



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
1998

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19 May 1998

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

BILLS (2) -ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Charitable Trusts Amendment Bill.
2. Liquor Licensing Amendment Bill.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING UNIT, SOUTHERN SUBURBS

Petition

Ms McHale presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 183 persons -

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

We, the undersigned express dismay and grave concern at the Government's decision to close the Cannington Breast Cancer Screening Unit, leaving women in the southern suburbs without appropriate services. We call upon the Government to:

1. Commit to the women in the southern suburbs that they will have a permanent breast cancer screening unit.
2. As a matter of extreme urgency provide a temporary breast screening unit in Cannington.

Women's health is too important to be subject to economic rationalism, and commercial privatisation.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 206.]

CAR REGISTRATION FEE INCREASES

Petition

Dr Gallop (Leader of the Opposition) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 101 persons -

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

We, the undersigned citizens are totally opposed to the State Government's decision to impose a new tax on WA motorists through massive increases in car registration fees.

Western Australian motorists already pay directly to the cost of roads through State and Federal fuel levies.

The revenue received by the State Government from the fuel levy and from the sale of the gas pipeline provides government with resources to develop our transport infrastructure. This new tax is unfair and has a disproportionate impact on middle and low income earners.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A similar petition was presented by Mrs Roberts (32 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 207 and 210.]

TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS - JOONDALUP

Petition

Mr Baker presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 78 persons -

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

We, the undersigned, hereby request that traffic control signals be installed as a matter of urgency at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Boas Avenue in Joondalup. This location is extremely hazardous due to the dual lane configuration of Grand Boulevard and the increased use of the intersection by motorists and pedestrians accessing the Central Business District, nearby Police Station, Law Courts, Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City, banks, retail outlets, professional suites and Government agencies.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 208.]

BELMONT AND KEWDALE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS - CLOSURE

Petition

Mr Ripper (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 478 persons -

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

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia urge you to keep both Kewdale Senior High School and Belmont Senior High School open with the current year 8 to 12 campus arrangement.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 209.]

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS - FUNDING

Petition

Mr Brown presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 17 persons -

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

We, the undersigned petitioners of Western Australia call on the State Government to make available funds to traditional youth organisations and groups such as the Girl Guides, Scouts and Sea Scouts.

We note the Government has made available between \$330 and \$500 per cadet per year for young people enrolled in the Government's cadet program. We believe that traditional youth organisations instill the same values of community service as those financially supported under the cadet program and hence call on the Government to provide a reasonable level of funding to such organisations.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 211.]

BATTERY CAGE SYSTEM OF EGG PRODUCTION

Petition

Mr Day (Minister for Police) presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 20 persons -

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

We, the undersigned petitioners strongly urge all Members to support the following recommendations:

- . that the battery cage system of egg production is inherently cruel;
- . that the citizens of any jurisdiction have the right to demand a standard of animal welfare consistent with their collective conscience;

. that the ACT Animal Welfare Amendment Act 1997 and the ACT Food Amendment Act 1997 are consistent with High Court precedents relating to Section 92 of the Australian Constitution and other exemptions under the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Commonwealth).

Inclusion of subsection 24A(1) and 24B of the ACT Food Amendment Act 1997 in the Schedules to the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Commonwealth) will allow the phase out of battery cages and of the sale of battery eggs to the citizens of the ACT to commence, as agreed by the ACT's elected Parliament.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Western Australian Government agree to inclusion of subsection 24A(1) and 24B of the ACT Food Amendment Act 1997 in the Schedules to the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Commonwealth) and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 212.]

STATUTORY AGRICULTURAL BODIES

Statement by Minister for Primary Industry

MR HOUSE (Stirling - Minister for Primary Industry) [2.20 pm]: Statutory agricultural bodies have traditionally been important for both the producers and the consumers of Western Australia. They include the Grain Pool, the Dairy Industry Authority, Golden Egg Farms, Western Potatoes, the Perth Market Authority, the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation and Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. While each is covered by legislation, differences occur in respect of powers, responsibilities and objectives; for example, production and product acquisition, pricing, promotion, distribution, domestic or export market orientation, and handling and storage.

It is generally accepted that statutory agricultural bodies have played a successful role in the development of Australian agriculture industries and that the marketplace is now moving on to where other structures and commercial arrangements are more suitable. In this regard, their "statutory nature" is becoming less relevant than issues that relate to a changing market environment and a preparedness and willingness to modernise. This is not to say that the past is wrong, only that the future may be different.

In preparing for this future in Western Australia, I have always seen the role of government as providing the framework for change. This will require issues to be addressed which will test the responsibilities and activities of the statutory bodies, including increased market competition, quality and coordination in the food chain, customer focus and the close scrutiny of the national competition policy process.

Over the last six years, a number of significant changes have already occurred. These include, for example, the balancing of commercial and producer representation on boards; deregulation of domestic markets for lamb and prescribed grains and of the export trade in value added prescribed grains; and entry to export markets and cooperative producer arrangements at Golden Egg Farms.

More recently, I have had discussions with board and industry representatives of the Meat Marketing Corporation, the Grain Pool and Co-operative Bulk Handling about possible changes to structures and activities. Change is an ongoing process which, when applied to the evolution of statutory agricultural boards, takes time, resources and management and needs impetus and direction from all stakeholders for their own benefit. Without doubt, more and more emphasis will be placed on national and international marketing competition.

The national competition policy reviews are creating industry uncertainty and have the potential to significantly impact on the change process. Our producers and the boards of statutory agricultural bodies need to be cognisant of these changing circumstances and take control of their own destiny. By necessity this will involve the examination and possible implementation of other structures and commercial arrangements in the future.

INTERNET WEB SITE, DotU

Statement by Minister for Youth

MR BOARD (Murdoch - Minister for Youth) [2.24 pm]: I inform the House about an Internet web site developed expressly for young people. This web site, known as DotU, was first launched by the Premier in November 1996. DotU is considered a leader in its field. It is the first across agency site for youth developed in Australia. Several other States are now looking at DotU as a benchmark for an online community.

Since I launched its second stage two months ago, the site has been averaging 40 000 hits per month - an astonishing result because so far there has been no formal marketing of the site. This is simply word of mouth popularity. DotU is designed to provide a "single window" approach for youth in our community seeking information from government and non-government agencies. It delivers information in a "youth friendly" language and is considered by users to be a "cool" site. Its purpose is to provide young people with easily accessed and relevant information on a wide range

of issues, such as training, employment, law, health, relationship matters, community issues, sport and recreation, education and money matters. The single window approach means young people can access all that information on just one site instead of going in and out of an assortment of agency and departmental home pages.

I had the pleasure of launching stage two of the site in March. This stage introduced upgraded graphics and new and expanded content. The site now also has its own domain and a simplified web site address, making it easier to access.

DotU now has online information from 20 agencies in Western Australia. There are continuous inquiries from other agencies wanting to be included - they realise the benefits of being on a site which speaks directly to young people about issues which are important to them. DotU has also established links to the home pages of several other departments and agencies, giving young people greater information gathering capability.

Information on youth suicide prevention has been added recently, and the site will soon be complemented by links to the Cadets WA home page. The Youth Advisory Council of Western Australia will also be joining DotU soon.

The current figure of 40 000 hits per month shows how many young people and those with an interest in youth are keen to access the information available on the site. It gives an insight into how Western Australia's youth are increasingly turning to the Internet as a tool to service their communication needs. Future marketing of the web site will ensure its ongoing development and cement DotU's success as an effective across-sector resource for youth.

I show members this mouse pad that has been developed to help promote the DotU site with youth across Western Australia. One of these mouse pads is located at the back of the Chamber for each member of Parliament, and I encourage all members to collect one, should they feel so inclined. I recommend the DotU web site to the House.

DIESEL BUSES

Suspension of Standing Orders

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [2.25 pm]: I move -

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable consideration forthwith of the following motion -

That the Premier be called upon to explain his apparent misleading of the House with regard to the Government's reasons for deciding to purchase 128 diesel fuel buses rather than gas fuelled buses.

This is a matter of some urgency. Western Australia is about to find itself committed to a 12 year contract valued at about \$320m, a very sizeable contract, given that our annual Budget is only about \$7b a year. This contract will commit us not only to a single manufacturer for 12 years but also, at least in the initial instance, to purchasing diesel buses, rather than gas fuelled buses. A plethora of material has been adduced to show that this decision does not stack up environmentally or economically. The Government has given reasons to justify the growing crescendo of complaints across the community about this extraordinarily stupid decision.

Initially the excuse was that diesel buses perform better in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, and that was very easily shown to be false, and that the comparisons were totally spurious based on old gas technology, not current gas technology. The next argument was the cost of the infrastructure; that it would be very expensive for infrastructure to be developed and that gas was much more expensive in Western Australia than in Sydney and Adelaide which have gone down the gas route. AlintaGas rapidly put paid to that and explained to the community that it had offered to provide the infrastructure free of charge. Indeed, the price it offered on gas was substantially the same as that being paid in Sydney. In the last week in which we sat, on Tuesday, 5 May, we asked the Premier to provide us with a further explanation, given that all those given by the Minister for Transport - "Darth Paver" - have been shown to be a sham.

The Premier gave us a new excuse that seemingly was plucked out of the air. The Premier stated -

We would much prefer to have an all-gas fleet but the manufacturers - the suppliers - cannot give us the guarantees that are required to run a fleet of buses.

The Premier continued -

I had a conversation with the major distributor of gas in this State which was very keen to have a new fleet of all gas-fired trucks and it could not get an engine manufacturer to give guarantees on the trucks because of the difficulties with technology. We are in a similar situation.

That was news to the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind members that the question before the Chair is whether to suspend standing orders.

The practice of the House is to allow members time to develop their argument. However, we must be careful that we do not debate the motion on which the member wishes to suspend standing orders in order to debate. I am sure the member for Armadale understands that. Having brought that to her attention, we can focus on the urgency to suspend standing orders.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I appreciate that, Mr Speaker. I took some time to point out that we are on the cusp of committing this State to a 12 year contract worth \$320m and to technology which is outdated and superseded. I was then outlining what it was that I was calling upon the Premier to explain. I need to make this case in order for the House to understand the need to suspend standing orders. The Premier had said that the Government would prefer an all-gas bus fleet, but the manufacturers and suppliers could not provide the Government with the guarantees that are required to run such a fleet. He then discussed a private conversation with a gas distributor who was in a similar situation. The Opposition was surprised at this, as the issue had not been raised before.

The Opposition contacted various tenderers. We asked Scania Australia Pty Ltd whether it had difficulty in providing a warranty. Scania advised the Opposition that its buses with compressed natural gas engines came with the same warranty as its diesel buses and in any event it understood that the preference was for an all-in contract involving funding, fleet management and supply. Therefore, the question of a warranty was not relevant. Scania advised that there was no warranty distinction between its gas buses and diesel fuel buses. Likewise, Renault was completely astounded at the Premier's suggestion. A letter from Renault states that it offers the same five year warranty for gas buses and diesel buses. Renault stated that the assertions by both the Minister for Transport and the Premier were clearly not true and it wanted to bring this to our attention as it believed that the awarding of the tender exclusively to Mercedes Benz had no basis in logic or commerciality for the Western Australian people.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Armadale has had seven minutes in which to develop her argument for the motion to suspend standing orders. If the member has finished her argument as to why standing orders should be suspended, perhaps she will take her seat and we can make a decision.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I will take a few minutes to wrap up my argument. The Government is about to commit the State to one of the largest contracts that has been entered into during the life of this Government. A great deal of community concern, and now, seemingly, a great deal of business concern exists about this contract. It is also a contract about which the Premier has made certain statements justifying the Government's decision, yet here we have clear evidence that the assertions made -

Mr Court: Why not move an MPI?

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Opposition has given notice of an MPI dealing with another area that the Government has messed up. It is difficult to cover all the issues we need to raise regarding the Government's incompetence.

