

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ALCOHOL AND
ILLCIT DRUG PROBLEMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE TAKEN
AT PERTH
WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2010**

SESSION SIX

Members

Dr J.M. Woollard (Chairman)
Mr P. Abetz (Deputy Chairman)
Mr P.B. Watson
Mr I.C. Blayney
Ms L.L. Baker

Hearing commenced at 3.02 pm

HUGG, MR PETER
Chief Executive Officer, Football West,
examined:

KUCERA, HON BOB
Board Member, Football West,
examined:

LILLEY, MR FRANK
President, Bowls WA,
examined:

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I would like to thank you for your interest and your appearance before us today. The purpose of this hearing is to assist the committee in gathering evidence for its inquiry into the adequacy and appropriateness of prevention and treatment services for alcohol and illicit drug problems. You have been provided with a copy of the committee's specific terms of reference. At this stage I would like to introduce myself, Janet Woollard, and the other members of the committee present, Mr Peter Abetz and Mr Peter Watson; our principal research officer, Dr David Worth; and Hansard.

The Education and Health Standing Committee is a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. This hearing is a formal procedure of the Parliament and therefore commands the same respect given to proceedings in the house. Even though the committee is not asking you to provide evidence on oath or affirmation, it is important that you understand that any deliberate misleading of the committee may be regarded as a contempt of Parliament. This is a public hearing and Hansard will be making a transcript of the proceedings for the public record. If you refer to any document or documents during your evidence, it would assist Hansard if you could provide the full title for the record. Before we proceed to the questions we have for you today, I need to ask you a series of questions. Have you completed the "Details of Witness" form?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you understand the notes at the bottom of the form about giving evidence to a parliamentary committee?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Did you receive and read the information for witnesses briefing sheet provided with the "Details of Witness" form today?

The Witnesses: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any questions in relation to being a witness at today's hearing?

The Witnesses: No.

The CHAIRMAN: In that case, and we will start with you, Frank, would you please state your full name and the capacity in which you appear before the committee today?

Mr Lilley: Frank Lilley. I am the president of Bowls WA.

Mr Hugg: Peter Hugg. I am the CEO of Football West.

Mr Kucera: Bob Kucera. I am a board member of Football West and I am here representing Kevin Campbell, the President of Football West.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will run the session by asking each of you to make a presentation. You have had an opportunity to look at the committee's terms of reference. We ask you to give us the benefit of your considered thought on those terms of reference, and once we have gone around all three of you, we will ask questions. While you are making your presentations, would you be uncomfortable if we interjected with questions, or would you prefer that we waited until the end?

Mr Hugg: I am happy for the committee to do whatever it feels comfortable with.

Mr Kucera: I am happy with whatever you wish to do.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that okay with you, Frank?

Mr Lilley: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Okay. Would you like to go first, Frank?

Mr Lilley: In looking at the terms of reference, drug and alcohol problems is an interesting topic. When I look at the sport of bowls, it seems to me that the issue we have is very much a cultural one. Our game is one of the few games where people can actually play the game and have a drink at the same time. People can actually drink during the game. A lot of games are not like that.

On the surface we do not have lots of problems associated with binge drinking and that type of behaviour. The board of the association has concerns about the culture; the attitude. Our bowling clubs tend to be community centres and, as such, lots of people attend the bowling club. There are many reasons for that, particularly in the country. Bowling clubs are certainly a centre of activity. One of the things that tends to happen at bowling clubs is people can get cheap grog, and that attracts a certain type of person. As I say, the issues we see are very much around the cultural aspect. We have a situation where in most, if not all, bowling clubs the income from the bar is a significant component of the business plan of the bowling club. It is very important in terms of income. In bowls we are becoming more and more aware of the change within the sport. Traditionally our sport has centred around what we call a capitated bowler, a person who joins a bowling club, pays a capitation fee to the association to play bowls and makes a commitment to play Saturday pennants and Thursday pennants. In other words, it is a time rich person who plays bowls. We are now finding that there is a significant shift in the community whereby time poor people are coming along. They are looking for entertainment. They want to be entertained, but they do not want to commit to an 18-week pennant program or three or four hours of bowls on a Saturday or Thursday afternoon.

Mr P.B. WATSON: They just want to be a social member.

Mr Lilley: They are social members. They want the social side of it. However, once again, the social side is very much linked to alcohol consumption. A group comes down and has a great time and alcohol is part of that scene. Like it or not, that is the reality. If you are asking me whether we have an alcohol problem within our sport, I would say no, we do not necessarily have an alcohol problem, but we have an attitudinal problem. We would prefer that people did not drink during the game—after the game, yes, they can have a couple of drinks.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Can they actually drink during a game?

Mr Lilley: Yes, some people do.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is it legal for people to take a drink out of the bar area and onto the rink?

Mr Lilley: Yes, but they are not allowed to take it onto the sporting arena. They can take it to the bank. That is the trick. They can have their beer, put it down, walk up, pull their bowls, come back down and have another sip. If they are really serious they will have a beer here and a beer up there. I am not trying to paint a picture of a whole lot of drunken bowlers, but the reality is that it is something that a number of us do not like to see. We would like to change that. However, it is so ingrained in our sport that it would be extremely difficult to “legislate” to cut out drinking. We have

made half-hearted attempts. We have achieved in getting them off the surface of the bowling green. Smoking is another thing. Smoking is another activity. They like to have a fag, but once again it has to be on the bank. Those are the cultural and attitudinal issues that will take a long time to change, if ever.

The CHAIRMAN: Frank, we have talked about the differences in the bowler over the past few years. I am trying to think of the movie that came out a few years ago.

Mr Lilley: *Crackerjack*.

[3.10 pm]

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Is it related to that? Is it related to the younger bowler who is, I guess, the heavier drinker at the bowling club?

Mr Lilley: How do I say this? The question you have got to ask is: what is a bowling club? It is a place where you can get cheap drink. The drinks are cheap. That attracts a certain type of person, dare I say it from a lower socioeconomic part of our society. It attracts that group, particularly along the younger ones. Yes, that is very real. I do not want to categorise it too much, but, yes, the younger ones certainly would enjoy their drink. Funnily enough, a lot of the younger ones are also smokers. I cannot believe it. Of the older members, very few smoke now. I am not saying that they do not drink, but there definitely is a trend there.

Mr P. ABETZ: Perhaps they are pensioners who cannot afford to smoke anymore!

