary School has been given \$50 000. It is going to develop a nature playground with that money. Cloverdale Primary School also received \$50 000. That will be used to purchase play equipment for two separate nature play areas at the school. Belmay Primary School received \$50 000 for a hard cover for its junior play areas so it can be enjoyed in all weather conditions. Rivervale Primary School received \$50 000 to upgrade its play equipment, including a slide and table tennis table. The funding commitment of \$50 000 will mean a playground upgrade that all students can enjoy. Redcliffe Primary School would like to cover one of its netball courts for weather protection. It was given \$50 000 towards that. It is fair to say that all the local schools were deeply appreciative of those contributions. The funding goes towards improving some facilities, whether in a small or a big way.

The state budget also included strong investment in community safety. That is all thanks to our wonderful police minister, who has been championing safety and trying to make sure we can address the meth scourge in our community. We were able to deliver on our commitment to extend the opening hours of the Belmont Police Station. During the election campaign, crime was consistently raised with me as a major concern for people right across the Belmont electorate. People wanted to see the police station open longer because it was only open until five o'clock at night. Because there is such an issue with meth across our community, people thought additional police resourcing, including extended opening hours, would be very useful. Many residents felt the previous government simply did not listen to their concerns and had done too little, too late to curb meth use and the associated crime.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Ms C.M. ROWE: I am just telling members what people were saying!

Belmont Police Station is now open until seven o'clock at night. It has been since April thanks to the diligence and effort of our local police to implement that commitment. The recent state budget also includes \$300 000 to undertake security improvements to support the extended opening hours. Three different police stations—Forrestfield, Belmont and Canning Vale—are now open from eight o'clock until seven o'clock on weekdays.

Belmont residents are very supportive of the methamphetamine action plan. They will be pleased to see the measures in this budget, including: \$83.5 million for the meth border force comprising the recruitment of 100 sworn police officers and 20 specialised intelligence staff; \$3.8 million in funding for the WA Police Force to target roadside alcohol and drug testing, which will help keep our roads safe and support police to catch more people under the influence; and finally, the investment of an additional \$12 million for residential and community-based treatment facilities.

Funding of \$600 000 was allocated to commence the development of the Target 120 program to work with families to reduce the incidence of juvenile crime. This is a great initiative with strong support in my community. Most residents recognise the need to support vulnerable young people if we are to successfully divert juveniles who are getting involved in petty or more serious crimes. If we can help steer young people on the path to a productive life, there is a clear long-term benefit to our community.

I have spoken previously about the scourge of domestic violence and the need for governments to act decisively to reduce the catastrophic damage it causes in our community. I think it shows the commitment that the McGowan Labor government has to tackling this issue that in a difficult budgetary position, we are investing in the three pillars of prevention, further protections and prosecutions. We are delivering respectful relationship programs in schools as part of a primary prevention program. We are investing nearly \$1.7 million to expand existing culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse victims of family and domestic violence. We are establishing two additional women's refuges, with work to commence in 2018. We are reinstating and expanding financial counselling services with an extra \$7.4 million in funding. We are funding the RSPCA to support its Pets in Crisis program, which will help the victims of family and domestic violence look after their pets. We have joined up with the national program Our Watch, which will enable the state government to leverage support through partnerships and access to research. We are planning funding to commence work to establish an additional behavioural change service to support perpetrators of family and domestic violence.

Finally, I just want to quickly cover another couple of local Belmont projects. One is funding for the completion of the building and construction industry training board's career information centre. The centre is currently under construction in Belmont. An additional \$2.5 million will be invested in 2017–18 to complete this project. The building and construction industry employs over 10 per cent of the state's workforce and nearly half of all apprentices, yet the industry struggles to attract enough school leavers with the right attitude and aptitude to meet industry recruitment needs. The career information centre will be a catalyst for inspiring interest in students, educators and parents about future careers in construction and will prove a real asset for the industry.

Importantly for Belmont, the McGowan government will provide funding certainty and security for the tourism industry. The industry is a major employer in my electorate and plays a really vital role in diversifying the state's economy and creating local jobs. Investing funds to lift the baseline budget of \$40 million per annum for event tourism means more funds for local events arising from opportunities presented by the new stadium. We are also investing \$200 000 annually to drive tourism and create jobs by promoting Perth Racing's Masters Carnival across the nation and around the world.

In closing, the recent state budget protects the emerging green shoots in our economy while setting us on the right track to budget repair. It delivers for Belmont with job-creating projects and investments, while investing in education, health and community safety to deliver on our election commitments to the electorate.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley) [8.48 pm]: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

Mr K.M. O'Donnell interjected.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Yes, I am. Don't you like hearing from me, member for Kalgoorlie?

Ms J.J. Shaw: Greetings!

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Greetings, indeed.

I rise today to contribute to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. As a member of four school boards, it is clear that I am passionate about education in general, and specifically about the schools in my beloved electorate of Kingsley. I would like to take some time tonight to highlight some of the recent achievements of my secondary schools and students in the electorate of Kingsley. In April this year, 10 students from Warwick Senior High School attended the World Congress on Public Health held in Melbourne. Three of the students were invited to

present to the conference on the final day, being World Health Day. They were also invited to attend the next World Health Conference in Milan. Also in April the year 8 solar car challenge team from Warwick Senior High School, consisting of Kyle, CJ, Chelsea and Jack, participated in the grand final of Synergy's solar car challenge at Kings Park. The team came away with second place, beating schools such as Shenton College, Newman College, Duncraig Senior High School and Butler College. In August, the Greenwood College year 8 debating team won the grand final of the Western Australian Debating League novice division, competing against, and defeating, Lake Joondalup Baptist College, Duncraig Senior High School, St Marks, St Stephens, Governor Stirling Senior High School, Shenton College, Perth Ladies College and Perth Modern School. In September, Greenwood College specialist volleyball students participated in the WA volleyball schools cup. Eight of the school's teams made it through to semifinals, and of those teams, the year 7A boys earned a gold medal, the year 9B girls earned a silver medal, and the year 8A girls earned a gold medal. Greenwood College runs an extremely successful cheer and dance program, with two cheer teams, the Knights and the Titans. These teams have accumulated far too many awards for me to acknowledge here tonight, but in the most recent cheer and dance competition in November, they placed in every event they entered, including senior secondary jazz, first place for the Knights; senior secondary hip-hop, first place for the Knights; senior secondary level 2 cheer, Knights, second place; senior secondary level 1 cheer, Titans, third place; senior secondary lyrical, Titans, third place; and senior secondary lyrical, Knights, fourth place.

Students from Woodvale Secondary College's specialist soccer program are regularly picked for state teams as well as Perth Glory development teams. Warwick Senior High School student Brooklyn, from year 11, has been selected to attend the national science and engineering summer school for Indigenous students at the Australian National University in Canberra in December this year. Brooklyn is just one of 20 year 10 and 11 students selected from across Australia to attend this highly prestigious program, with students needing to show an interest in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, something very close to my heart. Woodvale Secondary College student Erwin Bauernschmitt won the WA Brain Bee championships held at the University of Western Australia in August. Year 10 students from 18 schools, including Lake Joondalup Baptist College and Sacred Heart College, participated in the WA finals for the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, which is designed to test students' knowledge of neuroscience and associated conditions or diseases of the brain. Erwin will represent the state at the national finals in Sydney in December.

Warwick Senior High School was one of five secondary school finalists, and as the Minister for Science told us today, is the runner-up in the Governor's School STEM Awards for excellent work on STEM accessibility for all students at all levels. Two weeks ago, year 8 Greenwood College student Ann Cao participated in the United Nations Youth Voice public speaking competition at Aquinas College. She presented an original speech offering her ideas about how to reform standardised testing in Australian schools. After her speech, she had to tackle impromptu follow-up questions from the judges. Ann has now been selected to compete at the state finals of the competition and, if she is in the top five students from the state competition, Ann will be invited to compete in the Voice national finals in Brisbane in April 2018.

Next March, year 11 student Nicola from Warwick Senior High School will head to Canberra as a member of the WA youth delegation attending the National Schools Constitutional Convention 2018. Nicola is just one of 15 WA students selected to attend. The topic under discussion is "Section 44: is it still relevant in modern Australia?" Section 44 of the Australian Constitution lists the grounds for disqualification on who may become a candidate for election to the Parliament of Australia. It should prove an interesting debate given recent events regarding dual citizenship!