The Opposition is seeking to give the Premier an opportunity to respond to the serious concerns that have been raised. The Premier has made statements in this House justifying the \$320m contract. However, on the basis of the documents that have been detailed in this House, those explanations have no currency whatsoever and they have misled the House. This is a very serious matter and members on this side want to give the Premier the opportunity to show us why the statements were correct and to allay community concern about this contract. Unfortunately, it appears that we will not be able to give the Premier the opportunity to clear his name in this matter and to put to rest the grave concerns that the people of Western Australia have about "WA Stink" - the decision to purchase these buses.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [2.36 pm]: The Government does not support this motion to suspend standing orders. What a pathetic start to the week by the Opposition.

Dr Gallop: So, this is open and accountable government, is it?

Mr BARNETT: I listened to the member for Armadale and she did not make a case. My record as Leader of the House demonstrates that on many occasions I have been willing to agree to suspend standing orders for a limited debate. I do that if there is a basis for doing so; for example, in response to a crisis in the community that must be dealt with as a matter of urgency, or if a strong case is put about a member of Parliament either deliberately or inadvertently misleading the House. There are other opportunities to raise this issue. This is a general debate about the merits or otherwise of diesel and gas-fired buses. That is the only point the member raised in her contribution. It is an appropriate issue for the House to discuss and one about which the community has a high level of interest and concern. However, there are opportunities in this Parliament for members to ask questions of the Premier, the Minister representing the Minister for Transport, the Minister for the Environment or me as Minister for Energy. If this issue were of such urgency or moment, members opposite could have addressed it rather than the health issue in this afternoon's MPI.

Ms MacTiernan: We could have raised a matter of privilege.

Mr BARNETT: This is not a matter of privilege; no substantive case has been put. The member for Armadale referred to *Hansard* and the Premier's response as follows -

I had a conversation with the major distributor of gas in this State which was very keen to have a new fleet of all gas-fired trucks and it could not get an engine manufacturer to give it guarantees on the trucks because of the difficulties with technology. We are in a similar situation.

That is the extent of it. The Premier referred to the dealings of a private contractor in respect of trucks and made the comment, "We are in a similar situation." That is hardly a definitive statement, nor does it constitute misleading Parliament.

The member for Armadale has not put up a substantive case. As I demonstrated, I am prepared to agree to suspend standing orders when a decent case is put up, but when the Premier says, "We are in a similar situation," that is a very vague, general comment. There is no basis for putting to the test whether the Parliament has been misled. We will not support such trivial attempts to interrupt the passage of the business of this House.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [2.41 pm]: This matter is of the utmost importance. For the Premier of this State to come in here and deliberately mislead the House on an issue as important as a \$300m contract for gas buses -

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr BARNETT: I ask that the member withdraw that remark. To suggest that the Premier in any way deliberately misled the House is totally inappropriate. The Premier's sole comment was that we are in a similar position.

The SPEAKER: Order! The suspension of standing orders is being sought to deal with a motion that talks about the apparent misleading of the House; it is not about the deliberate misleading of the House. I ask that the member withdraw that comment.

Mr KOBELKE: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr KOBELKE: I jumped to a conclusion which I cannot talk about in this House because if the Premier had made a genuine mistake, why is he not willing to get up and defend himself? Why is he running for cover? It is great to see the Leader of the House defending the Premier on this occasion instead of undermining him.

Dr Gallop: It is unusual.

Mr KOBELKE: Very unusual, but it does not change the facts of the matter. The Leader of the House has indicated that it is appropriate to suspend standing orders, as we have moved, when there is a case of misleading the House to be answered. In the limited time available to the member for Armadale she clearly set out the case for the suspension of standing orders.

When the Leader of the House quoted the Premier, he was very selective. He left out the Premier's saying, "We would much prefer to have an all-gas fleet but the manufacturers - the suppliers - cannot give us the guarantees that are required to run a fleet of buses." That is what the Premier said. On the face of it the Premier has clearly misled the House because the Opposition and the Government have since had ample evidence from major bus suppliers that they will give all the warranties we require to bring the standard of gas engines up to that comparable to diesel, yet the Premier on this most important issue has very clearly told this House that the matter of warranties or guarantees has precluded his Government from that option. The Premier by his own words has told us something that is not true. Therefore, it is appropriate to suspend standing orders to allow the Premier to give to this House some reasonable explanation for the decision. The fact that he is running for cover, as he does time after time, shows that he is not willing to answer the allegation.

As for the suggestion by the Leader of the House that we could ask questions of the Premier, every time this Premier is asked to answer a difficult question about his stewardship of this State, he refuses to answer. His standard statements are, "Ask me in question time"; "put it on the Notice Paper"; "bring forward a motion"; "I will answer it later." It is like call back radio when people say, "Give us your number and we will get back to you" and they do not. This Premier takes his money under false pretences because he cannot answer questions relating to his areas of ministerial responsibility. For that reason we should suspend standing orders.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will repeat myself. The question before the House is that we suspend standing orders. The member has had more than enough time to speak to that. He might have touched on it but I have found it difficult to remember when.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.44 pm]: I prefer the past two months when I was on the same side as the member who has just spoken.

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: I came into this House today expecting us to debate health as a matter of public importance.

Dr Gallop: We will.

Mr COURT: The health matter is of such importance to the Leader of the Opposition that he wants to debate my misleading the House on gas buses! Let us get things straight: Opposition members have correctly read *Hansard*. The issue is simple, and the opposition spokesperson for transport knows the situation. First, the manufacturers will not give warranties on the Western Australian gas -

Ms MacTiernan: That is not true!

Mr COURT: Hang on. It will not give warranties on the Western Australian gas product which has been promoted, and which this Government has been using extensively. Second, the manufacturer will give a warranty on its original-equipment gas buses, but not give a guarantee on reliability. It is one thing to have a warranty, but it would be irresponsible for the Government to use buses without a guarantee on reliability. We need a guarantee in writing from the manufacturer that the buses will be as reliable as the other option available to us.

The other point, which the member for Armadale conveniently left out of her contribution, was that the Government deliberately signed a contract which enables it to purchase any form of fuel, be it gas, diesel or whatever is developed in the future. I have made it clear that the Government would much prefer to have an all- gas fleet. However, there is a difficulty if a commitment cannot be given on reliability. A warranty is one thing, but, as we learnt during the trials, reliability problems cost us the money. A bus must be in service. We experienced problems with bus downtime during the trial, which is acceptable during a research and development trial. However, when the manufacturer provides a commitment on the reliability of gas buses to match that of diesel buses, we will make a decision about gas buses. I suggest that the member get her facts right before coming in here with a time wasting stunt.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Mr Brown	Mr Kobelke	Mr McGowan	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Ms MacTiernan	Ms McHale	Mr Thomas
Dr Edwards	Mr Marlborough	Mr Riebeling	Ms Warnock
Dr Gallop	Mr McGinty	Mr Ripper	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Grill			

Noes (35)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Cowan	Mr Marshall	Mr Shave
Mr Baker	Mr Day	Mr Masters	Mr Sweetman
Mr Barnett	Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Dr Hames	Mr Minson	Mr Tubby
Mr Bloffwitch	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Mr Board	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Johnson	Mrs Parker	Mr Wiese
Dr Constable	Mr Kierath	Mr Pental	
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)

Question thus negatived.

[Questions without notice taken.]

PUBLIC HOSPITAL CRISIS

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

That this House express its gravest concern that the crisis in Western Australia's public hospitals has now -

- (a) caused hospital, doctors' and nurses' morale to plummet;

- (b) seen Western Australians die while waiting for surgery; and
- (c) caused enormous anxiety and pain among the sick and injured.

As a first step in rebuilding the State's public hospitals, the House calls upon the State Government to immediately allocate at least the \$24.5m budget surplus to hospitals to enable nurses to be paid an appropriate salary and to begin a waiting list reduction strategy.

And further calls on the Federal Government to utilise part of its \$2.68b budget surplus to provide additional funding to the public hospital system.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.27 pm]: I move the motion.

We should begin any discussion of the public hospital and health system in Western Australia by pointing to a couple of facts. First, as the Opposition said at the time, the 1997-98 Budget brought down in this Parliament last year was inadequate to meet the demands placed on the public hospital system, just as earlier Budgets of this coalition Government were inadequate.

Despite the injection of funds made last year, our public hospitals are still short of money and are being asked to cut expenditure so that the bottom line can be met this year. The Opposition has been talking to people working in our public hospitals here and outside Perth. They are all under the hammer as a result of the 1997-98 budget allocation. They do not have sufficient money to meet the demands made on them and therefore are being asked to cut expenditure for the rest of this year. That means their capacity to do the job they must do on behalf of the people of Western Australia has been significantly reduced. It does not matter how the Government tries to redefine the situation by asking how it can be sure a surplus of funds will eventuate in the Budget when the financial year has not yet ended. It is perfectly easy. If an ordinary household does not have enough money to meet its budget, its members will starve for a week or two. After the second week, it might meet the budget, but it will have starved in the meantime. That is precisely the situation in our public hospitals today.

As a result, our waiting lists are ballooning; they are now as high as 16 000 patients. Is this the Premier's social dividend? He promised at the last election, only about 18 months ago, to halve the waiting lists. In fact, they have increased by more than 5 000 since that election. As a result of the budget shortfall, consistent underfunding of our hospital system and its inability to meet demand, the waiting lists have blown out to 16 000 patients. We must remind ourselves that that blowout affects real people with real needs and real interests. They are suffering as a result of the policies of not only this State Government but also the Federal Government.

What is particularly galling about this hospital crisis is the fact that the Government of Western Australia will not accept any responsibility for what has occurred. It always excuses the situation by blaming someone else. This Government is very good on excuses but very poor on solutions. Despite the fact that since this Government has been in power it has collected over \$1.6b in extra revenue, it has allowed the public hospital system of this State to decay and deteriorate.

This Government does not care about the public hospital system. This Government is prejudiced against the public hospital system, as indicated by its desire to bring private managers into that system. That has occurred in Joondalup and Mandurah, and the Government is now planning to do that in Armadale.

The reason that we have this crisis is that we have a Liberal Government in Canberra and a Liberal Government in Western Australia. Politics is full of ironies. An interesting irony can be found in the comments that were made on 4 February 1993 by a certain Liberal candidate at that time, who said -

"To cause that degree of suffering to a member of this community by lack of funding and Government bad management, defeats my powers of expression," . . .

"When we live in a society which has the wealth to be able to provide a decent public health system and then through stupid adherence to ideology not provide a proper health system, is frightening," . . .

Indeed it is frightening, member for Albany and now Minister for Health, because what the member for Albany said in 1993 is exactly the situation that we find in Western Australia in 1998.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members of the gallery, I want you to listen to the debate. You are not permitted to interfere in any way with the running of this House. I ask you to honour that longstanding tradition.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to throw anyone out, but rest assured I will if I have to.

Dr GALLOP: Since this Government has been in office, our state public hospital system has been reorganised, the administrative system has undergone two major overhauls, the staff have been downsized radically, contracting out and privatisation policies have been applied in the metropolitan area, the system has been underfunded, and a serious crisis has developed over the past 18 months with regard to the nursing profession, yet this Government has the gall to blame someone else for those problems in our public hospital system!

This Government always blames someone else. It never accepts responsibility for our state public hospitals, which under our Constitution it has been given the duty to protect and promote. The irony of this dispute with the nurses is that after the state election, when the crisis first emerged and it was clear that the Government would not honour the promises that it had made during the election campaign, what did it blame? It blamed the shortage of nurses for the problem that it faced in meeting the demands upon the system. The Opposition raised in this Parliament issues connected with the closure of wards in hospitals, in particular Osborne Park Hospital, and the non-opening of a new ward at Fremantle Hospital. The Government knew about the shortage of nurses in Western Australia 18 months ago, yet what did it do? It simply used that as an excuse, and it did nothing to provide a solution to that problem in Western Australia. The Government has conducted over 12 months of negotiations to try to deal with the problem of wages and conditions.