Mr Lilley: They tell us that about their capitation fees—we increase them by a dollar, and their world stops!

The CHAIRMAN: Is the beer and wine that is sold at bowling clubs cheaper than the beer and wine that is sold at other sporting clubs, or do all sporting clubs have a lower price on alcohol, and therefore these people are just looking for somewhere where they can buy it cheaply?

Mr Lilley: I could not comment on other sporting bodies. But certainly it is an element. I am trying not to say anything derogatory about people. But what you are really looking at is a scenario where people can go to the club and have a cheap drink; and the clubs are open seven days a week if they so wish.

The CHAIRMAN: From the evidence that has been presented to the committee, basically people are encouraging us to look at alcohol in terms of how we have a normal curve for any activity, and if we can move that normal curve back in terms of how much alcohol is acceptable, we may be able to reduce the level of consumption in the community. That may also help decrease the consumption of the people who are coming to your clubs to drink.

Mr Kucera: You can do that in two ways, though. You can do it by reducing overall consumption. But you can also look at the strength of the alcohol that is consumed. That is something that many of the sporting codes are now doing. They are encouraging the responsible consumption of alcohol at a lower level. So you are encouraging either light or mid-strength beers, et cetera. So there is another way of doing it. The other thing is that that allows us to work in partnership with the alcohol industry, because the alcohol industry, as I understand it, makes as much money out of selling light alcohols as it does out of selling the stronger alcohols. In fact, the excise on the stronger alcohols is higher anyway. So that is an opportunity to work in partnership with the industry. One of the issues that has come up very strongly in terms of the health lobby on alcohol is that there is a view that has been put across to sports, through various sponsorship agreements that we have with government agencies, that the alcohol industry is the enemy, the same as the fast food industry is the enemy, when it comes to delivering health messages. Our experience, however, in working with the alcohol industry generally through sport and through the football codes, is that it is far better to work with the industry than for us to try to use a big stick and start to impose conditions on how we accept sponsorship and how we accept support from the industry. That is

very different from what we did with smoking. There is no such thing as healthy smoking—it either kills you or it makes you sick—whereas alcohol is very different in terms of the approach that we can take.

The CHAIRMAN: But it is not very different in terms of there is no safe level of binge drinking. I think what the health industry is trying to get through is that there are guidelines now. If you walked outside this room and you asked people what is the safe level of drinking, a lot of people would not be able to tell you.

Mr Kucera: But even the health industry itself does not deliver that. As a past president of the Heart Foundation, there was a very strong message given out that two glasses of red wine a day was in fact good for you. There has been some conjecture over the last two months that that is perhaps not the case. But, again, that is something that sporting clubs and sports generally are faced with—that is, what is a clear message on alcohol, and what is a clear message that government should be giving on alcohol. We did not have that problem with smoking. There is no safe level of smoking.

The CHAIRMAN: You are right that there is no safe level. You said that a few years ago it was considered that one or two standard drinks was good for your health. I remember that it was in the early 1990s when the research came out from Scandinavia saying that one to two drinks—a J-shaped curve—was beneficial. But now that they have re-looked at that data they have realised that they included the non-drinkers with the light drinkers. That is why that curve and those statistics have now changed. So now we know. In fact, in those days I think it was two standard drinks for women and four for men.

Mr Kucera: That must come as an enormous blow to all those doctors who are vigneron!

The CHAIRMAN: Yes! We now know that that has changed. Did you want to add a bit to that, Mr Lilley?

Mr Lilley: We have seen a significant change in terms of what is being served at our clubs. Light beer is what the people at our clubs mainly drink now. The sales of the full-strength beer would be significantly down. I would also mention that sponsorship is not really an issue with bowling. We might have some arrangements at club level with a particular brewery, but we do not have sponsorship per se at an association level.

The CHAIRMAN: For the clubs, is the beer and the wine cheaper because you buy the beer and the wine in casks? Why is it cheaper at different clubs than at other places?

Mr Lilley: I think traditionally the reason behind it is the volunteers. You do not need to have paid staff. Now that is beginning to change too. In the early days, everything was done by volunteers. Also, you own your own premises, so you are not paying rent for the premises. You got the premises from the local authority at a peppercorn rent. So conditions are pretty good for lower costs.

[3.20 pm]

Mr Kucera: Can I comment on that point in relation to staffing? There is now an imposition under the licensing act and indeed imposed by the licensing regime that your volunteers be fully trained in terms of the service of alcohol. Again that has been an opportunity for us being able to partner with organisations such as the AHA and the various breweries in that they provide that training free of charge to the clubs and to the various organisations. And that is certainly something that government could assist with in terms of providing that kind of training and that kind of support for sports and sports structures; anything to minimise the cost to clubs is most welcome.

The CHAIRMAN: The other thing is this sponsorship that Bowls WA gets in relation to the alcohol. How big a component from the different sponsorship measures that the different bowling clubs or all these clubs would have; how big a component would be the alcohol sponsorship? Does it come in at a centralised level and then go to the clubs or is it done on a club-by-club basis?

Mr Lilley: Club-by-club basis, and it is very, low key. What tends to happen is that a club will sell Swan beers and they are given half a dozen casks. You are talking very low key, you are not talking about multimillions or even thousands of dollars of sponsorship; and we certainly do not have any of our state events, whatever you call the Swan Brewery singles or something like that. So, sponsorship is very low key. I think that is a fair observation.

The CHAIRMAN: Peter?

Mr Hugg: I have prepared a statement if you do not mind.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr Hugg: On behalf of Football West, its board and all its members, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and to provide comment and input to this very important discussion. We are all aware of the damage, physical harm and social cost that alcohol and illicit drugs has throughout the community. As there are far greater informed and more knowledgeable trained specialists than I am in this area, I will limit my comments to what I know best, other than to commend the government and specifically this committee for their efforts in this regard. In saying that, let me just provide a very small insight as to my background and tertiary and career history, which undoubtedly flavours my message here today. By training I am a sports scientist and exercise physiologist, and spent the first six years of my career in health promotion and health advancement, including with the then National Health and Medical Research Council in Canberra and the Healthy Cities project. My early time has been with the likes of ACHPER, the Heart Foundation and the Fitness Leaders Association, and more recently the then Australian Sports Drug Agency. As author of the Australian Soccer Federation's Fitness for Soccer manual, I would like to think that I understand the space a little bit and the many objectives and outcomes that everyone is trying to achieve here.