Members may be asking why I am telling them all this tonight. Although I am a firm believer in celebrating successes, I highlight these achievements for another purpose. What is so astonishing about these successes is that they were achieved despite the physical constraints and the ageing infrastructure at these three schools. Staff and student determination to achieve and succeed is a driving force behind the successes I have highlighted tonight. Despite the total neglect by the previous government, these schools have been able to invest in students in other ways, and promote their successes, as can be seen in what I have highlighted this evening. Kingsley was previously seen as a safe Liberal seat, and the former member and the government as a whole took it for granted.

Greenwood College, built in 1975, a specialist volleyball and cheer school, has a gymnasium with a roof so low that the volleyball students cannot practice properly. The roof leaks, and the facility is so small that the cheer and volleyball teams cannot practice at the same time. Warwick Senior High School, built in 1981—a very good year if I may say so myself—has a specialist music and dance program, and is in desperate need of a new performing arts centre to house its talented musicians, dancers and actors, who next year will be split across three different buildings across the campus. Woodvale Secondary College, built in 1985, did receive a new gymnasium approximately seven or eight years ago, but the planning of this facility was so badly managed, it did not accommodate any toilet facilities. The Woodvale school community has been so desperate to see upgrades to the facilities on campus that the parent body partnered with the school board to fund a purpose-built training and storage facility for the specialist soccer program.

What was the former government doing during the economic boom enjoyed by the state of Western Australia? It certainly was not investing in the schools in Kingsley. It was not even looking after its own patch; it was so arrogant that it believed that a 14 per cent margin would never be eroded and so it ignored us. I am committed to advocating for the schools in my electorate and that is why I have already hosted the Premier at Greenwood College to celebrate its successes, and also to demonstrate in a very real and tangible way the restrictions of the ageing infrastructure and undeniable need for investment in not only Greenwood College but also all the ageing schools in the electorate of Kingsley.

I am excited that two of my schools will be receiving STEM funding to convert classrooms into dedicated science labs. This is much-needed investment in schools and I know the school communities are very excited about the funding and the McGowan government's commitment to STEM teaching in primary schools. With great pleasure, I will host the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, in three of my local schools this Friday, and I am sure that the principals and communities will use this unique opportunity to add their voices to the strong advocacy I have already been undertaking. Maybe it was the former government's total lack of budgeting skills that sees us unable to properly invest in core business of government such as education. I have serious concerns about the former government's ability in this area, given that the member for Churchlands stood in this place and attempted to dress us down about our record in government over the nine months since our election. Unfortunately for the member, we had only been in government for seven months at the time. I feel that it is this type of disregard for details that may have got members opposite into trouble when it came to budgeting for the state.

As an urban planner, I have a keen interest in appropriate land use planning and the ability of the Perth metropolitan area to be planned and grow in a sustainable manner. For this reason, I followed the Metronet project very closely. I can see that Metronet is not simply a transport project; it is transport, housing, commercial development, and job creation. I will take a moment to talk about the job creation side. Of course, we will invest in the manufacturing of the rolling stock and the building and construction of the rail line, and then post build as a catalyst for job creation around transit-oriented development. My time at the City of Wanneroo gave me a unique insight into the requirements of the Yanchep area and the ability to leverage something like a rail line to increase job growth in the area. The Metronet team is a multilayered cross-disciplinary team that is providing bespoke solutions to each area, rather than subscribing to a one-size-fits-all solution. Metronet is also not just a train line extension, but a holistic transportation plan. The review of feeder bus services, especially the east-west services that connect suburbs east of the freeway to the heavy rail network, is vitally important to the electorate of Kingsley. This important and, frankly, overdue step will ensure that bus services are being used to effectively manage the transportation of commuters to the rail network, rather than replicating the rail line, which is the current practice. Not content to stop there, the Minister for Transport and the Premier have also committed to investment in principal shared paths. These paths are essential to closing the gaps in the cycling network, providing another avenue for commuters to connect to the heavy rail network and addressing the issue of the last mile.

Many constituents are shocked and concerned that under the previous government, the number of ministries and departments ballooned. With 26 ministers and many departments, much work was being duplicated in a costly and ineffective manner. The new machinery-of-government changes across the public sector are aimed at producing collaborative teams across government departments. In the past, department and director general key performance indicators were targeted and siloed. The machinery-of-government changes aim to bring more departments and teams to the table to provide holistic solutions and targets. In a recent public hearing with the director general of the Department of Communities, Mr Grahame Searle, when questioned about the machinery-of-government changes, he stated —

What we are now trying to do is to get away from that and have just sensible regional decision-making. For instance, when the old Department of Child Protection and Family Support needed to house someone in a hurry because of domestic violence and child protection issues, by and large Housing was not all that helpful because that particular cohort was not high on its list in terms of the people it houses. The department had to try to find other arrangements. Now it has been joined together with Housing, its first discussion is with the local housing officer, so it has actually changed the mechanics of how that works and hopefully there will be some sort of cost reduction, because they will be utilising existing housing rather than having to put people up in motels and a range of other things that has happened over the journey. That is one example. I will probably get this wrong, but we have something like three HR systems, four finance systems and three record management systems across the agency. Over time, as that gets resolved, there will clearly be both financial benefits and information-flow benefits. If we try at the moment to consolidate a set of accounts, it is a nightmare. Similarly, just to get a headcount of who is working in the agency is quite complex at the moment. As we try to rationalise those things, we will start to get towards a single response to a family's problems and an understanding of the multiple ways in which we can affect something.

This statement from Mr Searle goes to the heart of exactly what I believe the machinery-of-government changes were designed to do—that is, not only provide some financial benefit to the state, but also ensure that we have holistic decision-making around important issues such as women and children being displaced by domestic violence.

On Friday, I presented at the Economic Development Australia event into smart cities at which a number of attendees lamented that it seemed that over the last decade, the state government had lacked a clear vision for the economic development of the state.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: It was with great pride that I was able to promote the McGowan Labor government's very clear and ambitious vision for WA. Let us start with our Minister for Asian Engagement. It is argued in many economic circles that Australia's neighbours to the north, east and west have growing economies, while Australia's economy is plateauing or declining. In Western Australia, we are well positioned to capitalise on the growth of our neighbours. It is for this reason that the McGowan government has appointed its first Asian engagement minister to ensure that the relationship between our neighbours and our economy is a strong one. One of the ways that we are looking to improve that relationship is through the hard work of our Minister for Tourism, who is promoting not only WA as a place to visit, but also direct flights between our Asian neighbours and our iconic tourism destinations such as Broome. I was very pleased that while I was at the Economic Development Australia event, a media release came through announcing that we would be getting a direct flight from Singapore to Broome. This is very important for a number of reasons. As the economies of our Asian neighbours grow, so does their disposable income. This disposable income will need to be used in a space where they can play. If we can position Western Australia as the preferred place to play, we can capitalise on the disposable income that will be created from the growing economies of our northern neighbours.

I think these sensible and proactive policies are driving the recovery in our economy. As we know, there is a three-year high in consumer confidence and a drop in unemployment numbers. I commend the McGowan government for its responsible outlook on the finances of Western Australia and its fiscally responsible look at repairing the damage to the state's debt.

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [9.07 pm]: I rise this evening to speak somewhat tangentially on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. Members of the house will agree that expenditure on education in Western Australia is a significant part of the state budget. It is in the vicinity of 16 per cent or so of the state budget and is second only to health, which is in the vicinity of 29 per cent of overall expenditure. That is my segue to the bills. Members may recollect that in my inaugural speech, I outlined the importance of schools and the role that education has played in my life story as a pathway out of poverty and disadvantage. I know that both sides of the house recognise the importance of education, particularly the central role that the state has to play as the universal provider of education. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." My hope is somewhat more modest. I hope to see education as the vehicle by which we can change the lives of individuals in our communities and, in turn, create better communities.

We all agree that access to education is a fundamental human right. We acknowledge that education is essential to full participation by each person in a civil society and to progress the advancement of a civil society. The right to education must be available equally and without discrimination to all people regardless of ethnicity, gender, background or geographical location.

The importance of education has figured in the sphere of public policy debate at the national level for decades. In recent times—I refer to the federal government from 2007 onwards—the Rudd and Gillard Labor governments introduced a suite of reforms as part of Building the Education Revolution program. These were broad, sweeping reforms that incorporated reviews into school funding and access to higher education, the adoption of the Gonski funding model and the introduction in 2008 of national standardised testing in literacy and numeracy—NAPLAN—notwithstanding my concerns about the current use of NAPLAN results. It included universal access to preschool for children in the year before schooling, a national census to assess child development in the first year of schooling, and expanded access to higher education. These major reforms were influential in broadening access to education and improving outcomes for students. However, despite these reforms it is unfortunately true that educational opportunities remain unevenly distributed. We know that this is true in metropolitan Perth where it is clearly evident that there is a strong correlation between postcodes—the place where a child lives—and ultimate educational achievement. We know that from our league tables and the grouping of our more elite schools on those tables. The advantage that one's place of birth and family gives in the educational stakes is evident from suburb to suburb in the metropolitan area. But the absence of a fair go and continuing education inequality in our rural and remote communities is still starkly evident.