When it became clear to the Government that it had a problem with its argument about the shortage of nurses, because that was linked directly to the clear need to increase nurses' wages and conditions, the Government blamed the Commonwealth for the problems that were being experienced in Western Australia. The Opposition has said many times that the Commonwealth should increase its funding to the States, as a matter of principle under our federal system, and also as a matter of clear pragmatics with regard to the crisis in our public hospital system. However, we do not accept that the people of Western Australia should experience pain and suffering now in order for the Government to prove its point against the Commonwealth.

This Government has played politics, and has failed miserably. The only test that one can use to measure the success of the State Government's political campaign against the Commonwealth is whether it won or lost. The commonwealth Budget was handed down last week, and clearly this Government lost, because no increase in funding came through from the Federal Government for our state hospital budget.

This Government has blamed the shortage of nurses, it has blamed the Commonwealth and it has made excuses, but it has failed to come up with solutions. It has come up with no solution to the nurse shortage. In fact, the negotiations with the nurses have been prolonged because the Government knows that nurses will not accept its ideology, just as teachers will not accept its ideology and the Police Force will not accept its ideology on industrial relations. It is absolutely clear that the nurses of this State will not accept the Premier's industrial relations ideology with regard to the decentralisation of wage agreements in this State. The Premier should understand and come to terms with the fact that the workers of this State will not be divided and ruled, as the Premier is seeking to do, and that he will not get away with that when it comes to the nursing profession.

The Government has failed to carry out a successful strategy to improve the situation. All it has done is make excuses for the problems that face our public hospital system. It is clear that the real problem that faces our public hospital system is the unfortunate combination of a Liberal Government in Canberra and a Liberal Government in Western Australia. Those Governments are prejudiced against public health and the public hospital system. They are not interested in solutions. They are interested only in excuses. As a result, morale in our hospital system is at a record low, and the doctors and nurses of this State are engaged in continual conflict with the Government. Western Australian citizens on elective surgery waiting lists have died before they have been able to receive that surgery, yet the Premier has the gall to say that no person who requires urgent treatment is denied treatment in this system. The Premier does not understand how elective surgery waiting lists work, nor does he understand the stresses and strains that are being placed upon citizens in this State, particularly the elderly, as a result of the strategies that he has pursued, which are to deliberately ration health in this State so that he can meet his budget bottom line.

We stand by our claim that the Premier is deliberately rationing funds to the public health system, and that as far as the Premier is concerned, prolonging the nurses' dispute is no problem at all because he is saving dollars on the bottom line; just as the Metropolitan Health Services Board sent memos to all hospitals telling them to cut costs because the way the budget is going, it does not have enough money. As a result, our once great public hospital system is on its knees. The two solutions are a commitment from the State Government and a clear commitment from

the Federal Government. The people of Australia and the people of Western Australia do not understand the Premier's mentality that a budget surplus is a wonderful thing, because they know that that surplus is built upon the pain and suffering of citizens in this nation and this State. A surplus is not worth having if that is its basis.

We believe that through a proper reorganisation of the state Budget, the Premier can meet the demands that are being made by nurses upon our system, and thereby halt the movement of nurses from Western Australia to other States and start to build back into the system some morale. We need support for and commitment to our public hospital system, and we need a few dollars put into our public hospital system, so that we can turn the corner and start to tackle the waiting list problem rather than see it balloon, as it has in recent years.

The Opposition takes this crisis very seriously. We have advocated on behalf of public hospitals ever since this Government came to power. We have been distressed about the changes to the system, the experienced staff lost to the system and the scarce Health dollars transferred from the public system to the profits of big corporations that now run Joondalup and Mandurah hospitals. Those scarce Health dollars go to the shareholders in the private systems, and there has been no benefit for the people of Western Australia as a result. We will continue to advocate in this Parliament on behalf of the nurses of this State who deserve a fair go. However, it is not a question of nurses' deserving a fair go. It is a question of the reality of public hospitals. Unless we have skilled nurses and attract them to the system it cannot work as it needs to work in our society. Therefore, if the system is to play its necessary role, it is essential that we pay nurses adequately compared to the salaries paid in other States.

Is it not ironic that 18 months ago the Government blamed the shortage of nurses for the crisis, but did nothing about it, and now we find the wages conflict that has resulted from the failure to address the issue is leading to disruption in hospitals today? The responsibility for that situation lies with the Government and the Minister for Health, because a serious effort has not been made to understand the mentality, the philosophy, and the commitment of the nurses to the public hospital system. No understanding has been shown of the differential that has now emerged between Western Australia and other States. That lack of understanding is underpinned by the bottom line thinking of this Government. I can see meetings going on in the Health Department: If we have a few disputes, and we prolong the nurses' dispute, that will save us a few dollars, and that \$70m shortfall in 1997-98 will become a balanced Budget at the end of the year! That is the mentality of this Government. It has displayed that mentality when playing politics with the Commonwealth Government over the Medicare agreement and we see the same mentality being displayed with the nurses. We should reverse that direction. We need money, support and commitment to our public health system, just as we need money, support and commitment to our nursing profession in Western Australia. Until we get that, this crisis will continue, and we will continue to come to this Parliament and advocate on behalf of the public hospital system.

MR McGINTY (Fremantle) [3.43 pm]: It is appropriate to debate this matter today, because no greater problem faces the Government today than the crisis in our public hospitals. Today we see the dimension of the crisis as it affects nurses in our public hospitals. No doubt nurses in our public hospitals are underpaid and will remain underpaid if all they receive is the 6 per cent increase offered by the Government. That is not the end result we seek to achieve.

Whatever criteria are used, one must consider the payments made to nurses in other States. Members may be surprised to learn about what has happened with nurses elsewhere in Australia. Recently in most other States, settlements have been made between State Governments - most being conservative - and the Australian Nursing Federation of the order of 10 to 12 per cent. In New South Wales the figure was 12 per cent; in Queensland 8.5 per cent; in Victoria 11 per cent; and South Australia recently offered 10 per cent to its nurses. In Western Australia, the Government is offering a miserly 6 per cent increase. Is it surprising that our nurses rejected that offer, given what has occurred in other States?

Another way to consider the situation is to refer to the starting salaries for nurses. This morning *The West Australian* took a simple look at the situation: In Western Australia, nurses' commencement salaries start at \$563, compared with \$612 in South Australia, \$646 in Victoria, \$589 in Queensland, and \$628 in New South Wales. Even with the Government's recent offer, nurses in Western Australia still commence work with a salary of less than \$600 when most other States pay well above that figure. Is it any surprise that nurses are angry? Is it surprising that nurses reject such a pathetic offer?

A simple look at the average of commencement salaries paid in other States indicates an immediate increase of at least 10 per cent. That is why nurses are insulted by and angry about what the Government is doing to them. A simple average of payments made in other States would give our nurses a starting salary of \$620 a week which is much more than the Government's offer. I do not suggest that should be the limit of the claim.

In country areas the major government occupational groups are police, nurses and teachers. Those people are the backbone of country communities, and it is fair for those people to make comparisons each with the other. A nurse

in Western Australia currently receives a salary of just over \$29 000 a year, and with the Government's offer that figure will increase to \$31 000. A teacher receives \$33 000 a year, and a probationary constable receives just under \$35 000 a year. Therefore, even with the Government's offer, nurses are left pathetically short in any comparison with nurses elsewhere, with the percentage increase elsewhere, or with other relevant government occupational groups.

We cannot sustain this pathetic 6 per cent offer the Minister put to the nurses and expect any respect or positive response. Nurses in this State have been too patient for too long. The matter is now coming to a head, and it should be brought to a head in the interests of everyone in this State. We call on the Premier and the Minister for Health to provide the funds to properly pay our nurses. We do not want an underpaid, unhappy and overworked nursing work force in our public hospitals.

Another area of the health crisis calls for urgent attention. As the Leader of the Opposition said, currently a record number of 16 000 people are on waiting lists for surgery in public hospitals in Western Australia, and the figure would be much higher if we took account of non-teaching hospitals. Only 18 months ago the Premier promised to halve the waiting lists within two years. That two years is almost up, and during that time the waiting lists have increased from 12 000 to 16 000. The Premier made that promise knowing that he could not fulfil it, to con people; and now seemingly he does not care. He is not prepared to place funding where it is necessary to address the problem. He went beyond the waiting list question and promised that every person on the waiting list for necessary surgery would be treated within an appropriate time. We know for urgent patients that within one month they will have operations in a public hospital. Almost one patient in five in the urgent category is not dealt with within the prescribed time. That is in breach of the promises made by the Premier and the Minister for Health. In the semi-urgent category, 22 per cent of patients wait more than 90 days and, most significantly, of the 14 500 patients with routine conditions, more than one in three patients wait more than the prescribed 12 months. The Premier promised that those people would be dealt with within a certain time, but he has failed those people and he has broken his promise. The Premier needs to appreciate this problem has a very human dimension. However, the Premier seems to be oblivious to that aspect. I will provide some examples of that shortly.

To give a perspective broader than the peculiarly Western Australian one, in relation to waiting lists the Premier's performance is worse than that of any State in the Commonwealth. With 9 per cent of the population, Western Australia has 13 per cent of people on waiting lists throughout Australia. The federal Minister for Health, Michael Wooldridge, said a few months ago that throughout Australia 120 000 people were on waiting lists, and of that number 16 000 were in Western Australia. A little simple arithmetic indicates that, according to the national average, people on waiting lists in Western Australia are waiting 45 per cent longer than they should be. The Premier cannot blithely blame the Commonwealth, the nurses, the weather or whatever. This is a problem of the Premier's creation because he has not provided the funding to enable the problem to be dealt with adequately in Western Australia.

The same problem exists in respect of dental care. Over the past nine months we have seen a mushrooming of the number of patients on dental care waiting lists. That is a state funding issue. The Premier is condemning those people to rotting teeth because he will not provide the funds to ensure a basic level of dental care for battlers. I am sure that the Minister for Health and the Premier are blithely unaware of the pain they are inflicting on many people in Western Australia and, in particular, on the 16 000 people on the waiting list.

This morning's newspaper showed Eric Brown sitting in his chair with his walking frame and walking stick. He had his surgery at Fremantle Hospital cancelled in February and again last Friday, when the hospital management threatened to call in security guards to remove him from the premises because he demanded the surgery that would give him back his life. He needs two hip replacements, a knee replacement and a steel plate removed from his leg. He is a strong and independent man who is enormously frustrated, angry and devastated by the Government's inability to honour its promise to give him back his life. He is in the gallery and he is angry with the Premier in particular. When will the Premier give Mr Brown back his life by providing the funding required for him to have the operation that he needs? I am sure that the nurses in the gallery today could provide dozens of examples of a similar nature.

Two people living in an outer suburb of Perth - husband and wife, George and Elizabeth - are worried beyond their wits. George had bowel cancer and an operation to remove it in August 1996. More polyps were removed in November 1997 but this year more polyps have been discovered in his stomach. He needs an endoscopy and a biopsy to determine whether the cancer has returned. Can he get an appointment for that procedure to determine whether he has cancer? Even though he has already had an operation for cancer, he cannot get a date on which he will undergo that procedure in Joondalup Hospital. This Government has failed him and he is angry. This situation is also affecting his wife, Elizabeth. She has a blockage of the bowel that has caused her to suffer diarrhoea constantly for the past five months. She has had to visit the toilet on average 10 times a day each and every day over the past five months, yet she cannot be given a date for surgery on her large colon that will clear the blockage and enable her to lead a normal life. The Premier is totally oblivious of the pain and suffering he is inflicting on the people of

Western Australia. This woman has been told she has a very long wait before she will be treated. She expects it will be next year if she is lucky. That is completely unacceptable.