I am also conscious of the wider terms of reference of the committee and its desire to look into the impact of sponsorship of sport by companies that produce alcoholic and other seemingly unhealthy products. We are, however, concerned at the increasing tendency to link legal and readily available off-the-shelf consumer products, such as fast food, soft drinks, alcohol and other such items, into the same category as tobacco and illicit drugs. As we have just heard, there is no such thing as a healthy cigarette; whereas in these other categories, moderation and the provision of healthy alternatives can indeed be effective messages that we should be looking at promoting, as opposed to totally demonising anything that is put in one's mouth.

It is fair to say at the outset, and I am sure my many colleagues in the other sports will agree, that in these most difficult financial times, grassroots community sport relies heavily on the support from such areas and sponsors; most often for its junior development programs, coach education initiatives and more general participatory and competition programs.

We all know of the role that sport currently plays and has played in the past in Australian society. It is intrinsically woven into the fabric of the nation, and many of our national icons are our sporting heroes. We are also fully aware of the role that sport can play in the physical and social development of our young children. Improved health and physical fitness, greater social skills and self-esteem, improved team work and so on are only some of the benefits that our children experience. Only recently the federal government's Crawford report on sport in Australia highlighted both the role of sport in Australia and its impact on helping Australians young and old become more healthy.

But today I do not want to talk about statistics and government reports, standing committees, analytical research and trends, but rather I want to focus on reality. By that I mean cold, hard, everyday reality and what crosses my desk: what is happening out there in club land, in the many zones and regions of WA, to the mums and dads and to the volunteer coaches and in my office where almost daily I and—I am sure—my fellow colleagues in the sports world are faced with running a major state sporting organisation under rather difficult circumstances. In the past two

weeks alone, I had the board at me about cutting budgets and making sure they balance et cetera after a couple of years of some losses, I have had to slash budgets, cut programs and deny staff the opportunity to conduct some wonderful and creative initiatives which they want to implement.

Despite doing our best to promote the game across this huge state, we constantly struggle against the tide of rising costs and expenses and, unfortunately, diminishing income, what with the FGC and a reduction in corporate sponsorship, increasing demands on ever-reducing government funds and household revenue and discretionary expenditure amongst families under more strain than ever. With this as a backdrop, quite simply Football West needs and is compelled to look at all potential sources of revenue and funds in order to carry out its charter and to meet the vision that it has set for itself.

In saying that, we will do this responsibly, and always within the commercial sporting environment we attempt to match the best fit in terms of the potential sponsor and other objectives in the various activities we conduct. We make value judgements on what programs are worth and try to put a dollar figure on the activities that we run, both in terms of cost to the company and the value to a commercial partner. If not already known, the committee should be aware of the many wonderful and exciting initiatives that we currently conduct and try to implement, many of which are done in conjunction with the state government, and in particular Healthway and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

These are just some of the —

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Would you like to submit those as supplementary information?

Mr Hugg: Yes. By way of background information —

The CHAIRMAN: We will accept those then as supplementary information.

Mr Hugg: Certainly. It is just a small set.

By way of background information, Football West has an extensive health policy that covers tobacco and alcohol, addresses food and catering at our clubs—such as promoting and encouraging healthy alternatives and smarter choices, and outlines SunSmart and injury-prevention activities.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will accept that too.

Mr Hugg: I will not pile anything else on you.

Mr Kucera: Just on that, that is entitled “Draft Policy” but that has actually been signed off by the board just last month.

Mr Hugg: We proactively endorse and promote this policy in conjunction with Healthway We proactively and through our many regional associations and clubs.

In support of this, we currently receive funding of approximately \$160 000 per annum from Healthway for the conduct of various junior and youth development programs. Conducted under the banner and message of “Smarter than Smoking”, which you will see on those brochures, this funding directly touches in excess of 20 000 children in the state.

I should say, though, that that 20 000 may seem a lot, but it really skims the surface of what we would like to do.

We also utilise the wonderful package of education material, again developed by Healthway—“fuel to go, go, go”—in many of our programs, and many of our junior clubs have signed up to be Healthway clubs.

As a major sport, we understand our responsibility and obligations and we do not shy away from these. In fact, we actively encourage and endorse these and we wish to do far more. That is important: we want to do more. However, let me again provide an insight into the real world that we operate in. As the world’s most popular sport with the world’s most popular event, the about-to

commence FIFA World Cup, football on a global and national scale benefits from the financial support from a number of the world's largest companies, including soft drink, fast food and alcohol sponsors. Two of these companies also support the IOC, its Olympic Games—as its major event—and the Solidarity program that the IOC conducts throughout the world.

Closer to home, the federal government's national sports department, the Australian Sports Commission benefits from and promotes two companies that would be considered inappropriate and frowned upon here in Western Australia. Similarly, our national governing body for the sport, Football Federation Australia, currently and in the past also benefits from similar sponsorship support from three major worldwide food and drink partners. Several of the most successful and most popular programs ever run in Australian sport have been run by football—under the old guise of soccer—the Coca Cola Youth Development program and the McDonalds Super Skills activities. They are extremely popular and are followed throughout the world and copied.

Mr Kucera: Except here.

Mr Hugg: As recently as two weeks ago, at a CEO's meeting of state football federations, each of my fellow colleagues spoke of the extensive funds that each currently receives from the fast food, soft drink cereal and other food item companies, and the various programs that they conduct as a result of such support.

[3.30 pm]

The CHAIRMAN: Peter, in relation to those, when they talked about the sponsorship received, do you have someone who sits on that committee who actually is able to advise the committee, like in terms of soft drinks? Because we have a problem now with people being overweight and obesity in society, I do not think many people are aware of the fact that there are seven to nine teaspoons of sugar in a soft drink. So do you have someone as part of your committee who has that health background, so that when you as a committee—all these different organisations—are making these decisions, you are able to weigh up, I guess, the benefits of the sponsorship versus the costs?

Mr Hugg: Do you mind if I continue and come back to that?

The CHAIRMAN: That is fine.

Mr Hugg: Because I think you have misread what I just said. If I may go back, the message that I am coming to is crucial here.

Across the country, Football West is the only, I repeat only, football body that does not receive such support. So we do not even go there; it is like a banana that is stopped at quarantine. The funding does not even come to us because of what I am about to say.