I am honoured and somewhat flattered to have been asked by the Minister for Education and Training to take up the chair of the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council, which has been in existence for some 20 years and has interesting terms of reference. Essentially, the council is to provide the minister with broad, evidence-based and solution-focused strategic advice on education and training issues and developments in rural and remote areas of the state. Equally, it is to provide strategic advice on educational services that give senior secondary students in rural and remote areas equitable opportunities for compulsory participation in education and training. Its remit is to advise about rural and remote community and consumer interest in education and training and ultimately ensure

that strategic advice is provided from a cross-sectorial perspective across schools and training and higher educational sectors to encompass both public and private provision. In July this year, I was interested to attend—I would not say privileged—the launch of the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre’s report, “Educate Australia Fair? Education inequality in Australia”. The report was launched by one of the architects of education reform in Australia, Hon Julia Gillard. The report has made a useful contribution to the discourse on educational disadvantage and on the debate about rural and remote education. In my capacity as chair of the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council, I wish to take advantage of the report in the council’s deliberations. It is a 124-page report that provides a substantial description of the state of play in the disparity in educational outcomes across Australia and it also provides figures for Western Australia.

The report makes the unequal distribution of educational opportunity abundantly clear. Put simply, it is manifest that many of our children and young people do not receive a fair go in accessing educational opportunities for no other reason than the luck of the draw in terms of their family background, demographics and geography. I do not have time to delve too deeply into this report and its comprehensive findings, but I invite members who have a particular interest in this issue to read this document. For example, the analysis in the report reveals that an Indigenous child is 40 per cent less likely to finish school and 60 per cent less likely to go to university compared with a non-Indigenous child. A child born in remote Australia is only one-third as likely to go to university as a child born in a major city. That is true both nationally and in Western Australia. I find that unacceptable. The gap needs to be closed. We must close the gap. The bridge between rural and remote and the disadvantaged in the metropolitan area and the advantaged children in our community has to be widened to something of a highway. If we do not do that, we will continually reinforce the disparities that exist in our community.

Evidence is all around us that the education reforms introduced by the Rudd and Gillard governments are being realised in a number of areas. For example, more children than before the reforms are accessing preschool, with positive outcomes flowing to child development, literacy and numeracy. But the application of the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre’s educational disadvantage index contained in the report, and on which the report is based, is a reminder of the level of inequality that exists in Australian and Western Australian communities and of the many children falling behind in educational access and performance. The key purpose behind the index, which underpins the findings of the report, is to uncover the extent of inequality in educational opportunities by locality to reveal hotspots of high or low educational outcomes and support the development of targeted and effective policy initiatives that improve our children’s school experiences and educational achievements. The index includes a number of indicators related to access, performance and outcomes, with data derived from the Australian Early Development Census, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, NAPLAN and the census of National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection. The index is used to map areas of relative advantage and disadvantage, profile areas of high and low disadvantage and assess key drivers of educational disadvantage. The 2017 report findings show that compared with most advantaged localities in Australia, children in those areas at greatest educational disadvantage are on average only half as likely to be enrolled at preschool at age four, only half as likely to attend preschool for 15 hours or more, and seven times as likely to be vulnerable on two or more developmental domains. School non-attendance rates are nearly five times as high, at 22 per cent, in areas of greatest disadvantage compared with areas of least disadvantage, and nearly half of young people in greatest need are neither learning nor earning after school.

On something of a more positive note, the report found that funding is largely distributed according to need. But what is absent from the debate on needs-based funding is a clear understanding of the extent to which funding changes proposed and now adopted under Gonski 2.0 will lead to improvements in educational outcomes. It is anticipated that they will, but the evidence is not there yet. The report’s findings draw out points in the educational journey where issues emerge and where a better policy response is required. This includes the need for greater emphasis on the early years and innovative solutions to the problematic transition from primary to secondary school, especially for Indigenous children, and tailored programs that target a number of equity groups not receiving the same outcomes as other children and young people. What is abundantly clear is that educational reform will need to go well beyond funding as a solution to address the complex barriers that impede our most disadvantaged and, therefore, our most vulnerable children and young people over the course of their educational journey, which for many is hindered and limited by the socioeconomic circumstances faced by their families. This requires an integrated agency approach across the whole of government at both state and federal levels. I know the Minister for Community Services is well aware of that need. The solution to the problems of disadvantage and educational disadvantage cannot simply rest with the Department of Education. It requires a strategic, interagency approach.

In Western Australia, not unexpectedly, geographical remoteness plays a large part in the mix of factors contributing to educational disadvantage. Western Australia’s enormous land mass largely consists of remote areas with low populations. As we know, more than 80 per cent of our population is located in metropolitan Perth. The remote areas across the state typically have the highest level of educational disadvantage, with children living in these areas having less access to preschool, lower attendance levels and low performance in literacy and numeracy testing. Many of the remote areas across WA are also characteristically Indigenous communities, which tend to

suffer multiple socioeconomic barriers and challenges. In metropolitan Perth, it is not surprising that the most advantaged areas are clustered around the Swan River and nearby Indian Ocean coastline, starting from North Fremantle and extending north to Hillarys. The fringes of the city reveal relatively high levels of educational disadvantage, from Rockingham in the south, Stirling in the north, along with Gosnells to the east of the city. What are the top 10 areas of relative educational advantage? In order, from top to bottom in Western Australia: Floreat, Claremont, City Beach, Nedlands, Wembley, West Leederville, Glendalough, Cottesloe, Mosman Park, Winthrop, Applecross and Subiaco. None of that would surprise members. Is there anything faintly familiar about the localities, members of the opposition? I think they are areas that they tend to still hold on to in this Parliament.

What are the bottom 10 areas, in terms of educational disadvantage? In order from bottom to top: Leinster, Leonora, Halls Creek, East Pilbara, Roebuck, Meekatharra, Derby, West Kimberley, Kununurra, Carnarvon, Roebourne and South Hedland. The most disadvantaged areas are located in the remote and very remote areas throughout the state, with Leinster ranked bottom, followed by Halls Creek, East Pilbara, Roebuck and Meekatharra. These are communities with high Indigenous populations, ranging from 18 per cent in Roebourne to 78.3 per cent in Halls Creek. The most advantaged areas in the state have an average of 0.4 per cent of the population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Not much has changed, despite the educational improvements I referred to earlier. Only 40 per cent of children in the most disadvantaged areas in WA attend preschool for 15 hours or more on average compared with 70 per cent on average, nationally. Children in these areas also have high rates of developmental vulnerabilities, with one in two children assessed as developmentally vulnerable on one or more Australian early development census domains, and more than one in three developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr M. HUGHES: To summarise some of that, the report shows that the most disadvantaged areas in Western Australia and Australia, generally, are also characterised by low education participation, high rates of developmental vulnerability and risk, low achievement in national literacy and numeracy testing, poor secondary school retention rates and lower preschool attendance rates. Over four times the share of children are assessed as vulnerable, as I said, on at least one domain in the 50 areas of greatest educational disadvantage across the nation. That is 49.7 per cent compared with children in the 50 least disadvantaged areas, at 11.9 per cent. As previously mentioned, this rises to a sevenfold difference when looking at vulnerable children in at least two domains—33.5 per cent compared with 4.8 per cent nationally.