I return to the question of the nurses. The Budget includes funds for a 6 per cent pay increase for nurses. What about the other half of the pay increase to which they are entitled? The Minister for Health has made impassioned pleas. I heard him on television last week saying that the Federal Government was sitting on a surplus and asking why it did not return those funds to the people of Australia to address the crisis in our hospitals. Why does this Minister not do as he preaches and apply this Government's surplus to the State's hospitals? The Budget estimates \$25.4m of unallocated funds that could be used to stop this dispute with the nurses and ensure that they are properly paid tomorrow. That would get everyone back to work and would trigger a return to normalcy in our health system. The Minister should not tell the Federal Government what to do when he is not prepared to do the same himself. The money is sitting there. Next year's projected surplus is \$28m, the following year it is \$32m and the year after it is \$62m. The Minister should not tell the House that the Government will be required to find the money every year - there are projected surpluses for the next four years.

Mr Prince: Do you mean a surplus in the Health budget?

Mr McGINTY: No, it is a surplus in the state Budget. If the Minister had any sense of urgency in respect of this issue he would ensure that that money was allocated without further delay to the public hospital system to enable the nurses to be properly paid and to put together a waiting list reduction strategy. The Government does not have a plan. The waiting list has increased by 4 000 people since the state election. What is the Government doing? The Opposition asked that question of the Premier the other day. He said he had no idea what was happening and was unable to specify what was being done in our public hospitals to mount an assault on waiting lists.

I have heard the Premier try to weasel his way out of the budgetary situation and to explain the surplus. He said that it is simply an estimate. Is not everything in the Budget an estimate? The Government has an estimated \$24.5m that it does not need. Part of that could be applied immediately to a salary package for the nurses and the balance could be applied to a waiting list reduction strategy. If the Government did that we would have a happy nursing work force returning to work and reducing the number of people on the waiting list for surgery.

The Premier and the Minister for Health should get a sense of urgency about this matter. The public has it, as do the nurses. They demand action. They do not want to hear the Premier's rhetoric: They want the situation fixed.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [3.56 pm]: The last two speakers, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, must have been rather tongue in cheek when they said there should be a larger increase for nurses, because both members have also been in government.

Dr Gallop: Deal with the issues facing the people of Western Australia. You always blame someone else and make excuses. Provide a solution!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier listened when the Leader of the Opposition made his contribution and I ask him to do the same.

Mr COURT: I sat in silence -

Dr Gallop interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition, as the leader of the party, is allowed a certain leeway. However, I assure him that if he continues to interject after I have asked him not to, that leeway will cease.

Mr COURT: It is easy for the Leader of the Opposition to say that the Government should provide more money from here or there. What happened to the increases in salaries for nurses when members opposite were Ministers? There were very small increases.

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr COURT: Let us deal with the facts. I could throw about a few facts -

Dr Gallop: What about a few solutions? You never accept responsibility for anything.

Mr COURT: I do accept responsibility. The 10 per cent pay increase did contain an element of catch up. The Government said at that time that the rates not only for nurses but also for teachers had fallen behind what they should be. I find it galling to hear such comments from members opposite who were Ministers in a Government which had responsibility for making these decisions, yet did not pay the wage increases. This Government has introduced a policy of regular pay increases.

Mr Brown: We are still behind the other States.

Dr Gallop: You're pathetic!

Mr COURT: Members opposite can criticise us, but they should look at their own record.

Members opposite then said that we have a budget surplus of \$24m and people are suffering in pain, so we should spend it. I am mighty proud of the fact that we have a budget surplus, and have not lost \$1.5b, as was experienced under the previous Labor Government.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Gallop interjected.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to be tolerant. I do not want to have people in the Public Gallery removed because I think they are interested in this debate. However, I remind them again that they must not interfere with this Chamber in any way. Clapping is certainly a distraction, and I ask that it cease.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition can play to the gallery, but I now outline what has been achieved: We have started granting regular pay increases and, at the same time, we have a balanced Budget. We have been able to reduce debt with \$400m less paid in interest payments this year. Members opposite were not able to grant pay increases, and they put this State into appalling debt! The fact we have reduced debt and provided pay increases at the same time is something of which we are mighty proud.

Mr Brown: You're a joke!

Mr COURT: If this Government is a joke for achieving that result, I do not know the words to describe the performance of members opposite in government.

This country has a good health service, although it could always be improved and there are good, professional people working in the health service. However, there is an expectation within the community now which cannot be met.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: The record of members opposite on wage increases was zilch.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Kobelke interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I formally call to order the member for Nollamara for the first time.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I formally call to order the member for Nollamara for the second time.

Mr COURT: I sat in silence and listened to this debate, which would improve if both sides were allowed to have their say.

An expectation was built up by the former Prime Minister, Paul Keating, and the then Health Minister, who said -

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr COURT: The expectation is that everyone in the community regardless of their level of income has immediate access to elective surgery at no cost. That is the expectation in the community. Paul Keating said, "It doesn't matter whether you earn \$200 000 a year; you do not need to join a private health insurance scheme." People who cannot afford health care should have immediate access to health care. When we allow a system to develop with less than 30 per cent of the population taking out private health insurance - with many in that 30 per cent believing their product is a dud as they still must pay additional fees when entering hospital - some policy issues need to be addressed. We will have arguments of this kind year in and year out as long as the community expectation is that wealthy people can have immediate elective surgery at no cost. However, it will not be delivered.

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: Do members opposite want me to make a contribution or not?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Armadale will come to order.

Dr Turnbull interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Collie will come to order.

Mr COURT: The Health budget for the coming financial year is \$1.64b, and we have increased Health funding by more than \$250m in the past three years. Wages comprise 66 per cent of that Health budget. As I mentioned earlier, the last wage increase was 10 per cent and we are now proposing in our negotiations a 6 per cent increase, half of which we have started to pay. This issue should be resolved around the negotiating timetable -

Mr Brown: Why not get back there and put an offer on the table!

Mr COURT: If the member wants detail on how negotiations are taking place, I am prepared to spell that out.

The figures of members opposite vary. Some days they say put in \$24m, some days, \$140m, and other days, \$200m. They say, "Just find that money." The Budget is basically balanced and we need to find the revenue to cover expenditure. Our operating statement, above the line, has operating surplus -

Mr McGinty interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Fremantle will come to order.

Mr COURT: The member for Fremantle did not mention - he conveniently ignored it - that in our budget estimates, we use the surplus to meet our debt repayment schedules.

Mr McGinty: What about saving a few people's lives!

Mr COURT: Yes. Every time we reduce debt repayments, we cut our interest bill and have more money to spend on health.

Mr Brown: What about social benefits to people in pain? You do not understand the concept?

Mr COURT: Saving \$400m across government in interest payments to be directed to Health and Education, with increased allocations of \$90m and the like, is a damned sight better than debt blowing out to nearly \$1b a year as occurred under the previous Labor Government! If I were a member opposite, I would be ashamed to talk about spending money here and there.

Dr Gallop: I am on this side and I am not ashamed! I am proud to be on the Labor side and support public hospitals!

Mr COURT: Of course the Leader of the Opposition is not ashamed - he did not give a damn when he was blowing that money.

Finally, we have before us a five-year funding proposal from the Federal Government, which provides half the funding for the delivery of our health services and provides the policy settings. We do not agree with the policy settings or that the proposed funding is adequate. We will not accept a Medicare agreement by which we will go backwards -

Mr Brown: Will you have an advertising campaign?

Mr COURT: At least we are prepared to criticise something we see as unfair. I never heard members opposite having a go at Paul Keating when they did not get a good deal - they fell over all the time. We will not give up. We will continue to fight for a better funding deal from the Federal Government.

Returning to the point I made at the beginning of this speech: Members opposite must have had tongues in cheeks when speaking about spending more money, with their track record of being unprepared to spend more money on wages.

MR PENDAL (South Perth) [4.09 pm]: As I understand it, the motion is essentially about the level of nurses' salaries and, among other important things, the waiting list for people seeking elective and other surgery in this State. On the face of it I can understand many of the arguments of the Premier about the need to apply proper discipline to public finances. What I cannot reconcile is that on the one hand the Minister for Health says on television, "We simply cannot afford to pay the nurses more; we genuinely do not have the money" while on the other hand, in the same Budget, the Government makes provision for \$100m for the construction of a Perth convention centre. I am saying that the State does have the resources. What the Government does not have is the commitment and the sense

of priorities that would allow it to make that sort of decision. It is not only the allocation of \$100m to the convention centre that I do not understand. I do not understand, for example, why the Government continues to maintain at least a \$50m investment in picture theatres, no less, in Joondalup, in the northern suburbs of this State, while at the same time it is not able to cut the elective surgery waiting lists, nor pay the nurses a just wage.

In the course of the four years in which the Government has been in office, it has done a number of commendable things. For example, the Government has taken itself out of those activities that is not appropriate for Governments. It has privatised the gas pipeline for an enormous return to the State. It has privatised the R & I Bank - now BankWest - resulting in an enormous benefit to the State. The Government's own philosophy is that one recedes out of those things that a coalition or Liberal Government should not be part of, in order that one is able to concentrate on that part of the public estate in which one should be involved. The two areas that constantly come back to me as a member of Parliament that are neglected by the Government are, firstly, the Health budget, which is the subject of the discussion today, and, secondly, the resources put at our disposal to fight suburban crime. It is as big a problem in your electorate of Geraldton, Mr Deputy Speaker, as it is in mine in South Perth. That is what I cannot understand. Again, I could understand if the Minister for Health said on television, as he has said, "We cannot afford a dollar more for the nurses. Full stop" if there were no hidden resources - if there was no hidden treasure. I could accept what is being said by the Minister for Health and the Premier. However, I cannot accept the argument that there is nothing more to pay the nurses or to cut the waiting list for elective surgery when I know, for example, that there is a budget surplus, by anyone's estimate, of about \$27m; in fact, in some parts of the budget papers, it seems that it is just under \$300m. The Government must return to a real sense of priority and say, "We will not spend \$100m on a convention centre, or engage in unnecessary public spending. Instead, we will do what Governments are elected to do and provide proper health services." I support the motion.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Health) [4.14 pm]: First, I will comment on the subject of Mr Brown, who I understand is in the Speaker's Gallery, as the member for Fremantle said. Mrs Brown contacted my office a little while ago and spoke to one of my officers - a permanent public servant, not a term of government employee, who does a great job. There must have been some misunderstanding about that because I understand from the officer that it was information that was conveyed to my office. They were not seeking some form of intervention or assistance from me. Clearly, that is not the substance of what was reported in the newspaper. Consequently, I have made some inquiries today. Mr Brown is on a waiting list for Mr Forward, an orthopaedic surgeon at Fremantle Hospital. It is anticipated that his procedure will be done in the next few weeks. Mr Forward's list is usually undertaken quite quickly. The member for Fremantle has raised a number of cases with me, as have other members, particularly the member for Girrawheen, and I have always acted in relation to each of them, on its merits, as well as I could. I will do the same for Mr Brown and for anybody else who is brought to my attention in that sense.

Mr Carpenter: You cannot run the system that way.

Mr PRINCE: I know I cannot and I make no apology for intervening when members responsibly raise with me individual cases which they consider are not being dealt with as they should be within the system. That is a reasonable thing for any Minister to do in any position, particularly in Health.

On the matter of the adequacy of the Health budget, essentially health is about employing people. One fixes people's health problems by employing the experts who can do it - the doctors, the nurses and all the other therapists - and providing the support that enables them to do their job. Health is also about equipment, drugs and many other things, but it is essentially about employing good people who can do the job. In order to deal with the huge and increasing numbers of people who want to come into the public hospitals, one needs to be able to employ more people, for which one needs more money.

Mr Pandal: Does it gall you to see \$100m being spent on a convention centre at the same time as your budget is being cut?

Mr PRINCE: I will deal with what I have within my budget in a moment. That \$100m is for capital works and it is taken from the sale of the pipeline, which was a capital asset sale; I have no quarrel with capital being used for capital works.

Mr Pandal: It is all public money.

Mr PRINCE: It is, but capital funds should never be used for recurrent expenditure.