The CHAIRMAN: That may well be because of your background.

Mr Hugg: No.

The CHAIRMAN: I think they are very lucky to have you.

Mr Hugg: No, it is because of Healthway and the current structure in place, which is the gist of my message.

Whilst we continue to be prepared to promote the health message as much as we can at the highest level, the Football West balance sheet shows a lower level of income from sponsorship and the real losers are the children and our young players who do not receive similar programs to their counterparts in other states. The biggest junior sporting competition in Australia is currently sponsored by McDonald's. Schweppes, under its Solo brand and through its sports drink Gatorade, reaches thousands of football clubs and Cottees financially supports the very popular schools program in five-a-side competition. Why do I tell you all of this? To the detriment of young children in this state and our young potential football participants, none of these programs is available to our junior members through Football West. Essentially, at a time when we are cutting

back our programs and thus denying our juniors and youth programs for increased sporting opportunities, I am forced to decline opportunities and approaches from a number of companies deemed unsuitable who could otherwise partner with us to conduct such programs. What is the answer? I think the solution lies within much of what the WA Minister for Sport and Recreation outlined several weeks ago when addressing a gathering of business leaders. Amongst other things, Hon Terry Waldron promoted a position that focused on balance and commonsense and it specifically targeted the protection of young people from alcohol promotion. He then went on to say and I quote him —

In an economic climate where local clubs and associations are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain sponsorship, —

Us —

it is incumbent on government to work with peak industry bodies to identify ways to provide support—not erect more barriers.

He went on to say —

To offset major reductions in income, organisations will need to either increase participation fees, or decrease services.

Currently, Football West is doing both. Unfortunately, we are at a tipping point where we potentially could be losing members and young players from the game. All of this was under the general mantra of Mr Waldron's message of "do not ban it, change the message".

In summary, Football West's fundamental role is to promote football in Western Australia and to provide football opportunities to all who wish to play it. Football West is aware of the joys and benefits that participants derive from their involvement in the game. Football West wants to work with the government and associated organisations to promote increased activity and other such healthy messages. Ironically, in our attempt to do so, we have hamstrung the development of sporting opportunities by achieving a reduction in funding and support opportunities. Our hands are tied behind our back when we go to the community to fund much of what we do.

As recently as last October, Football West was denied the opportunity for funding of \$50 000 for our Perth Glory women's team, which is a completely separate and autonomous team from the men's commercial club, because we shared, for the sake of promoting the gender equity argument, the same name as the men. This is mandated to us by our national body, Football Federation Australia, and we have no choice if we want to participate in the W-League. I should also state that this is a national broadcast competition and because of this ruling, the opportunity was lost to promote the Smarter than Smoking message on players' uniforms and around the ground. As such, funding for our women's team was drastically reduced because of this decision. Once again, sport, football and our participants were the losers.

It could easily be argued that the attempts to promote increased health have actually had a counter-result—fewer programs are conducted, fewer opportunities are provided and fewer individuals benefit. Again, I quote the minister —

... the Government does not advocate prohibition, stopping the promotion isn't the answer...education is the key...

Football West wants to use the power of sport, of our sport in its worldwide appeal and popularity and the simplicity of the game to better educate our young Australians and to make them more active and healthier and better prepared for their adult life. Football West deplores what has been done in the past and wants to continue and expand upon this relationship further. We want to build our relationship and our partnership with the likes of Healthway and use the power of our sport to get the healthy message across. Sport is not the problem; rather, it is the solution. Just as it has been demonstrated in the past with the extremely successful Quit campaign, sport, and indeed football,

has played a major role together with other legislative initiatives in the reduction of the percentage of people smoking and, more importantly, young children taking up the habit. Sport can play the same leadership and advocacy role utilising the many sporting icons that we have, and that our young children look up to and aspire to, to promote other healthy messages. Just as you all recognise and are all concerned with the impact sponsorship by such companies has on the incidences of problems such as childhood obesity, diabetes and, in general, poor health, I would strongly argue that we look at this through an alternative lens, as many of you do, and look to use sport as a means of delivering such messages. Sport, and in particular football, can play an active and dominant role in delivering these messages. Again, I reiterate Football West's desire to work and partner with the government and its agencies in delivering such messages. We look forward to further work in cooperation with Healthway and the state government and truly believe that together we can make significant inroads to combating many of the health problems facing our society. Once more I state that sport is not the problem; it is the solution, and Football West welcomes the opportunity to rise to that challenge. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Peter, do you think that football and all sport is the solution? Many people would agree with you. I think certainly one of our committee members, who you know has a great history in sport, is a strong advocate for sporting issues. How much do you rely on the sponsorship from alcohol? What percentage —

Mr P.B. WATSON: They do not have any.

Mr Hugg: We do not have any. Just so that we are clear, we do not have any sponsorship from alcohol, smoking, fast food, chocolates—anything that is put in our mouth, we do not have sponsorship from.

The CHAIRMAN: So what was the difficulty that you were having with the messages from Healthway? I may have missed something there.

Mr Hugg: Okay, very simply, we have a women's football team that plays in the W-League. We are mandated because of the way that they want to promote the women's league to partner and be a semi-partner with Perth Glory. Perth Glory is sponsored by Chicken Treat, which is an unhealthy product according to Healthway. Because we are told that it has to be called the Perth Glory women's soccer team—it has no association with Perth Glory but it is a Perth Glory women's team—and the Perth Glory men's team is sponsored by Chicken Treat, so they take \$50 000 off our program.

Mr Kucera: Healthway is more and more now setting conditions for all sports that they will not accept sponsorship from —

The CHAIRMAN: Hold on, Bob, before you move on to that, though —

Mr P.B. WATSON: Let him say it.

Mr Kucera: If I can cite another code—I will not name the other code—it was denied \$250 000 in sponsorship because it had a part-sponsorship with a fast food company. They ended up reducing the sponsorship of the fast food company in order to try to retain the \$250 000, but as it turned out, they lost it anyway. The point we are making is this: we are happy to be sponsored by anybody who wants to deliver a healthy message but, at the end of the day, the membership of our clubs is dependent on money flowing in to support the clubs.

[3.40 pm]

If we go back to the original intention of Healthway, when it was first set up as the Health Foundation, its initial set-up was to replace the sponsorship moneys provided by the tobacco companies. The message coming from Healthway now is that we are still getting the same amount of money as we got from tobacco, but it also wants us to not take sponsorship from alcohol and related fast foods.