Average NAPLAN scores are typically between 150 and 190 points lower among children attending schools in the most educationally disadvantaged areas compared with the least disadvantaged. Nearly half the number of young people, 49.4 per cent in the lowest ranked areas, are not studying at age 17, compared with 2.5 per cent in areas of least educational disadvantage. Less than half, 47.3 per cent, complete any type of post-school qualification. Around the same share, 49.7 per cent of young people in the most disadvantaged areas, are not earning, studying or learning. This compares with 12.8 per cent of young people in the least disadvantaged areas. With respect to participation in higher education, the report acknowledges the substantial reforms to the Australian higher education system are designed to increase access and equity and, in some terms, there has been some improvement. However, there have been some marked gains, particularly with students with a disability as an equity group, which has seen the greatest expansion, followed by Indigenous students. Enrolments of students in regional and remote areas have increased by 32 per cent, and women studying in non-traditional areas by 21 per cent since 2000, so there have been some gains. However, as I mentioned earlier, it is a fact that Indigenous Australians are around 40 per cent less likely to complete year 12. Rates of entry to university are sharply lower for Indigenous Australians than for other Australians. Under-representation of Indigenous students in higher education is evident across each of the states and territories. The greatest barrier Indigenous Australians face in gaining a degree is not so much getting through university but getting to university in the first place. Low socioeconomic status students make up only 9.4 per cent of domestic enrolments in the so-called group of eight universities compared with 16.6 per cent across other universities. Western Australia's higher education sector generally performs poorly in terms of accessibility for disadvantaged groups, with the lowest or near lowest equity ratios for Indigenous students, students from low socioeconomic and non-English speaking backgrounds, and students from regional and remote areas.

The commonwealth government recognises the interplay of factors that leads to the educational disadvantage faced by children and young people living in rural and remote communities and has commissioned the Halsey review. Professor Halsey, who is heading the independent review into regional and remote education, lists in the discussion paper that frames the review the nine commonly understood key areas that interplay in determining strong educational outcomes beyond resources channelled to schools. The nine important themes he points to and the issues, challenges and opportunities associated with them are curriculum and assessment, teachers and teaching, leadership and leaders, school and community, information and communications technology, entrepreneurship and schools, improving access, improving diversity and transitioning beyond school. The independent review is considering the key challenges and barriers that affect students' learning outcomes, including, as I said, transitions

to and success in further study, training and work. The final report will be submitted to the federal Minister for Education and Training by the end of 2017, and I look forward to reading the report and its recommendations. It is clear that we need a better approach and polished response in pursuit of Closing the Gap, and this needs to extend beyond a focus on schools, though they have a key role to play.

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre report to which I referred identifies eight key pointers for improvement —

- Early intervention and outreach programs to expand access to pre-school education and care, making sure every child is receiving at least 15 hours a week in their year before full-time schooling.
- Increased resources and investment to support the first few years of schooling, effectively targeted towards equity groups at most need, and supported by appropriate metrics by which success in students' outcomes and achievements can be measured.
- Strategies to promote improved school attendance and student engagement, with a particular focus on the transition period between primary to secondary school.
- An expansion of programs and initiatives that drive greater school engagement among Indigenous students —

Across all phases of learning —

- Local community involvement in schools, and a school culture founded on a positive recognition of Indigenous students' needs, capabilities and identities.
- More universal and coordinated outreach programs to target increased access to higher education for equity groups, especially with reach into remote and very remote Australia.
- Support for more flexible pathways into higher education to broaden access among prospective students who don't take a traditional route from secondary to tertiary education.
- Community level responses to community-specific challenges.

The report concludes that more of the same will not do. The report argues that —

To achieve greater engagement, it is essential that the education sector innovates through the development of flexible learning environments that cater for different preferences and learning styles, absorbing new technologies that add to the education experience and building regional, national and global connectivity between schools.

The report finally states that —

No single service or stakeholder should bear the full responsibility for reducing the equity gap in educational opportunity. Alongside students, their teachers and the schools that provide their education, the role of parents and families, communities, and the business sector cannot be understated.

Based on the findings contained in the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre report, much more needs to be done at a national and state level to reduce educational disadvantage wherever it manifests, but, importantly, with the disadvantage faced by our rural and remote communities, where arguably it is most stark.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [9.33 pm]: Tonight I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. I am delighted to be on at prime time on a Tuesday night in this wonderful chamber.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: We are all still here.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am delighted that the member for Dawesville is here; it is wonderful. I had not been hearing him much in the last couple of hours.

I said in my inaugural speech that I am very honoured to be part of this historic McGowan Labor government. Winning has been a real joy for many of us across the state. On the eve of bringing to a close our first parliamentary year, I cannot help but be reflective. I reflected on my inaugural speech and I want to repeat what I said then: if we do not effect real change for the good people of Western Australia who elected us, the McGowan win in March 2011 will be for nothing. The opposition challenged us a bit this year on our agenda and our work rate. I am quite proud of our work rate and what we have achieved this year. I am thrilled about the legislative agenda that we have brought to this place. I am also proud of the ministers of the McGowan government. Our Minister for Tourism has gone to Japan and China for the first time since 2012. It is quite extraordinary that it has been such a while between visits by a Minister for Tourism to such important markets for Western Australia. Our ministers are travelling far and wide to engage with our world and bring business and confidence back into WA.

I noticed earlier today that we got an “F” for fail from the member for Scarborough for our performance. I think members will agree that she was rather harsh when they listen to some of the things that I will take the opportunity to outline tonight during my speech. It is important to note that regardless of whether the member for Scarborough

gives us an “F”, we will be judged by the people and not by the opposition. I also noticed in the member for Scarborough’s speech earlier today that she was a bit concerned about the travel kilometres of the ministers in the Mark McGowan government. I am happy to remind the chamber tonight that the northern suburbs—in particular, Wanneroo—have been very fortunate with the steady stream of ministers who have come up our way to help represent the northern suburbs again. To that end, the Premier has been to my electorate on a number of occasions since being elected—not on the campaign trail but just in the business of being a good Premier. I do not know about other members, but the Minister for Education and Training has visited my electorate twice already since becoming the minister in March. We have had the pleasure of the Minister for Agriculture and Food visiting Wanneroo. We have also had the Minister for Health in the northern suburbs at Joondalup Health Campus. In the last few weeks we had the privilege of hosting the Minister for Local Government at the City of Wanneroo.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: What about the Minister for Water?

Ms S.E. WINTON: I will go through my list. The member for Dawesville will be surprised. The Minister for Sport and Recreation has visited Wanneroo twice—once in his capacity as the Minister for Sport and Recreation and once as the Minister for Seniors and Ageing. The work rate of our ministry is extraordinary. The Minister for Water came to the northern suburbs as part of the recycling upgrades we are getting. The Minister for Transport and Planning has been up to Wanneroo a number of times to make fantastic announcements about infrastructure projects in my electorate, including two overpasses and the dualling of Wanneroo Road. They are fantastic job-creating projects that are much needed to ease congestion in the northern suburbs. As far as I am concerned, the ministers have done a fair few kilometres when they have come Wanneroo way, and I look forward to many more visits in the next three years while I represent the good people of Wanneroo.

In reflecting on the year, I have also felt extraordinary pride in a number of other things that have happened in this place and in this Parliament. I reflect on this every day that I walk past the Premier’s office—that is, the repositioning of the historic female members of Parliament portrait collection, which now hangs in pride of place outside the Premier’s office. It was moved from outside the men’s toilets, where it was for a long time despite the numerous and great protests by many former women parliamentarians. Every time I take a group of students past that very, very important group of portraits, I am delighted. They are in the right place in this Parliament. They are little things but important things that mean a lot.

I also felt extreme pride when I sat in this place and listened to the Premier apologise to the hundreds of people who were convicted under state laws that banned homosexual acts. This terrible form of discrimination ruined many lives. We have taken steps to right those terrible wrongs through the Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill 2017. That is important legislation. I am also really proud and delighted that we have established a Joint Select Committee on End-of-Life Choices. We have started what will be one of the most challenging but important processes on an issue confronting this Parliament, and that relates to us considering in this place the need for laws to allow citizens to make informed decisions regarding their own end-of-life choices. Experiences in Australia and elsewhere show that this is a confronting task and one that is often ignored, but our government is not ignoring it. I am on the record as supporting end-of-life choices, so I am very proud to be in this fortieth Parliament, which will finally consider this most important issue. I stand very proudly to be part of that. There is a clear and overwhelming demand in our community for us, as parliamentarians, to examine this issue. Ours is a courageous government and we will do so.

Another very important issue, which might be overlooked by others, is that of acknowledgment to country. I was absolutely stunned to come into this place and discover that we do not start proceedings by paying our respects to the traditional owners of the land. I am deeply honoured to be a member of a government that is righting this wrong.

Members on both sides would agree that Labor has an overwhelming mandate. This is a government of reform. It is a government that will take on challenging tasks, and will not take the easy way out. I would like to take a moment to talk about the bills that have passed or are in the process of passing this place. They are the hard things that the previous government just did not take on. It buried its head in the sand and pretended it was not a problem—nothing to see here; nothing to worry about; nothing to reform. Hence, the people of Western Australia told it how it is. It was a lazy government and it was out of touch.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: We are finally taking on those things.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I think I have woken them up a bit. It is good. How many more minutes have I got? Fantastic! The member for Dawesville was falling asleep; I am glad that I am stimulating him a little at this late hour. I think I am allowed to say that!