Mr Pandal: You are shortchanging the public health system; that is the complaint.

Mr PRINCE: A few months after I became Minister just before Christmas 1995, the Government allocated an extra \$81m to the Health budget. In 1996-97 we had an extra \$64m; in 1997-98 an extra \$51m, and that is where we are now; and before Christmas last year, we allocated \$29m extra supplementation for wages and some other things. In

the past 24 months, as the Premier said, nearly \$250m has been allocated to Health over and above the budgeted amount. In the past three years, there has been a 15.5 per cent increase in the number of people coming into the public hospital system. It is not a flat line; it is not increasing at an average rate; it is trending upwards; it is more and more each day. We are not lonely because it is happening everywhere. I was talking to Dean Brown in South Australia a week ago and the numbers coming into his system are even greater in percentage terms than those coming into our system. The same thing is occurring in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. I make the point as strongly as I can that it is not something that is peculiar to Western Australia. We are talking about people who need health services. In this State this year some 360 000 people will have operations, and that is not counting the enormous number of people who attend outpatients or emergency departments who do not have an operation. One can talk down the health system and say that it is collapsing. It is actually providing top rate service to hundreds of thousands of Western Australians every year.

Dr Gallop: Why are you privatising it then, if that is the case?

Mr PRINCE: Those are the facts and it is a significant tribute to the people in it, that they provide that sort of quality treatment to so many people.

Dr Gallop: Why are you privatising it?

Mr PRINCE: It is not capable of providing what it should to all the people who want to come into it because there is simply not enough money to do it. Western Australia and all the other States are in exactly the same position.

Mr Brown: It is your responsibility to get it.

Mr PRINCE: It is.

Mr Brown: Well, get on with it.

Mr PRINCE: I have been.

Mr Brown: The lists are getting longer. Nurses are underpaid. Get on with it.

Mr PRINCE: An extra \$250m in the last two years has been provided since I have been Minister for Health. I, along with every other Minister for Health in the nation, all of whom are Liberals except for one in New South Wales, have asked the Federal Government, which has the money and the commitment to Medicare and which has the capacity to pay with a \$2.5b surplus of the people's money, to fix the problem.

I want to make a point on the Budget presented last week. On 19 December last year, Dr Wooldridge presented to me, and all other Health Ministers, a first and final "not negotiable" offer. This was the same thing to which the Prime Minister referred at the Premiers' meeting six to seven weeks ago. When the Federal Treasurer came down with the same provision last week, it was no surprise.

Dr Gallop: Does the Minister remember what he offered up after the last election that we lost and he says he wants back again? The Minister gives it up and then says he wants it back.

Mr PRINCE: The surplus that the Commonwealth now has in part has been paid for with the \$60m which we contributed last financial year, another \$60m this financial year and another \$30m committed next financial year. Those moneys have helped create the surplus and they should come back. I and every other Health Minister and the Premiers have said that.

Dr Gallop: Will the Minister explain the logic of why we need a surplus when we have people on waiting lists?

Mr PRINCE: Because we need to have money to pay the people who provide the service.

Dr Gallop: But you have the money and you are not using it. What sort of government is that?

Mr PRINCE: There is no money -

Dr Gallop: There is money. There is a surplus of \$2.6b.

Mr PRINCE: There is no money, no pot of treasure, in the words of the member for South Perth, sitting in health that is not being used.

Mr Pandal: I am not saying that it is sitting in health.

Mr PRINCE: I am telling you what the position is with my portfolio responsibility.

Several members interjected.

Mr PRINCE: I have never run away from this issue - not once, not ever.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Thomas: He is a member of Cabinet, he is responsible.

Mr PRINCE: With regard to the nurses, when I first became Minister for Health and rang Helen Attrill to introduce myself, she told me the nurses were taking industrial action on 8 January and I should have a nice Christmas!

Dr Gallop: I tell you what she did not do next. I bet she did not ring up your colleague, the member for Riverton, to take advice on how to deal with that situation.

Mr PRINCE: As a matter of fact I did not. However, ultimately and eventually, and in no small part due to the intervention of the Trades and Labor Council and the Australian Council of Trade Unions, that was resolved and the nurses received 10 per cent, which they were entitled to, and it has been paid. Towards the end of last year negotiations started again. Ms Attrill and some other members from the council sat down with the negotiating group from the government health industry. In December that was called off unilaterally. The union executive walked out of the talks three times. It knew what the Health budget is, how much money there is, and what can be paid. It also knew what the teachers received, which is the same amount. It also knows now what has been paid to the junior doctors, which is about the same. It knows what is on offer to senior doctors at the moment, which is about the same in percentage terms as the offer to the nurses, and yet there have been industrial campaigns and closures of beds. We have wound up in the Industrial Relations Commission. Commissioner J.J. O'Connor said the nurses cannot have one agreement because they are multiple employees. He made a number of other orders, which were taken on appeal! On appeal what was said before was overturned! Where are we now? What have we wound up with?

The lawyers for the Australian Nurses Federation, Dwyer Durack, said in writing on 5 May -

It will therefore be our submission at the hearing tomorrow -

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I order that that man in the Public Gallery be removed.

Mr PRINCE: To continue -

- that as there is no industrial action happening, threatened, impending or probable no order should be made by the Commission to direct industrial action to stop.

That occurred 14 days ago. Nine days later the council of the ANF decided on industrial action and, furthermore, a strike and rolling stoppages.

Dr Gallop: I know you are not keen on taking advice but can I give you a teensy weensy piece of advice? This sort of talk is not going to resolve this dispute. I think you have got to move on with it.

Mr PRINCE: What will resolve this dispute is the council of the ANF sitting down and negotiating because so far it has refused.

Mr Brown: Are you prepared to negotiate? Have you got more money to negotiate with?

Mr PRINCE: No, I have not, and the member knows that.

Mr Brown: No negotiation, no money. What a joke you are! How can you negotiate when there is no money?

Mr PRINCE: Six per cent without any changes and it can rise to 10 per cent with changes.

Mrs Roberts: What about a fair day's pay for a fair day's work?

Mr PRINCE: I am glad the member for Midland raised that. The current Western Australian rate for a nurse at entry level with university degree is \$563.80. Based on the offer that we have made the rate will be \$598.13. The South Australian current rate is \$556.65. With their offer it will be \$608.25. Victoria is \$568.60 and they are due for a 3 per cent increase on 1 July 1998. Queensland is \$572, due to increase to \$589.20 on 1 July 1998, if benchmarks are met. The New South Wales current rate is \$561.60, due to increase on 1 July to \$589.20. That is the situation right now.

Mr Brown: What about the maximum rates?

Mr PRINCE: I do not have them in front of me. I will get them.

Mrs Roberts: Don't they deserve more than you are offering them?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs Roberts: They deserve more but you haven't got the money in your Health budget. That is your argument.

Mr PRINCE: As I have said publicly on a number of occasions, if I had the money I would pay them. I do not have the money. I pay them what I have and they know that.

Mr Brown: How much would you pay if you had the money?

Mr Thomas: You must accept the responsibility.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Cockburn should let the Minister make his speech.

Mr Brown: How much would you pay them if you had the money?

Mr PRINCE: I would agree to what is fair and reasonable. I would also look at what is being paid elsewhere because I want to attract and retain nurses here. We only train half the nurses we employ, and that has always been the case. I particularly want to attract and retain nurses in country areas, especially remote areas where it is difficult to get nurses to go and stay. It depends entirely upon place to place in the country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Minister for Health directed his comments to the Chair and not to the interjectors he would get along better.

Mrs Roberts: Mr Speaker, he likes interjections.

Mr PRINCE: I thought I was doing all right, frankly.

Mr Brown: Is it 10 per cent, Minister?

Mr PRINCE: I would like to be able to pay them enough to retain them here and to attract others to come here. I would like to be able to pay whatever it is that that would take.

Mr Brown: How will you be able to negotiate if you don't know what is in their minds?

Mr PRINCE: The fact is that within the current Budget there is no ability to pay 15 per cent over two and a half years. That is an extra \$40m a year, and I do not have it.

Mrs Roberts: Is that extra on top of your 6 per cent?

Mr PRINCE: The new demand of 13 per cent over two years is exactly the same and the nurses know perfectly well that the money is not there. If we are to overcome this problem, there have to be significant changes so that the policy problems that we have with private health insurance are fixed and the policy and funding problems with the taxpayers' dollars that are sitting in Canberra are fixed.

Dr Gallop: That is easy. On 15 or 22 August vote for Kim Beazley. That will fix that one up.

Mr PRINCE: It is interesting that Kim Beazley, in his latest flyer to his electorate, quotes with approval things that I have said.

Mr Brown interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, allow the Minister to make his speech, rather than get into arguments across the Chamber.

Mr PRINCE: This is not a matter of party politics. This is the most serious public issue that exists. I agree entirely with what the Opposition said at the beginning.

Mr Marlborough: What is your opinion of the federal Minister for Health?

Mr PRINCE: I would rather not say.

This matter must be resolved across the whole of Australia, because it exists everywhere, with only minor variations. The member for Peel may care to look at some of the things that my ministerial colleague in Tasmania has said about the federal Minister.

It is not tenable to take this issue of nurses' pay to the point where patients are being harmed. A flyer put out by the Australian Nursing Federation about strike action states -

Normal night-duty activities will apply at ALL times. This of course means that nurses will ONLY be able to do normal night-duty activities. This means that ALL the normal activities undertaken during the day e.g.

showers, all non-urgent procedures, clinic activities, moving patients etc. will NOT be undertaken by nursing staff.

This dispute is about money, yet the ANF is urging nurses not to put patients first. That is deplorable, and the ANF should be censured for it. It is absolutely appalling that a union would take action of this nature against the sick. It is disgraceful that a union would behave like that. I will not countenance it, and I will speak against it publicly at every opportunity I get. This Government is and always has been prepared to sit down and negotiate. The union leaders know how much money is available, yet they have walked away from the negotiating table three times. I want to bring this matter to a resolution. I suggest that the Opposition, which may have some influence over the union leadership, persuade it to go back to the negotiating table and sort out the problem.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (19)

Mr Brown	Mr Grill	Mr McGowan	Mrs Roberts
Mr Carpenter	Mr Kobelke	Ms McHale	Mr Thomas
Dr Constable	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Pental	Ms Warnock
Dr Edwards	Mr Marlborough	Mr Riebeling	Mr Cunningham (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr Gallop	Mr McGinty	Mr Ripper	

Noes (31)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Day	Mr MacLean	Mr Sweetman
Mr Baker	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Marshall	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barnett	Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Tubby
Mr Barron-Sullivan	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Minson	Dr Turnbull
Mr Board	Mrs Holmes	Mr Nicholls	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Mr Wiese
Mr Court	Mr Johnson	Mr Prince	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Cowan	Mr Kierath	Mr Shave	

Pairs

Mr Graham	Mr McNee
Ms Anwyl	Mrs Parker

Question thus negatived.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 1)

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 2)

Second Reading - Cognate Debate

Resumed from 5 May.

MR McGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.36 pm]: I will make a few remarks about the current Indonesian crisis and its impact upon Western Australia and Western Australians. I will also outline the situation that existed in Jakarta last week and the ordeal that young Western Australians who were living in Jakarta had to endure because of the incompetence of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The reason that I know something about this matter is that my wife's brother and a number of his friends were caught in the middle of the events in Jakarta last week, and they have outlined to me what occurred. I also have documents, including faxes and emails, that were sent by our embassy in Jakarta, which illustrate that the embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade were far behind the pace. When I heard about what had happened, I was outraged and completely disappointed in the performance of the department, the embassy and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. These young people, who are all from Perth, had to endure life threatening situations, which I attribute to the performance of our embassy in Jakarta and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I will set the scene for a moment before I outline the events that took place. The Australian Embassy in Jakarta is the third largest Australian embassy in the world. The largest Australian embassy is in Washington, followed by the Australian High Commission in London and the embassy in Jakarta, and then the embassies in Beijing and Tokyo.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of staff employed at the embassy, but I believe that it runs to a couple of hundred. It is a large complex. The Australian Embassy sends information to expatriates living in Jakarta by way of facsimile and email. It has also set up a web site, and telephone lines are available for people to ring in if they have problems.