The CHAIRMAN: In which case —

Mr Kucera: No, let me finish, please. The reason being that that is worth a lot of money to us, so if Healthway wants us to keep delivering those messages, the government is going to have to pay for those messages; that is what it essentially boils down to. I am not knocking Healthway. I am putting on my Western Australian Sports Federation hat now, because the Sports Federation has put together an alliance of all major sports to see if we can address this sensibly. The committee will find that a lot of sports will not present to it because they are concerned about their existing sponsorship arrangements, as indeed we are. We will have to go for new sponsorship arrangements at the end of the year, and they are getting tighter and tighter in terms of that message. On the other hand, we are seeing major alcohol and fast food companies coming to us and saying, “We hear the message; we hear that there are obesity issues and problems with alcohol. We want to work with you in presenting solutions to government and health generally; we do not want to be left out of the equation.” If we look at it logically, government is legislating on one hand, the sports are trying to support their members, and sponsorship is being offered by the alcohol industry. If we leave them out and do not work in partnership with them, we will leave out one-third of the equation, and it seems to me that trying to impose a big stick and saying, “They are the enemy; we can’t work with them,” would deny us, the community and the sport two things. Firstly, we are denying the money to keep sports going and keep kids occupied in a healthy way. Secondly, we are losing the opportunity to deliver the powerful health message that sport is capable of delivering. We need a different approach. The approach we applied with smoking was the right approach, and it worked very well; there is no such thing as healthy smoking. But when we are faced with a product such as fast food, for example, McDonald’s already has 12 ticks from the Heart Foundation. We are getting a message from the Heart Foundation that, providing our clubs support these healthy products, it is happy with it, but we then get a message from a government agency to say that it will not allow us to accept advertising from them. We have to get balance back into the equation and get a bit of sense back into the argument. I think Minister Waldron’s speech the other day was a great example of how we can get balance into things. Terry is not of the same political persuasion as me, but by the same token there is sense in what he is saying. If Healthway wants to deliver the message through Football West, for example, in relation to alcohol and fast food, then in the same way as it did with tobacco, it is going to have to consider paying for the delivery of that message, otherwise sports will go the other way.

Mr Hugg: To bring it back to some perspective, of the total market, to remove sponsorship of any products that we put in our mouths would wipe out 67 per cent of potential sponsorship in the total market of who we can go out and seek sponsorship from. As Bob has just mentioned, the Healthway conditions are so strict, we cannot go to 67 per cent of the market because we accept \$200 000 over 15 months from Healthway. In reality, we say, “We want to work with you; we want to promote healthy messages and we want to be on your side. We value it.” Our competitors—I think the committee has spoken to the AFL—say, “Thanks, but no thanks,” because it has Coca-Cola, Hungry Jack’s, Four’N Twenty, Cadbury and Nestle et cetera. The AFL almost gets a free kick; it is out promoting and doing everything for free because it has those sponsors. We are kicking a brick uphill. Our funds are going down, the AFL’s funds are going up, and it is promoting whatever it is doing at a time when we are cutting back our budgets et cetera.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I will ask Bob this question, because he will not get into trouble! Do you think Healthway has been hijacked by zealots?

Mr Kucera: I think it is putting across a very strong message, which we would like to be part of, but the reality is that it is pricing us out of the market.

Mr Hugg: As was mentioned earlier, in terms of the Heart Foundation, the great irony of all this—Bob referred to it—is that our funds from Healthway are managed by the Heart Foundation, and it is saying that we cannot do this, we cannot do that. However, that is exactly what it does—it accepts

money for these healthy alternatives, so if we promote these healthy messages through McDonald's or the cereal companies, the same company that takes money from these companies would crucify us for doing so.

The CHAIRMAN: Peter, have you tried to get sponsorship from other areas?

Mr Hugg: Sorry, other areas?

The CHAIRMAN: Other than fast foods, Coca-Cola and alcohol?

Mr Hugg: Almost anything we put in our mouths is deemed to be unhealthy. If we say, "Please don't drink beer," and then say, "You should be drinking soft drink," or "Drink water", Coca-Cola and Solo produce water, but we are not allowed to go down that path. All these soft drink companies have water as well, so we end up wondering what it wants us to drink! Do we go out to the market? Yes, we try. Again, to bring it down to hard facts, throughout the country—except in Western Australia—there are programs, sports opportunities, and coach education delivery programs run and supported in conjunction with McDonald's, KFC, Solo and Coca-Cola, et cetera, in all states except WA. The member used the word "zealots"; I would not go that far, but we have to look at the big picture: the real cost to us is the inability to do this. Other sports have made that value judgement: \$500 000 from an unhealthy company like McDonald's, or \$200 000 from Healthway. What are they going to choose?

The CHAIRMAN: What about places like Emirates, BHP, Qantas, Ford, Holden and Rio Tinto?

Mr Hugg: I would love to. If I could get Twiggy Forrest and Sam Walsh on board, bring it on. I should have said as part of my introduction that I am three weeks into this position and I am new to WA, so I do not know the market as well as I could, but those are exactly the sorts of people I need to speak to.

The CHAIRMAN: In the UK I played for Tottenham Hotspur Ladies in my youth, and I can certainly try to give you any support I am able to individually! One of the problems we have is that many of the clubs are possibly reluctant to present, and we do not know the amount of money that is going into sport from sponsorship. Healthway in its day was a great initiative, and still is; I believe it was a former Labor government initiative. Yes, it has done a wonderful job in terms of tobacco, but apart from tobacco, we have a very big problem in society, and it is not a case of no consumption; it is not saying that, but it is trying to bring back that curve from binge drinking.

[3.50 pm]

Mr Hugg: We should put binge drinking to the side because we have not addressed alcohol. It has had a counterproductive outcome. We are suffering by not being able to go to these partners and give a healthy message.

Mr Kucera: It is penalising those sports that are doing the right thing. Two major codes knocked back McDonald's this year. We were one of them. There is no benefit other than we retrain the existing level of sponsorship we currently get for delivering the smoking message. At the end of the day, we weigh that up.

Mr P.B. WATSON: We want to try to get kids to play sport so we can stop obesity and stop them getting on the streets and doing drugs. We have a system where you get \$160 000 a year from Healthway but you can get \$500 000 or \$600 000 from these so-called bad people. We talked to the WA Football Commission today. The money it gets from alcohol goes into programs to help young people. In that section we are saying it is a good thing but now here we are saying it is a bad thing.