I want to briefly touch on the taxi reform our government is undertaking. It is not easy, but we are having a crack. That is what we were elected to do—to have a crack. I am looking forward to those taxi reform bills coming through this place for proper debate.

The government introduced the Western Australian Jobs Bill 2017. A critically important part of that legislation is the provisions for local procurement. The government is making sure that we do more than just talk about this; it is bringing about real changes to ensure that we support local businesses to get a fair share of the work that is going. I am confident that towards the end of our term in Parliament, we will be judged accordingly and that we will have created local jobs because local businesses have been able to get some of those contracts.

Mr S.A. Millman: Hear, hear! The member for Dawesville will be needing one.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes: 345 votes. He would probably like some of his local businesses to be getting some.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: It was 343 votes. You're being generous.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I would like to correct the record: I believe it was only 343 votes that the member for Dawesville won by. I am very generous by nature!

I would also like to touch on the local government reforms the government is undertaking. The Local Government Act 1995 is archaic; it is a dinosaur. Many of us in this place have been privileged to be councillors. We are looking forward to the opportunity to drive those reforms so that we make sure that our local government sector is the best it can be, including focusing on allowing better scrutiny of councillor conduct, local government transparency and, most importantly—this is something I am passionate about—local government voter turnout. Only about 20 to 25 per cent of eligible voters turn up to vote in some local government elections. That is not good for democracy and it is not good for public representation on councils. I am delighted that our local government minister is contemplating some trials of online voting systems so that we can try to increase the number of people who participate in the election process.

I wanted to take a couple of minutes to talk about something that will be happening in my electorate. Again, like the matters I discussed earlier, this is not an easy one to do but it is one that has been ignored for far too long. I am talking about our election commitment to establish the North Wanneroo Agriculture and Water Taskforce. I am delighted that the first meeting of this taskforce will be held on 8 December. Members would know from my previous contributions in this place that Wanneroo is considered to be a peri-urban area, but it also has a strong and proud agricultural sector with a long, proud tradition. To that end, the Wanneroo Agricultural Show is held each year. It is the biggest agricultural show outside the Perth Royal Show and was established in 1909. The most recent Wanneroo Agricultural Show was held very successfully last weekend. I have had a long-term association with the Wanneroo show over many years, in my role as a primary extension and challenge teacher no less, member for Dawesville. He would know all about PEAC—he did a bit of googling for another contribution in this place.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: I googled some fluoride in the water, too. That was a great video.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes. I have been involved with the Wanneroo show for a long time. In the last few years I have been on the organising committee. It was a most successful show on the weekend. I want to take a moment to recognise the organising committee of the Wanneroo Agricultural Show. Under the stewardship of Dot Newton, we have vice president Graham Gibbs, Michael Aspinall, Vince Berlingeri, Meg Birch, Patrick Burke, Angelo Canzirri, Joy Greenhalgh, Bernice and Bill Marwick, Rose Marinovich, Sue Omodei, Jenny Pell, Janelle Perkins, Noelene Teague, Rhonda Marinovich, William Fitzgerald, Teresa Livingston, and, of course, living legend Margaret Cockman, OAM. Margaret Cockman has had a longstanding connection with the Wanneroo Agricultural Show. The Margaret Cockman Pavilion is named after her. She is 85 or 86—I think she is 86. This year marked her seventy-first show in a row! That is not just her going along for 71 years, but her seventy-first show as a member of the committee and organising it. She was still there on Friday and all day Saturday doing her thing. She is the queen of Wanneroo—absolutely. It was a great delight to see her again. The Wanneroo show is held each year at the Wanneroo Showgrounds, which is an iconic place in Wanneroo. I am delighted that as part of this budgetary process we were able to get \$220 000 for much-needed upgrades to toilets. I think toilets are a bit my thing. They are an important public service.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Toilets are a bit your thing!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I have advocated for them at the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association, too, so I guess there is a bit of a theme happening. I am proud and delighted that the showgrounds will be able to attract even bigger events by having public facilities to match. I would also like to report that at the Wanneroo Agricultural Show this weekend, we were delighted to host the Minister for Agriculture and Food. She is the first agriculture minister who has attended the agricultural show in the 15 years I have attended. The Minister for Agriculture and Food is a breath of fresh air to the sector! The member for Swan Hills might be interested to know that under the previous government, there were four ministers for agriculture.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes, we did. In fact there were four ministers for agriculture during the Barnett government and three ministers in the second term.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member for Mount Lawley stole my thunder. The cabinet described by the former Premier was the one without enough horsepower, so they had to keep replacing them! They were obviously running out of a bit of puff, or whatever it is they run out of.

As I have highlighted in previous speeches, Wanneroo's agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the local economy and the state's exports.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member for Dawesville is so delighted that I have an extension!

For example, in 2014–15 Wanneroo contributed \$147 million in gross value agricultural production, which is about 38 per cent of the total produced in the Perth region. This local industry provides a valuable resource of fresh vegetables and fruit for the Perth market. The industry is facing a number of issues including increased urbanisation, and limitations and uncertainty about water allocation. These issues are not new, members. These are issues that the previous Labor government took on in this fantastic report called "The future of east Wanneroo", which was released in late 2007. It was inspirational work driven by former member for Wanneroo Dianne Guise and former Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Hon Alannah MacTiernan. Little progress was made in the eight and a half years of the Barnett government. We held a forum during the election campaign. Hon Alannah MacTiernan was horrified to see the neglect of the sector and region despite the good work done by the former Labor government. The Liberal Party and the Barnett government had done no work to progress the recommendations of "The future of east Wanneroo".

My predecessor must have been well and truly in a death roll or something similar because, as the member for Carine has acknowledged in this place, "We knew we weren't going to win." At the last minute, the previous member for Wanneroo raised a grievance in 2016. He feigned outrage about agriculture in Wanneroo and how there was not enough water, despite having eight and a half years to do something. At the last minute, he formed a committee, which he chaired. It met three times and he did not even bother to show up to one of the meetings!

Our approach to Wanneroo will be a bit different, members. Let me take this opportunity to explain to the house our approach to solving difficult issues. Let us be clear: the issue around agriculture and water use in Wanneroo is not easy. I am not the type of member who will bury their head in the sand. We are going to give it another crack and see how we go. I can assure the house, and those who know me will agree, that we will be doing things very differently. I will be working collaboratively. I will be rolling up my sleeves and chairing this task force, and I will actually attend the meetings.

There is no question that competing interests around land use and challenging water allocation issues have beset our industry. We are going to get on with it. I am delighted to work with the Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Minister for Water and the Minister for Planning in a holistic way to drive a solution. We will consider options for water-efficient horticulture, impacts of climate change, ways to support new horticultural development, and creating land and water security to facilitate investment. The taskforce that I chair will report back to government by June 2018. We will not leave the sector, nor the landowners, hanging another eight years wondering.

I want to briefly touch on something that affects my community and my electorate a lot, and I know it does many others. The bushfire season is well and truly on us. I note that this weekend will be a hot one. Fifty per cent of the 5 000 fires started last year were on the urban fringe. Of course, my electorate is a 90 per cent fire-prone area. Last year, there were 268 fires in the City of Wanneroo. There is no question that Wanneroo is a highly vulnerable area. I want to thank and acknowledge the services of groups like the Wanneroo Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, the Wanneroo Volunteer Fire Support Brigade and the Wanneroo Joondalup SES Unit. They are in for a busy season but I know they will do a fantastic job protecting and looking after our community and its assets.

I was recently briefed by the minister about the brilliant work being done by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, particularly around the five-minute fire chat packages that are being rolled out to not only educate people more about the dangers of bushfires but also make sure that people are prepared this bushfire season. This wonderful initiative makes the previously complex task of creating a bushfire plan easy. Residents need to decide whether to be safe and leave early or be prepared to stay and defend. The resources available now are plain, simple to use, user-friendly and take a few minutes. I commend the department for its work.