We are all aware of what has been going on in Asia over the past six months. We should also be aware of what has been happening in Indonesia and the problems faced by that Government. This is probably the greatest crisis for that country since 1965-66 when President Suharto came to power. Indonesia has experienced widespread problems with its currency and its economy, which has resulted in widespread social problems in Jakarta. We should all have been aware of the prospect of something happening in Jakarta, in particular, because it is the hub of Indonesia. When we refer to the politics of Indonesia we mean the politics of Jakarta, because that is where the vast majority of the rulers are located. They hail from Java, and everything happens in Jakarta.

There are approximately 20 000 Australians in Indonesia at any given time, but particularly lately. They are involved in the mining industry and many other areas. A person to whom I spoke recently has been involved in the construction of golf courses in Indonesia.

Mr Marlborough: Many government workers are sent there, such as people from the Water Authority.

Mr McGOWAN: I did not know that. Many people work and live in Indonesia. Indonesia is our closest and probably our most important neighbour.

I will detail the events over the past week to highlight our disastrous handling of that crisis. Until last week my brother-in-law and his friends worked in an office in Jakarta. They received an email on 7 May 1998, Thursday week ago, a few days before the rioting began. The email states -

The Embassy has received reports that students may be planning protests at a number of university and higher education campuses in Jakarta and other major cities over the coming days. It is possible that some of the students will try and march off their campuses. As has been seen recently in campuses both in and outside of Jakarta, this has given rise to clashes between the students and security forces as they try and prevent this from occurring

. . . While there are no indications that foreigners have been specifically at risk, intending travellers and Australian citizens in Indonesia should keep themselves informed of developments and should avoid large gatherings or demonstrations.

The Australian Embassy was aware that something could happen. I presume that as a result the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade should have been aware of the problem. The following day, 8 May, they received another email which reads -

The Australian Ambassador, John McCarthy, will conduct in the theatre at the Australian Embassy . . . Consular briefings for Australian citizens . . . All Australian citizens are invited to attend the briefings which will cover the current political and economic situation in Indonesia.

My brother-in-law and his friends attended two separate briefings. My relative noted the increasing disquiet on the streets, particularly following the shootings of the students outside the university in Jakarta on Tuesday, 12 May. He attended a briefing last Wednesday, 13 May, and his notes indicate -

The Ambassador reiterated the fact that the Embassy has emergency procedures in place for the evacuation of Australian civilians if required but refused to elaborate to avoid spreading unnecessary panic.

A group of Australians went to the embassy for a briefing regarding what to do if things went wrong, but the ambassador refused to elaborate on the emergency procedures to avoid spreading unnecessary panic! The document continues -

Evac of this sort was considered to be possible but by no means probable and citizens were directed to use commercial means of leaving in all but the worst of situations (which would be advised by the Embassy).

Another person to whom I spoke also attended a briefing: Ben Giles also works in Indonesia, and he told me that during the briefing he attended a specific question was asked about what to do in an emergency. He was advised by the ambassador that plans would not be released because to release plans could embarrass the Indonesian Government. It was stated that young Australians living in Indonesia were not to be told what to do because those plans might embarrass the Indonesian Government! That statement was made the day that rioting erupted in Jakarta. That was a record of the briefing by the Australian Ambassador in Jakarta.

The same day, Wednesday, 13 May, my brother-in-law picked up another email from the embassy. This was the day after the shooting of the students in Jakarta. The email reads -

The Australian Embassy has received no information which would suggest that the overall security situation elsewhere in Jakarta will deteriorate as a result of the current rioting. There are unconfirmed reports of student demonstrations at other locations. Caution should be exercised when moving about central and

North Jakarta and Australians should avoid areas where large groups of people assemble or which have been trouble spots in the past.

Further, it advised that -

Australians resident in Indonesia are encouraged to register their presence in the country with the Australian Embassy.

People were not advised to leave, and they received no advice about what to do in an emergency. The information was that there was some trouble - the day after the shooting of six students. The situation became heated: On 14 May, Thursday - two days after the shootings and one day after the problem beginning in Jakarta - a bulletin was put out by the embassy, which reads -

Demonstrations continued to occur today (14 May) in various areas throughout Jakarta. We suggest that for the present Australians avoid the Grogol area and roads around Universities and higher education institutions . . .

While there are no indications that foreigners have been specifically at risk, the Department recommends that Australians consider deferring non-essential travel to Indonesia (with the exception of travel to Bali) for the time being. Australian citizens in Indonesia should keep themselves closely informed of developments and should avoid large gatherings or demonstrations, which have the potential to turn violent without warning. Particular caution should be exercised in the vicinity of universities and higher education institutions.

The bulletin was issued on the same day that my brother-in-law and his friends received a phone call in their office regarding widespread looting and burning throughout the city. They fled the office to their hotel to find their passports, and then fled to a major hotel in the vicinity of South Jakarta - the Crystal Hotel. Apparently news seeped through to the embassy some time on Friday that there was a problem in Indonesia - after three days of troubles in Jakarta. On 15 May, last Friday, after three days of madness in Jakarta, a fax was sent out but was not received by my relative until 1.00 am on Saturday. It reads -

It is further recommended that Australians visiting or resident in Indonesia (except for Bali) should consider leaving the country.

This was Saturday morning, four days after the students were shot, three days after the rioting occurred, and two days after they had to flee their office and go to the Crystal Hotel in the hope that the looters could not get in and burn down the hotel. The fax continues -

In the light of the current situation in Indonesia and the possibility of further civil disturbance, the Australian Government has authorised non-essential Australian embassy staff and dependents in Indonesia to depart the country for the time being, if they so wish.

The fax which advised embassy staff and their families that they could leave was issued on Friday, 15 May. On the following day, Saturday, 16 May, at 5.30 pm an email was issued by the embassy advising that three charter flights had been arranged through Qantas and Ansett departing from Jakarta International Airport on 17 and 18 May. The information on how to leave Indonesia was issued five days after the students had been shot, and three to four days after the rioting had started. There was no mention of how to get to the airport from where they were holed up surrounded by rioters.

I would like to put some meat on the bones of the information that the Australian Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had released by repeating some individual stories for members. On Friday afternoon I received a call from my mother-in-law who was distraught because she had spoken to my brother-in-law, Dean, in Jakarta. I telephoned him. He advised me, firstly, that there were no available flights to Australia, despite being advised by the embassy to get on a commercial flight. All the flights were full. At this time the embassy staff had been advised to leave. I presume there were a lot of embassy staff as there were no flights for ordinary Australians leaving Jakarta. Secondly, he advised that he could not get to the airport. He said that the situation in Jakarta was catastrophic. He stated that he had walked downstairs in his hotel to see Indonesian soldiers behind a barricade firing M 16 rifles into a crowd of looters not more than 30 metres away. He said that the buildings surrounding the hotel were on fire and cars were exploding in front of the hotel. He said they did not know what to do. They could not get out of the hotel, leave the hotel grounds or go to their houses because gangs were looting the affluent suburbs.

He said that the embassy was hopeless. He said that, according to the embassy, there were no problems with plane tickets. My brother-in-law had already called Qantas and all flights to Australia had been booked, so there were no tickets available. The embassy told him to book a commercial flight, but there were no flights available. He said

that they needed to be evacuated urgently. This was Friday afternoon. When he telephoned the embassy he was told that it had no plans for the future. He asked the embassy to help him find out what the plans were, because he needed to know what would happen. He said that he was in Jakarta and he and others were in fear of their lives and they needed to know what was going on.

It was Friday afternoon and this was all going on around them. As I said, M 16 rifles were being fired by soldiers into the crowd outside the hotel. At 5.30 on Friday evening I called the emergency line at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and spoke to a senior officer. He said that the department was not considering an evacuation and Australians should leave Jakarta on commercial departures. I told him that there were no commercial departures available because they were fully booked until the following Wednesday. He said that he was not aware of that. I had to repeat that there were no commercial flights and I asked how they could get out of Jakarta. He then stated that they were looking into that and were holding contingency meetings. This is Friday afternoon, three days after the rioting started. He then stated that rioting was going on in north Jakarta. My relative and his friends were holed up in the Crystal Hotel in south Jakarta where soldiers were firing rifles into the crowd. I then asked whether he knew what was going on in the Crystal Hotel in south Jakarta and he said no. I told him that rioting was occurring there as well and more than 200 Australians were holed up in this hotel with nowhere to go, surrounded by a sea of rioters.

As one can imagine, the response from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade did not give me much confidence. A relative and a number of his friends were in fear of their lives in a hotel in Indonesia, one of Australia's nearest neighbours, and the department had no idea what was going on. I called back my brother-in-law to tell him that. As one can imagine, he was not too pleased. He and his friends were frightened at that point. In my estimation the only thing that saved a great many lives last Friday night was the fact that it started to rain. Between the first and second times I spoke to him heavy rain had started to fall. They ascribed the fact that rioting did not get completely out of hand that night to the fact that rain started falling in Jakarta at that time.

I will go over a couple of other stories that people told me about what they had to endure in Jakarta over those few days. Ben Giles, another person to whom I spoke at that time, is still in Jakarta. He said that things have calmed down a great deal. He also said that he went to the briefing at the embassy by the Ambassador, Mr John McCarthy, on Tuesday of last week. He asked about the contingency plans. At this time six students had been killed and he wanted to know what to do to leave Jakarta if the situation continued to get worse. The ambassador advised him that contingency plans were in place. However, he could not tell Mr Giles what they were because it might be considered to be an insult to the Indonesian Government if he told these people what to do in an emergency. Mr Giles stated that for three days - Thursday, Friday and Saturday - they were extremely worried, felt trapped and were in fear of their lives. He said that going out onto the street was extremely dangerous. The day before the situation went to pieces in Indonesia, Mr Giles asked the ambassador what Australians should do if things got too bad. He expected that a plan would be given out.

German and US nationals in Jakarta had received written plans from their embassies on where to go. They had 30 muster points sorted out - hotels and other places - which they were to go to immediately if things got worse. The German and United States embassies had arrangements in place for their nationals, yet our embassy and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade could not come up with anything for fear they might embarrass the Indonesian Government or cause a panic. The German and United States nationals had received maps advising where to go if things got worse. Unfortunately, things got really bad on Wednesday and Thursday. The German and United States nationals knew what to do. What is more, the German and United States embassies organised buses with armed escorts to take their nationals directly to the airport where flights were arranged for them. Our embassy could not give Australian nationals a map so they could get to the airport! Mr Ben Giles also told me that these email and facsimile bulletins were not received until the day after they were transmitted. They found out what was going on by watching CNN, the American cable TV network. The embassy bulletins arrived too late.

The bulletins normally contained only information that they already knew from the television. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's office in Jakarta has a web site available to Australian nationals living there. Despite the fact that over three days things were chaos and events were happening all around them, the web site was updated approximately only once a day. Whenever they called the embassy they heard a message recorded once a day, presumably in the morning, so there was no point in their calling again after they had listened to it once.

Whenever they got through and spoke to somebody at the embassy, which was rarely, they were advised to catch a commercial flight. When they asked, "How do we get to the airport? There are no flights. What do we do?" no advice was given apart from "Use your commonsense and catch a commercial flight." The embassy did not organise any transport to the airport for Australian nationals. As I have said, the Germans and the Americans had transport organised from muster places to the airport so that people could get through the rioting mobs and all the trouble. The embassy could give them no information on passable roads to the airport or how to get to the airport if they wanted to travel by themselves. They were sitting in their hotel as if they were marooned on a desert island with nowhere

to go. If things had got worse on Friday night and crowds had burst into their hotel, they had no way out; they would have been in the same situation as the Chinese shopkeepers.