Mr Hugg: I would like to employ a sports nutritionist and a health education officer to go through all of our clubs and promote healthy eating, responsible drinking et cetera. I am cutting staff as opposed to employing them. If I can "con" McDonald's into paying for a dietician and a sports nutritionist who goes out and —

Mr Kucera: Persuade.

Mr Hugg: —persuades McDonald's to go in and pay for this person, surely that is a better outcome. That is my message.

Mr P. ABETZ: To some extent, it is digressing from our terms of reference. The discussion we are having is quite interesting. It almost seems that the baby is being thrown out with the bath water. You can go to McDonald's and eat quite healthy food if you want so why should you not be able to get sponsorship from McDonald's? You raised a very legitimate issue. That needs to be addressed, although it is outside our terms of reference.

Mr Kucera: The issue is the same with alcohol. I take you back about 12 years ago when we set up the first of the alcohol accords in Western Australia. The first two set up in Australia were in Geelong and Perth. They resulted from a joint project that I was personally involved in with a fellow named Peter Kelly from Geelong police force. That was achieved by having a joint partnership between all levels of the alcohol industry—the suppliers, the AHA, the liquor stores et cetera—and the police, local government et cetera, and it was extremely successful. That success has faded a bit recently because there has been an attempt by government to bring legislation into it, which overcame the voluntary nature of the organisations. Our view very much in sport is that despite everybody telling us that we have a problem at club level, we are not seeing that. On the contrary, we are seeing clubs adopt the policies that we put up on responsible serving, responsible drinking, not giving grog to juniors, discouraging parents having grog at junior programs and all those sorts of things. It is quite evident that it is out there.

It has been indicated to us by the AHA, working through country hotels, and companies such as Diageo and Lion Nathan that they would dearly love to work with us on these kinds of programs. As Peter says, in most other states that is now starting to occur and joint programs are being set up. They do not care whether they sell low-alcohol beer or high-alcohol beer; they make the same level of profit out of it. In fact, I understand they make a higher profit out of low-alcohol beer than the other. We are quite happy to work with those companies to use their money not to do anything other than sponsor programs for juniors and increase the level of involvement with sport. I agree that we got off track a bit with the fast food side of it.

The point I am making is that it is a very different kettle of fish from dealing with a product such as tobacco which is unhealthy full stop. The messages that we have coming out of government at the moment are very confusing and are not clear on what the policy is on this kind of thing. The policy direction we are taking is from a government agency; it is not coming from the minister. Whereas from the sports minister we are getting a very clear and unequivocal message that we need to have partnerships and we need to work jointly to overcome this problem. That is the same message that we are getting from the federal government. The federal government is saying that there is a problem with alcohol.

The CHAIRMAN: The sports minister is not paying the costs that society has to meet that come from alcohol. It is all very well for him to say it is okay to go ahead and do this but he is not putting up the funding for the treatment programs and the rehabilitation services for children and adults who have alcohol problems. This inquiry is looking at the big issue.

Mr Kucera: Why should the industry that makes a profit from the sale of alcohol not pick up some of this tab for us in terms of education, particularly when we see that it is willing to do that? We are quite happy to work in partnership. I will give an example. Let us look at sporting codes. We are being told by one of our funding agencies in our policies that we adopt on alcohol that we should not serve alcohol after the third quarter of a football match or after 20 minutes into a game of soccer. During the second half we are not supposed to serve alcohol at all. We have a situation where a game ends, a team has lost, nobody has had a drink so everybody will charge out to the local pub or into the local streets and it creates problems. Subiaco is a classic example. I am told by the local police that since that policy has been adopted at Subiaco Oval, for instance, some of the problems in the streets and hotels around Subiaco have gone up by as much as 87 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: If you look at that in terms of transport, neither the previous government nor this government has looked at putting on more carriages and more transport after those big games to stop those problems after the game.

Mr Kucera: That is the general public we are talking about. I have visited other stadiums in other parts of the world. They encourage people to stay on in the stadium so you get a measured outlet of crowds moving out into the city afterwards. They discuss the game and they have a quiet beer, which is the way it is normally done. If you are in the public stands, which I am when I go to Subiaco, behind me are the corporate boxes where there is no restriction on the consumption of alcohol whatsoever or on the advertising of it. These are the kinds of messages that are coming out to us from both governments and organisations. There is this mixed message all the time. We are trying to deliver a clear unequivocal message to our young people in our sports about responsible drinking and healthy eating but that is not coming across in the messages that we get from the government.

The CHAIRMAN: This committee is trying to investigate all the issues that have led to the current abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs. Peter and Frank, I again go back to your bodies because this is our chance to get the numbers from you. Frank, how many people are involved with Bowls WA across WA? Peter, can you also give us the numbers for Football West? If it is a number or so out, you can get let us know by way of supplementary information.

Mr Lilley: As I mentioned earlier, there are capitated bowlers. We have 19 700 capitated bowlers. We probably have at least that many casual bowlers, if not more. In terms of participation rates, which is the one that I want to keep hammering, we probably have 30 000 or 35 000 players because it is a very widely played sport. It is played all over the state. Even the smallest country town has a bowling club. You are looking at a lot of people.

[4.00 pm]

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am a member of four clubs in Albany but I do not contribute to clubs. I am just a patron and a member.

The CHAIRMAN: Would each of those clubs have similar scenarios that you painted for us earlier in terms of the membership now and what has happened in terms of the drinking —

Mr Lilley: Okay. We have 219 clubs across the state. If you are talking about a small country town in the middle of the Wheatbelt, the realities are that anybody who can stand up and breathe is essentially a member of the club. Trying to get more members, you may as well go out and start getting sheep on your membership, because everybody is in there. But in the cities and the larger population areas there is definitely a trend. I will give you an example. In Manjimup, one of the south west little towns, they have about 50 members and 500 corporate bowlers. Guess what keeps the club going? It is the corporate bowlers. So, yes, that trend is statewide. In fact, the corporate bowler is the casual bowler.

The CHAIRMAN: The corporate bowler is the casual bowler?