I want to touch on two more things in the short time I have left before we conclude this evening, member for Balcatta. I will finish with the most important one that everybody has been thinking about today; that, of course, revolves around domestic violence. I, too, stood in solidarity with my fellow parliamentarians to promote the stopping of domestic violence in WA through the 16 days campaign. I wanted to mark that by being on my feet tonight. I started my speech by listing some of the things that I am really proud of as a member of this Mark McGowan government and I want to finish on our government's work and priority around this most important area of domestic violence. Our government was the first one to appoint a Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. We have 22 policy commitments that show our practical and real commitment to doing something about an issue that has such a significant impact on the lives of children and women in our

community in particular. Let us not forget that we are in crisis, members. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveal that family and domestic violence cases across Western Australia have reached their highest levels on record. Western Australia recorded the second-highest level of domestic violence in Australia.

I want to take a moment to recap and highlight a couple of statistics that particularly resonate with me and I keep reminding myself of. On average in Australia, at least one woman a week is killed by a partner or a former partner. I find it extraordinary that being killed by a shark seems to get more media attention than this sad statistic that occurs on a weekly basis in our country. These kinds of things should be on our front pages. It is quite staggering. Also, one in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Again, this is a particularly poignant statistic for me. I have three daughters and I am being told that, statistically, one of my three daughters faces the prospect of domestic violence in her life. Of the women who experience violence, more than half that number have children in their care. I have teenage daughters. My eldest daughter is 21 years old and is a free and independent young woman. Eight out of 10 women aged 18 to 24—I will repeat that; eight out of 10 women, or 80 per cent, aged 18 to 24—were harassed on the street in the past year. Domestic or family violence against women is the single largest driver of homelessness for women. We must support no tolerance of any of that kind of behaviour, including in this place. There are 15 women members in the Legislative Assembly and seven women members in the Legislative Council. We have elected the first female Leader of the House in the Legislative Council and the first female President of the Legislative Council.

There is a theme developing around the work of the McGowan government, and it is a clear theme. It is based on our core values of fairness, justice and compassion. I am absolutely looking forward to being judged by the people of Western Australia on our performance.

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [10.00 pm]: I am pleased to get to my feet this evening to talk about the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017, because there is an awful lot to speak about in Swan Hills, and a lot to be very excited about. There is one overarching theme that I would like to focus on this evening, and that is the commitment this budget makes to the young people in my electorate. Young people tend to be very disenfranchised. They are obviously not of voting age, and they do not have a voice. It is very important that, as parliamentarians, we acknowledge the needs of young people, and acknowledge great commitments to young people in electorates. Over the course of the election campaign and this year, a number of great initiatives have been committed to and delivered upon in my electorate, but the one commitment that is personally most significant is the \$1.86 million committed to the establishment of a youth centre in the Ellenbrook town centre. The Ellenbrook youth centre will provide youth recreational and support services from a dedicated facility located in the heart of Ellenbrook. It will be a safe space for young people to meet, and it will provide the base for service providers to deliver a range of support services. Both the services and the facility design will be developed in consultation with the local community and key stakeholders.

Ellenbrook is the major population centre in my seat of Swan Hills. In fact, two-thirds of the enrolled voters of the electorate live in Ellenbrook. At the 2016 census, Ellenbrook's population totalled nearly 38 000 people. Factoring in immediate surrounding suburbs, which includes part of the electorate of West Swan, between 50 000 and 65 000 people live in the immediate catchment for the Ellenbrook youth centre. The area has a disproportionately young population. The median age in Ellenbrook is 30 years, compared with the statewide median of 36 years. In Ellenbrook, 33.2 per cent of people are under the age of 19 years, compared with the state average of 25.3 per cent. The largest group of children is the five to 10-year-old bracket, comprising 9.6 per cent of the population, compared with the state average of 6.6 per cent. We have a high proportion of young people and young families. The population of Ellenbrook grew by 74 per cent in the period between 2005 and 2014, and doubled again in the period between 2015 and 2017. We have had exponential growth in that part of the world. The region's affordable housing options attract a high and rising number of young families. We have one public high school, with another under construction, seven public primary schools, one Catholic primary school, one Catholic K–12 and two private K–12 schools. The Ellenbrook area has a huge number of schools and a great number of young people.

The area experiences a range of socioeconomic and development challenges. We have disproportionately high rates of youth suicide, and drug and alcohol use. There is a lack of locally based youth mental health and counselling service professionals. Most services provided to Ellenbrook are not provided in place; people have to actually drive out or service providers have to drive in, but no services are locally delivered in place. Youth recreation and leisure facilities are very limited. There are a number of ovals where they can go and kick a footy, but not all kids are sports stars. Kids like to participate in a broad range of activities, and at the moment there is nowhere for them to do that. Primary and secondary schools are overcrowded, and the area has very low secondary school completion and tertiary matriculation rates. We have an issue with youth disconnection from community and place. That is a really important part of making a community liveable. We have a significant number of fly in, fly out families, with disproportionately high levels of unemployment as the economy undergoes a structural adjustment. We have rising levels of domestic violence, and children are often driven onto the streets because the situation is quite serious at home. There are some quite well publicised community safety concerns as well—a lot of low-level crime and antisocial juvenile activity, just because kids are bored. There is absolutely nothing for them to do.

We have quite a large culturally and linguistically diverse community, and a high Indigenous population, and there is a high degree of isolation—a significant distance between Ellenbrook and major employment, education and entertainment centres. Obviously, there is an abject lack of public transport options, which we are working really hard to address. There is also limited access to alternative education programs and pathways into training or employment, which is very important to kids at risk of exclusion from mainstream schooling. That is a growing issue in Ellenbrook, and we need to provide facilities and services to address that. Youth services are extremely limited. A very narrow range of services are provided by not-for-profit agencies on a drive in, drive out basis, as I mentioned before. I was very pleased, as part of our election commitments, to secure the extension of \$140 000 worth of funding to Youth Focus and Headspace for youth suicide prevention and mental health service provision in Ellenbrook, but there is not much else going on in that space. There is a Cool Room youth service, but it is basically a small meeting room at the back of a community hall, and it is available for only six hours a week. There is no public transport that enables kids to get to it, and it is in a bit of an inaccessible area of the town itself. Other than the public open spaces, no other general recreational or entertainment facilities are available for young people in the Ellenbrook area.

Recognising the pressing need for a dedicated facility for youth recreation and improved service provision, in February 2017, with the Premier, I committed the government to delivering a youth centre in the heart of the Ellenbrook town site, adjacent to the area's secondary school, public library, and major shopping centre, and right next door to the future site of the Metronet train station, for which I note earthworks are already underway. The Ellenbrook youth centre will be developed in partnership with local government, and will be a community-driven project. It is very important that we respond to the needs of the community and listen closely to the needs of young people in the electorate. The delivery of the Ellenbrook youth centre is intended to create a safe space for local youth to participate in a range of recreational activities. It will provide a hub for the delivery of holistic, multifaceted programs and support services. It will allow at-risk youth to access support services in a non-threatening environment. Doing the legwork on this project since I was elected and sworn in in March, I visited a number of centres. These youth centres work best where they are just general drop-in centres that kids can go to, where there just happen to be service providers. It is not an embarrassing thing for kids to seek out help; help just happens to be available. They can go to the youth centre, and there are counsellors and case management facilities, but kids do not necessarily worry about the stigma attached to them in reaching out to those services when they are already provided in place. It is really important that we acknowledge that and create the space for those sorts of things to happen.

I also hope that the development of an Ellenbrook youth centre will promote innovative funding models for ongoing service delivery, and encourage new delivery and community partnerships. Locating it in the centre of Ellenbrook means that it will be a place where a range of different social groups and demographics can come together. Particularly in an area where we have had a bit of antisocial behaviour going on, it is really important that the broader community sees kids doing great things and recognises their legitimate place at the town's heart. It is really important that, as a community, we create the space for that to happen. I hope that the Ellenbrook youth centre will provide local youth with a connection to place, and that those young people will recognise their legitimate presence in the heart of the town, foster stronger links and greater understanding with the broader community and make a significant contribution to the overall vibrancy of the town centre—get some kids there, some activity, maybe a skate park or a basketball centre, and really activate the town centre. It is a great community, waiting for a heart. When we bring that train station into the area and finish the dense precinct around it, and the youth centre is in place, it will contribute to finishing off that community and making Ellenbrook a great place to live.

Depending on the scope of services delivered by the centre, it will assist the community to effectively address a range of social issues associated with youth mental health, juvenile crime, delinquency, education and unemployment. The youth centre will be located about 200 metres from the 24/7 Ellenbrook Police Station. Since coming to office, I have met very regularly with the officer in charge of the Ellenbrook Police Station. He is an absolutely fantastic guy and has a great team around him, and they are looking forward to supporting this initiative and proactively engaging and striving to build those relationships with young people. There is some great goodwill; in fact, there is considerable community support for this project. I thank the City of Swan for the level of engagement it has had with me on the project to date. I have had the privilege of engaging with a number of not-for-profit service providers as I have talked about the development of this project. It is fantastic that so many groups are willing to partner in delivering such a fundamental service in my local community. I am thrilled about the commitment that this government has made to young people in my area. It is long overdue.