The most damning thing that Ben Giles told me was that on Tuesday of last week he went to the briefing at the embassy at which, when the specific question was asked about flights, the ambassador said that there was no need for a ticket and not to worry about it. By the next day when things had gone wrong, no tickets were to be had, presumably because some people in the know had got them earlier.

I spoke to Darrell Kramer, another young person who was also there during this trying period. Darrell Kramer advised me of his experiences over those three or four days. I do not think he attended the embassy briefing but he was advised afterwards, on Wednesday, by my relative and the other chap that there was nothing to worry about, contingency plans were in place and not to bother buying a ticket. Last Thursday they were working in their company office in Jakarta. They received a call at lunch time advising them that all the buildings in north Jakarta were on fire and that they had to get out. They took off from their workplace. They went to their homes, driving everywhere in between burning buildings. They packed up everything they could and fled to the nearest big hotel they could think of. As I have said, the Australian Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade gave them no advice as to where they should go. They thought they must get to a location which was not in the middle of a shopping precinct, so they went to the Crystal Hotel in south Jakarta. Darrell Kramer called the embassy and managed to get through on Thursday afternoon. An official said to him, "Everything is okay; you do not have to worry. Just stay away from the hot spots."

During Friday lunch time when they were staying in the hotel too frightened to leave, apparently there was a prayer ceremony. When that ceremony finished at one o'clock, the rioting got completely out of hand. He said that security guards forced all the westerners in the hotel into their rooms. He said that they looked out of their windows and saw a sea of rioters. He went downstairs with my brother-in-law and observed kneeling soldiers firing M-16 rifles into the crowds outside the hotel. They again attempted to call to get flights but none was available. On Friday night when I contacted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, I was told there were no plans for evacuation and that people should get commercial flights. What sort of planning is that?

On Saturday afternoon, after they had got through the night - the rain was most fortuitous - they were watching television in their room. The only way they found out that there were charter flights was via the television. While they were watching football on the Australian television network, they saw a message flash across the bottom of the screen that the Australian Government had organised charter flights. As I said earlier, an email message was issued, but they did not see it until subsequently. Had they not been watching the footy, they would not have known about the charter flights. Darrell Kramer confirmed that, at 1.00 am on Saturday - at no prior time - they received the facsimile that indicated they should leave Indonesia.

He said they had called the embassy during the week, on Thursday or Friday, to say there were 1 000 westerners at the Crystal Hotel. They estimated there were 200 Australians there. At no time did the embassy send an official to the hotel to put the Australian nationals in the picture about what was going on. Because these men worked for a large company, on Saturday night they managed to get a flight out of Jakarta. Despite the fact that the airlines were fully booked, their company managed to organise their departure from Jakarta with a foreign airline. Last Saturday afternoon things had started to calm down, so they managed to get through Jakarta to the airport. When they arrived, they spoke to some of the embassy staff who were on hand. The staff advised them that all of the embassy's non-essential staff and families had gone; that means all of the Australian nationals who were not fortunate enough to work for the embassy or who did not have family members who worked for the embassy were left to fend for themselves. He also said that the web site was not updated regularly. On the Thursday when rioting was occurring in north Jakarta particularly, the United States embassy advised all of its nationals to leave. Our embassy did not advise Australians to leave until 1.00 am on Saturday. The United States embassy had also organised muster points and escorted buses to get people out.

This all shows gross incompetence on the part of the responsible people in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Something like 20 000 Australian nationals were living in Indonesia at that time. We knew that major social unrest and serious problems were occurring in Indonesia as a result of the currency crisis. As I have said, on 7 May the embassy advised by email that there was the prospect of student demonstrations, that people should be careful and that there could be problems the following week, which was last week. However, it did not prepare or release any plans to enable the thousands of Australians living in Jakarta to get out. If 20 000 Australian nationals are living in Indonesia, I would estimate that at least 10 000 would have been living in Jakarta. That is the place where all the action is. Those people were not told how to get out, what to do, where to go, or what was happening while that was going on. They were advised of nothing. There was mass rioting and 500 Indonesians and ethnic Chinese were killed. Yet our people were left in the lurch by the Department of Foreign Affairs and by the embassy.

The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia protested on television about what a good job the embassy had done. If one asked anyone who came through Jakarta over the past few days what sort of a job the embassy had done, the reply would be that the embassy did a rotten job in comparison with the embassies of other western nations which have expatriates in Indonesia. I confirmed through a phone call from the Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday that the embassy did a bad job. It had no ready plans for an evacuation, nor plans for any flights to travel to Jakarta to pick up people. The Japanese Government had plans in place to put on flights and send troops to Jakarta to rescue its nationals if necessary. Our Government had nothing in place. It would not even tell its people what to do if things went wrong, which they did. This is the greatest upheaval in Indonesia in 30 years. Our people were advised that they could not be given any plans of what to do because it might embarrass the Indonesian Government and cause panic. This was on the day of things going wrong. Other nations with similar governments to ours, such as Germany and the United States, had plans to get their people out. They advised their people to get out. We are the closest nation to Indonesia and there are hundreds of people working in that embassy.

Foreign Affairs is supposed to be the haven of the best and the brightest in the Commonwealth Public Service, yet our people working in Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Affairs did not know about a crisis. This was a crisis of monumental proportions in which young Australians' lives were at risk and our Minister for Foreign Affairs could not even organise to get them home. The Federal Minister's actions are a disgrace and shows what a buffoon he is. His lack of action, the attempted cover up, and the protestation of what a good job it did shows it up for what it is. An article in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 16 May 1998, stated -

A spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer described the situation at the airport as "busy but calm".

Everybody else said it was absolute chaos and turmoil, but people were safer at the airport than anywhere else in the city. In a snafu by the Department of Foreign Affairs in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 16 May 1998, the department stated -

Contingency plans have been drawn up to get the 20 000 Australians out of Indonesia if the situation deteriorates rapidly - with wardens throughout Jakarta in touch with the Australian community.

When people rang the embassy, they got an answering machine. When they looked at the web site, it was not updated. When they received email, it was a day late. The ambassador said plans were not needed as it might embarrass the Indonesian Government. This was the performance by the Australian Government during this major crisis in which young Australians' lives were at risk! It shows how badly the embassy behaved.

MR MARSHALL (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [5.14 pm]: I support the structure and general aim of this Budget which continues to eradicate government debt, but I believe it could have introduced more direct savings for the people of Western Australia. One area catered for effectively is sport and recreation, especially through the community sport and recreation facilities funding, which has an annual budget of around \$8m but this year was topped up with another \$10m which, as a former sportsperson, I think is wonderful. CSRFF grants over the past four years have topped \$34m with the format introduced by this coalition Government. When a local government approves a project, it is required to put in a third of the costings, a third is put in by the community, and the Government puts in the extra one-third. Under this format, tremendous sporting facilities have been developed throughout metropolitan and regional areas. I venture to say that more sporting facilities have been put into action in the past four years of this coalition Government than in the history of Western Australia's sporting facilities. Significant projects recently completed include the Katanning Recreation Centre, the Waroona Aquatic Centre, the Wanneroo Netball Centre, and the Busselton Aquatic Centre. In my electorate, CSRFF funding has helped the Halls Head Bowling Club get a \$450 000 clubhouse, which has become the community centre of the area. At the South Mandurah Tennis Club we were able to get an extra four courts, increasing its complement of 10 to cater for the increase of population coming to the area. Membership has risen and it is now able to run capable and professional tennis tournaments in the area. The latest addition was the hockey facility in Mandurah with its international astroturf surface under lights, and fencing, which is wonderful for the young hockey players in the area. A clubhouse will be built with this year's budget allocation of an extra \$165 000, which will make that facility one of the best of all regional centres. Everyone here knows that top athletes need top facilities to reach their potential, and with the development of this facility I venture to say that in 10 years, national and Olympic hockey players will come out of Mandurah.

Sport is fundamental to the Australian way of life and of vital importance to our economy, State, and nation. This Government has catered for sport and recreation from simple participation to elitism. The format is a bit like a tree with the Minister for Sport and Recreation at the top of the tree. The tree has branches - one of which is the sports council. This sports council in Western Australia is the think tank of sport. It is chaired by Yvonne Rate and its committee of 10 or 12 people includes such people as David Christison, Ron Alexander, Sally Carbon, Mick Malthouse and other big names in sport, who are enjoying the participation. When ideas are picked up from around

the world, this council puts them together, and if it decides it has a goer, the project is handed over to the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, of which the chief executive officer is Jack Busch. It is up to that department with its 128 personnel to ensure that the project becomes a reality. Further along the limb of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation, there are other avenues of sports such as the Coaching Foundation, the WA Sports Federation, Womens Sports West, the Aboriginal Sports Foundation, and the Western Australian Institute of Sport at which the elite of Western Australian sport is gathered under the control of Wally Foreman. It does a wonderful job giving our top line sportspeople the chance to compete at the highest international level and come out as the best in the world. The WAIS is located in the Challenge Stadium, and its chief executive officer is the former Brownlow medallist, Graham Moss. What we have got is fantastic in structure. There are top Western Australian people who have made it. They have not just read it in books. They have also made it on the field, and they are becoming great administrators.

Sport and recreation benefits the community in wondrous ways and its value is often underestimated by some sections of the community. An extract from the US Surgeon General's report of 1996 reads -

That physical activity has positive impacts on the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory and endocrine systems which contribute to many health benefits including:

- . reduced risk of premature mortality, and,
- . reduced risks of coronary heart disease, hypertension, colon cancer and diabetes . . .

The National Health and Medical Research Council said in 1997 -

. . . the promotion of physical activity is the major strategy for reducing community levels of overweight and obesity.

We all breathe in as we say that!

Physical activity not only brings the benefits of good health but can also impact on the economy. In other words, it is estimated that if an extra 10 per cent of the population engaged in regular physical activity, the economic benefit to health care would be \$590m annually, or \$1.62m a day. There is no doubt that sport produces a healthier and more productive work force, a greater commitment and sense of belonging to the community and fitter, happier and more confident children.

Mr Riebeling: Why is everything in your electorate being spread about?

Mr MARSHALL: I cannot remember what is the member's electorate or I would chip in.

Mr Riebeling: It is Burrup. Your argument would go just as well for my area as it does for yours.

Mr MARSHALL: The member for Burrup should remember that sport is a wonderful educator. He may remember the late Harry Hopman, the guru of Australian tennis coaches. When we were on the international circuit he used to say words to the effect, "When you play a Latin-American and the match is close in the third set, complain about a line decision; do anything to create an uproar and excite the opposition's Latin-American temperament. Suddenly the umpire will say 'Play'; then you hit the ball - one, two, three and it is game set and match before your opponent has had time to calm down." I wonder if the member for Burrup has Latin-American blood in him.

Not many people appreciate that the Ministry of Sport and Recreation funds other areas such as the Western Australian Disabled Sports Association and Sports Medicine Australia. In addition it provides ongoing funding to 90 regional development areas for a variety of sports. Fifty-six development offices throughout country regions are supported by administrative staff. As well as player and junior development, regional games are organised by this division.

I refer now to elitism - the difference between being a C grader, of which a few of the members interjecting have declared themselves, and coming out of the blocks knowing what it is all about. Most of us will acknowledge that the ultimate for any athlete is to represent his country and in some cases compete in the Olympic Games. People who are interested in sport for the reasons to which I referred earlier, such as health and camaraderie, may be surprised to learn that participation in 65 per cent of the sports played are non-Olympic sports.

As a result sporting administrators are becoming increasingly alarmed that Olympic 2000 may not be good for sport in Australia. If the media focuses solely on the Olympics, youngsters in non-Olympic local sports may lose interest because they suddenly want to become Olympians. Sponsorship is already starting to dry up. In my electorate, for instance, Challenge Bank, which used to give small donations to various clubs, now says all its money is going towards the Olympics in Sydney. Volunteers for local sport could be lost. It will be very easy to answer a call to go to Sydney as a volunteer with one's wife for a month and get tickets to the opening of the games. Some of those top sports administrators may be lost to the game.