Mr Lilley: That is one of the major groups of casual bowler; there are others, but the corporate community bowler is the main bulk of the casual bowlers. That really started up in the country. They were the ones who twigged onto it and realised that they had to do something. In the city we can be a bit lazier. We can go out there and we can actually find other people to come and play bowls. But if you have got 400 people in your town, how do you find anybody else?

The CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us a bit about the numbers? You have been in the job for only two weeks, so if you cannot, that is fine. Also, just in casual conversation outside, Bob mentioned that sporting groups are now meeting and writing a position paper. So would you be able to talk first about the numbers, and then maybe talk a bit about that position paper?

Mr Hugg: Bob will answer the latter question, but let me just answer on the numbers. We basically have about 33 000 players throughout the state registered with Football West.

Mr P.B. WATSON: A large number of those would be juniors?

Mr Hugg: Yes, I think about 19 000 to 20 000 of them, maybe more, registered players. That may sound a lot. My estimate, and it is a bit pie in the sky or a figure in the air, is that there could be as many as half again that are not registered, want to play the game, want to be involved et cetera out there who are not being captured.

The CHAIRMAN: Who are not being captured because?

Mr Hugg: Because we do not have the facilities; we do not have offices; we do not have competitions; we have the transitional nature of the mining industry and so on. The other thing about that, and again it is probably a slight on us and what we can and cannot do in this state, is that increasingly I am concerned and I find that we are Football Perth and not Football West. Again, we concentrate on within 50 kilometres of here, as opposed to Albany, Geraldton, Karratha et cetera. The fundamental problem we have all comes down to resources. Everyone will tell you it is resources. It is cash and our ability to get cash to buy resources to drive development, coaching, education and so on. That is what this whole argument is about. Although the numbers are going up in the AFL, as Wayne will have told you, he benefits from the huge cheques from the Coca-Colas and so on. So they are going out and playing Auskick —

Mr Kucera: He has paid \$6 million for a rugby league player.

Mr Hugg: And so on. So the rich get richer and their numbers go up. They do not particularly care. I do not want to speak ill of our colleagues. I respect other sports et cetera. However, here we are, and our numbers and our programs are being driven down because we get captured as part of this total ban on seeking other programs. Again, I do not like saying this, but if you are confronted with it and you are pushed back into this corner, if someone comes along with a cheque for \$200 000.01, it is immediately more than the Healthway, so you have to make a value judgement.

The CHAIRMAN: What about the Football Federation getting into the World Cup? How much of that funding of \$20 million has gone to Football West?

Mr Hugg: Zero.

Mr Kucera: Nothing. The benefit will flow if we win the World Cup bid.

Mr Hugg: This is the predicament. None of the money comes to us. They want to run Cottees programs and Schweppes programs et cetera, but they are not allowed to, because, like everything else that is deemed unhealthy, it is stopped at the border. Various other products are national-body programs, but we cannot do them here in Western Australia because of the problem. This again is what will happen: if the Socceroos do really well and everyone says that they want to play football, we do not have development officers, we do not have the facilities and we do not have the capacity, because we are not growing and we cannot react to this influx of interested people. Then what is going to happen? Let us say that we get the decision on 2 December that we will become a World Cup host. Then what will happen is that the likes of McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Budweiser et cetera, like in Sydney with the Olympics, will start infiltrating and promoting all around the country with above the line, below the line advertising et cetera, and we will not be allowed to capture and partake in any of those programs, unlike anywhere else in the country, because of this blanket, all-encompassing ban on anything that is unhealthy going in your mouth.

Mr P. ABETZ: How much money do you get from Healthway?

Mr Hugg: It is \$200 000.

Mr P. ABETZ: I would have thought that you would probably pick up from those other non-healthy things and tell Healthway to get lost.

Mr Hugg: So is that a recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: It certainly is not!

Mr P. ABETZ: But the reality —

Mr Hugg: But that is the reality.

Mr Kucera: We are being penalised because, like rugby union, we have done the right thing and stuck to the policies.

Mr Hugg: That is the reality.

The CHAIRMAN: You are up there on a pinnacle and I am hoping that others will follow your example.

Mr Hugg: Thank you, but they are not. The problem is that if I get a letter tomorrow saying, “We would like to partner you for \$300 000”, what do I do?

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate both of you for staying with us. Could we maybe just give Bob two minutes? Could you make it brief, but we would really appreciate hearing about the —

Mr Kucera: I am probably talking a little bit out of school for them, but the Sports Federation is very concerned about the use of alcohol generally. They have worked very hard in the past two years in particular to push and formulate policies that promote responsible service and consumption of alcohol and move towards making sure that juniors are protected from alcohol as best as they can. We also realised that it is no good doing it the way that we did with tobacco. We do need to work with the industry. The industry is willing to work with us. So at the moment the Sports Federation is putting together proposals for, firstly, some research papers, because the health professionals are telling us that we have a problem down at club level with the consumption of alcohol, and yet the anecdotal evidence that we are getting and the clear evidence that we are getting from our own involvement with clubs is that that is not the case; in fact, the clubs are trying to be as responsible as they can. Of course, you are going to get the odd one who makes a fool of himself, whether it be in a bowling club or at Collingwood, but, by and large, the clubs have accepted the fact we need to work with them. The Sports Federation is currently working, jointly with all sports, to put together position papers for government on what we do in terms of the relationship between the alcohol industry and sport generally, and looking to see, as the Minister for Sport said the other day, if we can get a decent and sensible balance between working with the industry et cetera. Our experience has been, as with bowls, that the sale of lower-strength alcohol is now becoming the norm in most clubs, and wherever possible we are trying to encourage this issue of responsible drinking.

The CHAIRMAN: You mentioned that there is a possibility that you might be able to get that report to us before —

Mr Kucera: I would be speaking out of school, as only one member of that group, if I said that was the case, but certainly I can pass on the sentiments of the committee to Rob Thompson who is the head of the foundation. They, like us, are very concerned that sports right across Australia —

[4.10 pm]

The CHAIRMAN: He is the head of the sports federation.

Mr Kucera: It is a federation of 138 or 168 different sports in Western Australia—do not quote me on that. They are equally concerned about the use of alcohol and also that we have sufficient money flowing into sport to support our junior programs.

The CHAIRMAN: Bob, you might like to ask Rob Thompson whether that document will be delayed —

Mr Kucera: It does not exist as yet.

The CHAIRMAN: — or whether they might like to put that in as a submission before this inquiry.