The McGowan Labor government made another significant commitment to young people in my electorate but at the other end of the spectrum. It committed to developing a child and parent centre at Arbor Grove Primary School. Arbor Grove Primary School is in the centre of Ellenbrook. It is doing it tough; that school has had a bit of a rough trot. It has a great, strong community around it, but there is some quite significant socioeconomic disadvantage in that area. We have committed \$1.75 million to develop a child and parent centre at Arbor Grove Primary School. As I said before, the Ellenbrook area has a disproportionately young population, with 9.6 per cent of people in

Ellenbrook in the nought to four-year-old bracket compared with the statewide figure of 6.5 per cent, while 9.3 per cent of people in Ellenbrook are in the five to 10-year-old bracket compared with the statewide figure of 6.6 per cent. There are a lot of young families, particularly in that Arbor Grove pocket, so there really is a need for a child and parent centre in that part of the world. In fact, the north-eastern corridor is the only part of metropolitan Perth that currently does not have a child and parent centre, and that is despite the overwhelming population growth and the disproportionate number of young families. There is a suburb that basically has been completely unserved. The absence of a child and parent centre is symptomatic of the approach that the previous government took to my community and my electorate. The fact that we are now delivering one is evidence of just how seriously this government takes servicing the north-east metropolitan area and making sure that we get the services and the facilities that we need.

A child and parent centre is for kids up to eight years old. The coordinators who run the centre work with families, local schools and the community to ensure that the program services and supports that are most needed in the area are easy to access. This includes the provision of early learning services, maternal and child health services, and child support activities. Depending on the needs of the local community, they can provide access to a range of health professionals, including child health nurses, speech pathologists and physiotherapists. As I mentioned before, the area has a high number of fly in, fly out workers and a number of single-parent families. A lot of parents and a lot of mums are doing it alone and it can be quite isolating with no public transport links. In an area like that, it is great to have parent groups operating and playgroups for kids to socialise. A child and parent centre will do a lot to provide good health outcomes for young people and to support young families and parents at a time when they can feel quite isolated and alone.

That is another fantastic initiative that has been committed to in my electorate for our local young people.

A number of Local Projects, Local Jobs commitments have also been made to schools in my electorate. I do not have children myself and one of the real pleasures for me, since I have been elected, has been going around to each one of the schools in the 980 square kilometres that the seat of Swan Hills comprises. We have schools ranging in size from 900 students at Ellenbrook Primary School, right the way through to 47 kids in total at Woolooloo Primary School. We have some of the biggest primary schools in the state right the way through to some of the smallest at all points of the compass throughout my electorate. It is an absolutely beautiful place to call home. I visited every one of those schools, met with every one of those parents and citizens associations and made commitments to those schools to deliver the sorts of things that P&Cs in particular are not able to necessarily fundraise for effectively, but that I was very proud to commit to during the election and am now very proud to deliver to my local community as its local member.

I will run through the schools. At Anne Hamersley Primary School we have provided classroom information and communications technology infrastructure and a shade sail for its early childhood playground. and purchased library books. Rod Simeons is the principal there and is doing an absolutely fantastic job. At Arbor Grove Primary School, where Glen Purdy is the principal putting in the hard yards, we have put in playground equipment and a shade cloth for the junior playground. At Aveley Primary School, Michelle Murray is the principal. I had a lovely afternoon with Michelle, wandering around, especially in the kindy area; the kids were great fun. We purchased and installed shade sails across the playground.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: It is the same with Bullsbrook College, a K–12 school in Bullsbrook. Bernadette Jones is the school's principal and it is a really good school. We provided a shade and shelter project for its junior school. A few weeks ago I went to an assembly at Chidlow Primary School, where my niece goes to school. I got very excited by its jump jam session. I thought maybe we should start Parliament off with a bit of a jump jam session; it could give us a bit of energy, because we all need some. We could probably do with some now. The great thing that we delivered at Chidlow Primary School is a stage. The students were working off wooden boxes that were built 30 years ago. The Local Projects, Local Jobs commitment has given the school a proper stage area that it can hold its annual assemblies on. I go along every year. I am always pleased to head along to Chidlow Primary School. At Eastern Hills Senior High School we have installed some library booths so that the kids can sit and perform teamwork in an ICT hub. At Ellen Stirling Primary School we have put shade structures up. I just want to commend the P&C association at Ellen Stirling. It advocated very effectively to me in the lead-up to the election on this issue. It has been fighting really hard for it and it did a really effective job. Dean Goldspink, the school's principal, is also doing a fantastic job. At Ellenbrook Primary School, Neil Macneill is its principal. We again provided shade to the nature playground and a gorgeous garden area around its new Anzac Day memorial. Ellenbrook, an independent primary school, makes a really big deal every year about its Anzac Day services. It has built up a lovely tradition. I am always very pleased to go along to that school; it is doing some great work. At Ellenbrook Secondary College we have installed a new playground area to help the kids who are in year 7 transition into high school. They are sometimes perhaps not that well equipped to be let run wild with a lot of the bigger kids. The school specifically requested that we assist it to develop a dedicated playground area for the younger kids. I am very pleased to see that project being delivered. At Giddegannup Primary School—this is one of my favourite

local commitments that we made—we contributed towards the development of a nature playground. Michael Kovalevs is its principal. Gidgegannup Primary School is just down the road from where I live. It is just a couple of kilometres, which in the hills is really close, and it is a gorgeous school.

At Malvern Springs Primary School, we have provided funding for exhaust fans for the undercover area. We have also provided funding to enable the school to upgrade the running track, so the kids can now knock themselves out on the running track. At Mount Helena Primary School, we have provided funding for some cricket upgrades, and a mural. The mural is fantastic. It is all about the school's "The Leader in Me" program. The program is about encouraging kids to demonstrate leadership ability. The mural tells the children's stories about the different ways in which they can demonstrate leadership behaviours and kindness to one another. That is a lovely idea. When we go to schools and hear about these sorts of projects, it makes us feel proud of the work that they are doing. It also makes us feel great about our job. It is great that we can help people do this absolutely amazing work. The kids are very proud of the work they are delivering. That mural is fantastic, and I commend Mount Helena Primary School for that initiative. I am probably a little biased, because Mt Helena is my home town, and I do love it up there.

At St Helena's Catholic Primary School in Ellenbrook, we have provided funding for shade sails over the nature playground. This is a pretty recurrent issue. I cannot tell members how many times parents have talked to me about the fact that their kids are going out to play in the blazing sun and they have no shelter. It seems like a small thing, but it makes a big difference to kids. These are the sorts of things that local members should be focusing on and delivering into our communities. When our parents and citizens associations speak to us about these things, we should do everything we possibly can to support them and to provide funding to enable them to deliver these sorts of initiatives. At Swan Valley Anglican Community School, we have provided funding for the purchase of early childhood play equipment, and more shade sails. At Upper Swan Primary School, we have funded an electronic signboard at the front of the school. The school is not in a suburban area but is located on Great Northern Highway. That signboard is a fantastic way in which the school can communicate to parents and the local community what is happening at the school. Again, that is a great initiative.

At Wooroloo Primary School, with all its 47 kids, it was lovely to announce funding for playground shade sails and upgrades. That is something else that we have delivered into that community. Those are all great projects to support the kids in the electorate of Swan Hills. As a local member, I do not think there is much more important work we can do than to support and provide for the children in our communities.

Beyond the stuff we have given to schools, we have granted \$100 000 to the Mt Helena Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association for an upgrade to the Elsie Austin Oval skate park. I want to recognise the work of Joan Quinn in the residents and ratepayers association. She is an absolute force of nature. She works very hard for her community. She is always looking at ways in which to beautify the streets. One of the really exciting things that the Mt Helena ratepayers are trying to get up in the hills is a bilycart derby. They want to encourage kids to build bilycarts and race them up and down the hills. I really hope that comes off, because that would be an absolutely fantastic community event. I hope people will get behind that. A lot of the men's sheds in the hills could be put to very good use in developing bilycarts for the rallies that are planned up there.

I will now get to the facilities for middle-range young people. We have provided funding for an upgrade to the lighting at Chidlow Oval and Gidgegannup Recreation Club. We have also contributed funding for an upgrade to the Chidlow playgroup, which is at the other end of the spectrum. My dad built that building, and it was lovely to be able to go to that group, talk about their needs, have a look at my dad's handiwork, and know that his legacy will live on.

I was pleased this week about the announcement of the Science in Schools program and the fact that a science laboratory will be delivered into Sawyers Valley Primary School. The Science in Schools announcement was actually made at the Gidgegannup Primary School science lab. That program is very important. Young kids have a very open mind and everything is fascinating to them. That is the case for both boys and girls. If we can spark an interest in science at an early age and before the science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects become gendered, that may lead to a lifelong love of learning and some very exciting career development opportunities. In fact, last week, on behalf of the Minister for Women's Interests, I went to an Engineers Australia function that was recognising women in engineering—women in STEM subjects. It was amazing how many of those women talked about how their journey into scientific careers had begun because when they were very young, they had found something that they were fascinated in. The Science in Schools program is so important and I am pleased that one of those labs will be delivered to a school in my electorate. I hope that many others will be.

I really think that the budget delivers for kids in Swan Hills. Swan Hills has been neglected across a range of portfolios for a long time. In an area that has such a high proportion of young people, we really do need to turn our minds to what those kids out there need. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises and responds to the needs of families in my electorate. I am also proud to have so much to talk about that I could talk for hours, but I have only a short amount of time. For young people, I am proud that by the end of this parliamentary year, we will have kicked so many goals for my local community. I look forward to continuing to do so.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

BILLS

Returned

1. Iron Ore (Channar Joint Venture) (Hamersley Range) Agreements Amendment Bill 2017.
2. Mineral Sands (Cooljarloo) Mining and Processing Agreement Amendment Bill 2017.
3. Railway (BBI Rail Aus Pty Ltd) Agreement Bill 2017.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.26 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE**2127. Dr M.D. Nahan to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:**

- (1) As at 28 April 2017, for each Public Sector Agency/Department for which the Minister is responsible:
 - (a) how many Senior Executive Staff (PSA 9 and HSU 11 and above) were employed in the Agency/Department; and
 - (b) how many of these are targeted to be abolished to meet the Government's 20 per cent reduction target?
- (2) Since 28 April 2017, for each Public Sector Agency/Department for which the Minister is responsible:
 - (a) how many Senior Executive Staff (PSA 9 and HSU 11 and above) have exited the public service;
 - (b) can the Minister please list the title and classification of each position identified in (a); and
 - (c) what is the total cost in payouts/redundancies?
- (3) Since 28 April 2017, how many Senior Executive Staff (PSA9 and HSU 11 and above) have been permanently appointed and/or provided a five year contract, and:
 - (a) can the Minister please list the title and classification of each position identified in (3)?
- (4) Since the 28 April Machinery of Government announcement, in the newly formed Agencies/Departments for which the Minister is responsible, can the Minister please provide the previous and new post 1 July 2017 Agency/Departmental structures, identifying all Senior Executive Staff (PSA9 and HSU 11 and above) positions within these?
- (5) What is the Government's plan for staff whose positions are abolished by the Machinery of Government reforms, and where those staff do not leave or are made redundant through mutual agreement?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (1)–(5) Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 2141.

HOUSING — ASSET INVESTMENT PROGRAM**2188. Mr W.R. Marmion to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:**

Given that in 2017–2018, 1,509 housing lots will be developed using \$344 million allocated to the Asset Investment Program and that included in those, 1,017 will be lots developed with joint ventures:

- (a) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of those lots into specific project locations and joint partner, and; and
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown by region, individual estate, and joint partner?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (a)–(b) [See tabled paper no 989.]

**MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — PORTFOLIOS —
LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM****2203. Dr M.D. Nahan to the minister representing the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:**

Can the Minister please outline every project funded under 'Local Projects, Local Jobs' under the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, detailing in which electorate each project is located?

Mr M. McGowan replied:

[See tabled paper no 990.]

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — STAFF — OVERPAYMENTS**2211. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:**

Within the Minister's portfolio departments, agencies, boards or publicly owned corporations, since 1 January 2017 have there been any overpayments paid to employees and if so will the Minister provide a breakdown of the quantum of each overpayment and the title of the employee who received that overpayment?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question 2225.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — STAFF —
ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

2239. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:

- (1) With respect to full time equivalents (FTEs) within the Minister's portfolio departments, agencies, boards or publicly owned corporations as at 1 July 2017:
- (a) how many FTEs identify as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background and what is this as a percentage of the overall agency workforce;
 - (b) how many FTEs who identify as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background have applied for the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme 2017 (VTSS); and
 - (c) how many FTEs who identify as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background have been approved for the VTSS?
- (2) With respect to FTEs within the Minister's portfolio departments, agencies, boards or publicly owned corporations as at 1 July 2016 how many identified as having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 2253.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — LK CREATIVE PTY LTD — CONTACT

2256. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:

I refer to the Premier's answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 250 and ask, since 17 March 2017:

- (a) has the Minister or his current Ministerial staff met or had any contact with representatives of registered lobbyist trading as LK Creative P/L, and if so:
- (i) what are the dates for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (ii) who did LK Creative P/L meet with or contact;
 - (iii) what was the topic of discussion for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (iv) what third party, if any, was being represented by LK Creative P/L;
 - (v) was any follow-up action agreed to by the Minister or his Ministerial staff, and if so what action was agreed to; and
 - (vi) what form did the contact take (i.e. email, phone), or for meetings, where did they take place?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (a) (i)–(vi) As at the 19 October 2017, neither the Minister or any Ministerial Staff have met with representatives of registered lobbyist trading as LK Creative P/L.

The Minister and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — THE TRUSTEE FOR ECG ADVISORY TRUST — CONTACT

2273. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:

I refer to the Premier's answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 250 and ask, since 17 March 2017:

- (a) has the Minister or his current Ministerial staff met, or had any contact with, representatives of registered lobbyist The Trustee for ECG Advisory Trust, and if so:
- (i) what are the dates for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (ii) who did The Trustee for ECG Advisory Trust meet with or contact;
 - (iii) what was the topic of discussion for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (iv) what third party, if any, was being represented by The Trustee for ECG Advisory Trust;
 - (v) was any follow-up action agreed to by the Minister or his Ministerial staff, and if so what action was agreed to; and
 - (vi) what form did the contact take (i.e. email, phone), or for meetings, where did they take place?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (a) (i)–(vi) As at the 19 October 2017, neither the Minister or any Ministerial Staff have met with representatives of registered lobbyist The Trustee for ECG Advisory Trust.

The Minister and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — THE SATTLER FILES PTY LTD — CONTACT**2290. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:**

I refer to the Premier's answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 250 and ask since, 17 March 2017:

- (a) Has the Minister or his current Ministerial staff met, or had any contact with, representatives of registered lobbyist The Sattler Files Pty Ltd, and if so:
- (i) what are the dates for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (ii) who did The Sattler Files Pty Ltd meet with or contact;
 - (iii) what was the topic of discussion for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (iv) what third party, if any, was being represented by The Sattler Files Pty Ltd;
 - (v) was any follow-up action agreed to by the Minister or his Ministerial staff, and if so what action was agreed to; and
 - (vi) what form did the contact take (i.e. email, phone), or for meetings, where did they take place?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (a) (i)–(vi) As at the 19 October 2017, neither the Minister or any Ministerial Staff have met with representatives of registered lobbyist The Sattler Files Pty Ltd.

The Minister and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — THE ENDEAVOUR CONSULTING GROUP PTY LTD — CONTACT**2307. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth:**

I refer to the Premier's answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 250 and ask, since 17 March 2017:

- (a) Has the Minister or his current Ministerial staff met, or had any contact with, representatives of registered lobbyist The Endeavour Consulting Group Pty Ltd, and if so:
- (i) what are the dates for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (ii) who did The Endeavour Consulting Group Pty Ltd meet with or contact;
 - (iii) what was the topic of discussion for each meeting or instance of contact;
 - (iv) what third party, if any, was being represented by The Endeavour Consulting Group Pty Ltd;
 - (v) was any follow-up action agreed to by the Minister or his Ministerial staff, and if so what action was agreed to; and
 - (vi) what form did the contact take (i.e. email, phone), or for meetings, where did they take place?

Mr P.C. Tinley replied:

- (a) (i)–(vi) As at the 19 October 2017, neither the Minister or any Ministerial Staff have met with representatives of registered lobbyist The Endeavour Consulting Group Pty Ltd.

The Minister and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed.