Mr Kucera: I can put that to him.

The CHAIRMAN: If he wants to put a submission in beforehand, that is fine. Then we will be aware of the factors as we conduct the inquiry rather than have to wait until the report is finalised.

Mr Kucera: Also, if I can say, from my experience in the past 18 months of being on the board of this particular sporting association and on the board of another, and I am also associated with a number of other sporting groups that are involved with this whole issue, we see a need for more balance to be brought back into the health argument. Certainly we do not have any problems at all with the issues of tobacco and you will find that you have 100 per cent support. Secondly, we see the issues with alcohol but we need to work in partnership with the industry; similarly with the fast food industry. The indications we are getting from both those industries are that they want to work with sports. Their markets are juniors. The biggest market for Macdonald's and companies like that is juniors. The biggest market for the alcohol industry is the older groups, but by the same token they equally do not want the problems that alcohol is creating. At the end of the day, big companies like Lion Nathan and Carlton and United Breweries have a social responsibility, the same as we do. The way forward is to work in partnership, and equally with the health professions.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you on these boards as a volunteer or a lobbyist?

Mr Kucera: No, as a volunteer. I am a board member of Football West because I love the sport. I am also a board member of Basketball WA. I am not a lobbyist. I do not work as a lobbyist.

Mr P.B. WATSON: You do not need to, from what I have heard!

Mr Kucera: I do not know about that, mate; all I get is a free beer! I was also patron of Yokine Bowling Club.

The CHAIRMAN: Frank, would you like to put your points?

Mr Lilley: I would like to just back up the comments that have been made. One of the things underpinning a lot of problems we have is the fact that it is increasingly difficult to get volunteers. What is starting to happen at bowling clubs, and certainly at the association level, is we are starting to have to hire someone or we have to pay an employee to do what was traditionally done by a volunteer. I guess that is something that is just putting more pressure on clubs. Backing up the sorts of comments you are making, we find Healthway is putting forward policies, proposals—whatever they are—that we are finding very difficult to meet, in particular, they would have it that no alcohol whatever is consumed at a bowling carnival. We would be silly to sign that because it is not going to happen in the short term. It is going to be a longer term exercise to come to that. We have done all sorts of things like cutting it back. We have alcohol-free events and events where smoking is only allowed in a corner and this type of thing, so it is a progression and things are going that way but it is a long, long journey, I would suggest.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you a member of this sports group that is meeting?

Mr Lilley: I am not personally. I would think bowls is.

The CHAIRMAN: Maybe you would like to ask as you meet that major group —

Mr Kucera: There is meeting coming up.

The CHAIRMAN: In relation to that meeting, it is one thing for you to say that you cannot survive without this sponsorship funding, but we need to know what the playing field is and how reliant you are on this funding. It is no good crying poor. I ask that you put the facts on the table about how reliant the various sporting groups are and what that sponsorship funding is. Like the previous government, which put funding into Healthway to make up for the advertising that came from tobacco, while it is not a case of wanting to see the end of alcohol like we want to see the end of

tobacco, it is a case of wanting to change the normal curve in distribution. We need to know how reliant the sporting clubs are on that sponsorship funding.

Mr Kucera: We can tell you straightaway what we are reliant on.

The CHAIRMAN: It is no good hearing about just one, because you are ahead of the rest.

Mr Hugg: Can I ask why? Have they not been invited?

Mr P. ABETZ: Some of them will not come.

Mr Kucera: We have been a bit cheeky and I suppose using my position —

The CHAIRMAN: If you would like to take it back, we need to know what the amounts are. It was a very good move by the previous government with Healthway and maybe we need to look at how a pool can be set aside. The initiatives, Peter, in terms of taking things out to the community, are brilliant.

Mr P. ABETZ: It is money

The CHAIRMAN: We need to know how much is required from the government purse.

Mr Kucera: We are in somewhat of a catch 22 position. We currently draw almost \$200 000 from Healthway. We deliberately avoided some of the other so-called inappropriate programs, but in fairness to a lot of the smaller sports they get virtually all of their funding from Healthway and I can understand why it is that some of them would be reluctant to address a parliamentary inquiry when they are drawing their major funding from a government agency. In fairness to all of them and the sports federation, I have been bit cheeky by raising the Healthway issue. I am past president of the Heart Foundation. I currently lecture on behalf of Injuries Control Council of WA. Mike Daube and the guys who are in Healthway are great friends of mine—they probably will not be after today. I agree with the comment that we have a long, long journey to go. It is too early to be kicking down doors. What we need to do is find keys and ways of unlocking these doors.

The CHAIRMAN: And not compromise the position so that you can run those great programs.

Mr Kucera: It may very well be that if we are able to weld proper, open, accountable and meaningful partnerships with those industries, such as alcohol, fast food et cetera, there will be no need for government to be funding the health messages and we may be able to provide those health messages in such a way that is complementary to what the government and the health foundations are providing and, at the same time, get them to change their product. Already the major fast food companies have woken up to this and are changing their product, and already the alcohol companies are changing their product. I am not a lobbyist on behalf of the alcohol or fast food companies. I could not give tuppence about them in that word. Janet used the term “lobbyist”. I am here representing my sport, and it is a sport that I am passionate about. What I am seeing is that, at the end of the day, those sports that have done the right thing and have delivered health messages are being penalised for doing that.

The CHAIRMAN: They are to be congratulated for the approach they have taken. Thank you for your evidence before the committee today. A transcript of this hearing will be forwarded to you for correction of minor errors. Any such corrections must be made and the transcript returned within 10 days of the date of the letter attached to the transcript. If the transcript is not returned within this period it will be deemed to be correct. New material cannot be added by these corrections and the sense of your evidence cannot be altered. Should you wish to provide additional information or elaborate on particular points please include a supplementary submission for the committee’s consideration when you return your corrected transcript. Thank you very much. I am sorry we were a few minutes late starting and I thank you very much for staying on.

Mr Kucera: Madam Chair, just one question: are the proceedings confidential until such time as the report is announced.

The CHAIRMAN: No, you would have to have asked for the committee to have gone into closed session.

Mr P. ABETZ: This is a public hearing.

Mr Lilley: I have one question. Would you be prepared to accept our health policies et cetera if we send those through?

The CHAIRMAN: We would very much appreciate all the documentation that you are able to provide us with to have a look through. Thank you very much.

Hearing concluded at 4.21 pm