In addition, government funding has already declined. Government funding for the Australian Football League reduced by \$37 000 and for men's cricket by \$20 000. Funding to motor sports decreased from \$85 500 to \$55 500. That is indicative of how government grants have already decreased because of the money needed for the Olympics.

Members opposite may not be aware that of the sports in Australia in which more than 300 000 people participate, there are five non-Olympic sports compared with two Olympic sports - 426 000 people are registered to play basketball and 300 000 to play tennis. The non-Olympic sports are Australian Rules, for which 390 000 people are registered; indoor cricket, 355 000; lawn bowls - as we all know, non-Olympic - 300 000 participants; and netball, 346 000 participants. The Olympics will be wonderful but we must not neglect the other sports.

The Olympic sport of soccer has 200 000 registered participants in Australia, and the non-Olympic sport of cricket has 200 000. The Olympic sport of hockey with 116 000 registered participants is matched by the non-Olympic game of squash with 120 000 players. Those figures raise the question of why some areas of sport get more money than others.

Mr Riebeling: You are not saying hockey gets all the money, I hope.

Mr MARSHALL: Does the member for Burrup know that croquet has 7 000 registered participants and the Olympic sport of cycling also has 7 000? Those figures make us sit up and start to realise that although elitism is good, only elitism in the Olympics may be catered for and we must guard against this happening.

Most people will acknowledge that sport teaches leadership, trust, discipline, comradeship, temperament and self-confidence. Blessed with all these ingredients outstanding sportspeople become leaders in the community and are generally excellent business proprietors.

Sport plays a very important role in my electorate. I said in my 1995 speech on the appropriation Bill that a league football side would come out of Peel. That has eventuated.

Mr Riebeling: It hasn't happened yet.

Mr MARSHALL: For the benefit of the member for Burrup who has been asking me to talk about Peel Thunder -

Mr Riebeling: You will lose the bet you made.

Mr MARSHALL: A football club in Mandurah will be the catalyst for 42 000 people to finally belong somewhere. Recently I did a survey in my local shopping forum and asked people where they came from. People said they came from Kalamunda, Kalgoorlie, Thornlie and Timbuktu. When I asked if they were visiting Mandurah they said they had lived in Mandurah, some of them for up to four years. A number of people have moved to Mandurah who feel as though they do not belong. They have drifted down, bought their houses and put their children in schools. However, they still identify with the area from which they came. The catalyst to make those people feel they belong to Mandurah is Peel Thunder when it starts winning football games.

Several members interjected.

Mr MARSHALL: The only game it won was against Claremont last year. The next day people were quick to call Claremont the banana club - soft inside and easy to "Peel"! It almost happened again last Saturday. Football in Mandurah has had such an impact that junior development has gone haywire. Clubs cannot get enough football guernseys. All the youngsters now believe that they can play AFL. They are all wearing Peel guernseys.

Mr Thomas interjected.

Mr MARSHALL: Does the member for Cockburn have Latin-American blood in him?

Peel Thunder has achieved a lot in a short time. In six months a board was formed, a club named, guernseys designed and coaches, players, doctors, strappers and masseurs recruited. It costs about \$300 000 to run a football club, and this club has been able to do all those things through sponsors, advertising, membership, merchandising, raffles and auctions.

Mr Thomas: They cannot win matches.

Mr MARSHALL: The member is not listening. He should wait until it does, because he will then gag in this House. The facilities at Rushton Park are better. The ground has improved and it now has lights, a scoreboard, turnstiles, corporate boxes and a weights room. That has all been done in six months.

Mr Thomas: And no-one goes.

Mr MARSHALL: More people go to those matches than to the South Fremantle matches at the Fremantle Oval.

Sport is a wonderful educator and sometimes people learn things from sport without being aware of it. For instance, in tennis there are good line callers and bad line callers. The champions are always hard and fair. When the ball is a millimetre out they say "Out" firmly. The C graders, who the member can relate to, in those circumstances say that they think it is out. They say they are not sure and they ask the players to play the point again. The champions say it loudly and clearly. When those people are in business as retailers that attitude can save them thousands of dollars. They are hard but fair and they know their products. They do not give discounts because they know what they are doing. For example, one week my retail shop gave a discount of 10 per cent on a certain brand of shoe. At the end of the week the accountant told me that the business had given away \$1 000, just because we became soft. Those who are hard but fair callers learn that lesson on the court, and it carries on in business.

Some people across the floor think they know everything. I once held a tennis clinic with Margaret Court and she invited Evonne Goolagong and Frank Sedgeman to it. The money was to be raised for people with muscular dystrophy, and Margaret Court wanted something special. We sat down and went through all the facets of coaching. She suggested that one theme should be watching the ball. I said everybody knew they should watch the ball and were familiar with the questions about whether they saw the ball come off the racquet, saw the spin on the ball, saw the brand name on the ball, saw the ball hit the racquet, saw how high it went over the net, and anticipated where it would bounce. She suggested that the question should be whether players saw the ball hit the ground. I had been a player for 35 years but I had not heard that tip before. An analysis of sport - whether it be cricket, football or whatever - shows that people have their day "out" when they see the ball hit the ground. I normally get \$50 for passing on that tip, but I give it to members today for nothing. People should acknowledge that they do not know everything and they should be prepared to listen. Someone once told me that wisdom is gained from a lifetime of listening although people prefer to talk.

I have another learning comment to make about Tony Charlton. In the 1970s, he was the guru of commentating. At Channel 7 television station I had an opportunity to commentate on the 1970 Federation Cup. I was told I would be working with Tony Charlton, who at that time was at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground. I was told to find out from him what I had to do. I climbed the ladder at the WACA and it was most exciting. Benaud, Hassett and Charlton were there. Charlton was the rich voice of Australian commentating, and probably one of the best there had ever been. I introduced myself to him and told him I would be commentating with him the following week on the Federation Cup. I asked what I had to do. His only tip was that I should do my homework. I asked what he meant. He said that when he came over the following week he expected me to know everything about the players, such as the age at which they started playing tennis, their best strokes, their best performances, the surface they preferred playing on, who they practised with, how many times a week they practised, who their coaches were, their coaching regimes, whether they had sports psychologists, their diets, what time they went to bed, who they went to bed with and whether they did it with them. Learning that has been a very important part of my education, and I have been able to pass it to youngsters when they attend their first job interviews and so on. Many youngsters, even though they have a good education academically, have not learnt to do their homework properly in order to produce the best results.

Some people go to school to learn alliteration, as in the "big brown baboon", similes and metaphors. I learnt alliteration on the football field. The first game I played in was a derby match and I was playing on Frank Treasure. The umpire bounced the ball and, as happens with all first game players in Fremantle, the player caved me in. I had forgotten about that. As I was felled, Frank Treasure raced down the field, took the ball from Eriksson on the wing, he kicked to Naylor who marked in the goal square, and scored a goal within five seconds. Sheedy, who I was changing on the ball with, told me I should get on the ball and he would look after Treasure. When I came back to change, Frank Treasure, who we all admired because he was a champion bloke and one of the great South Fremantle players in the premierships days, had blood streaming from his right eye. Jack ran away and I learnt alliteration from him when he said "If you hit the kid again, Frank, I will fix your other flaming eye." Those things in sport stay with people. It is important that we do not overlook the benefits of sport.

In conclusion, I remind the House that my country electorate continues to grow, and it is as exhilarating and exciting as it has always been. The latest Electoral Commission figures show that it has a population of 14 333, the third highest population of all country areas, and it is the fastest growing area. In the four years between February 1994 and March 1998 it had a 30.62 per cent enrolment change. There have been many changes in the electorate but I do not have time to detail them all. One of the nicest changes is the improvement in rapid transit between Mandurah and the city, by the introduction of two new double-decker buses. They are the first to be used in Western Australia and they are a great hit. It means people can get to Perth within an hour. The cinema complex has been operating since Christmas, and has exceeded expectations. The waste transfer centre is going well, and many new things have happened in Mandurah.

The people in my electorate are pleased with their allocation in this year's Budget, and particularly the \$6.2m allocated to ensure that the 400 pen ocean marina becomes a reality. Also, \$350 000 has been allocated to Coodanup

for a family house which was an initiative by Family and Children's Services manager, Barry Chatell. Some parts of my electorate are pristine, with the Indian Ocean on one side and the estuary waters on the other, and the septic tank system must be eliminated for the benefit of the environment. The allocation of \$1.2m for the sewerage system is a winner for everyone. I am happy and proud to represent an electorate which appreciates the money spent in the Dawesville area, and I commend this Budget to the House.

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [5.38 pm]: I would like to be able to give a dissertation on how beneficial the Budget has been for my electorate, but it would take only five seconds to describe those benefits.

Mr Barnett: Good. It is the best speech you have made.

Mr CARPENTER: My mother told me never to trust a man who still has his baby teeth. Some members opposite still have theirs and one or two of them still have their hands in the till. Never trust a man who still has his baby teeth and has no sense of humour either.

On the question of sport and recreation, the member for Dawesville mentioned one or two government initiatives that will be of benefit to the State. He neglected to mention one or two others that have slipped through the net; for example, the exodus of the Western Reds and Perth Heat, the eviction of the speedway from Claremont with the Government not keeping its promise to find it another venue, and the absence of a major stadium for soccer in this State, despite promises last year that a large amount would be set aside and it would be up and running.

Dr Hames: Don't forget the study being carried out.

Mr CARPENTER: A study can take years. Governments do that. They set up a study and at the end of five years say another study is needed because the situation has changed and the money allocated is no longer sufficient. The athletics bodies must move from Perry Lakes and they have nowhere to go. The Government has done little about that. The Government was to allocate \$1m to build a reef off Cottesloe to provide a surfing facility, but that has not eventuated. It was to be ready last summer. It was not, and it probably will not be next summer either. As the member for Dawesville pointed out, the Government managed to get the Peel football club up and running. It is struggling away, probably making life a lot better for the people of Mandurah and their children. If they only knew about it, they would probably enjoy it all the more.

I am the opposition spokesperson on not only Sport and Recreation, but also Disability Services. I will spend a little time talking about that budget, although I will not launch into a tirade of abuse about this area. I have told the responsible Minister that I appreciate he is doing his best in difficult times; at least he is honest about it. I do not think he is being supported as well as he might be by government members who control the purse strings. He is being badly let down by the Federal Government. Despite the gloss he tried to put on the result of his negotiations earlier this year, he was badly let down, and even more so are the Western Australian people who have a disability who rely on some support from the Government. They are not being funded sufficiently, and everybody knows that.

People with disabilities are reluctant to be openly critical of Governments. They do not enjoy the prospect of disabilities being used as a political football, with people taking sides trying to gain mileage at the expense of those who have the disability. Many of the individuals and community groups, not to mention the people who work for the Disability Services Commission, are dependent on government for their finances. They know full well that launching into an attack on the hand that feeds them is probably not very wise, if it can be avoided. In Western Australia there have been some manifestations when there were exceptions to that rule. One was in 1995-96 which resulted in quite a substantial injection of funds from the State Government into the disability area.

Last year there was a series of demonstrations and protests about the Federal Government's funding cuts to the disability services area, the so-called efficiency dividend which we canvassed well and truly. Both sides of this Parliament were united in condemnation of the Federal Government for its reduction of funding to the disability areas, dressed up under the guise of an efficiency dividend.

I am of the belief that the disability services area in Western Australia is still considerably underfunded. It is a major difficulty. I know the Minister is aware of many individual cases that come to the attention of various members of Parliament; in fact, I have passed on several to him. He has dealt with them personally on occasion. The current situation is that the disability services area in Western Australia is still substantially underfunded, despite the increased funding by the State Government over the past three years.

I introduce into my comments a letter forwarded to me from the In Homes Support Group, a group of private citizens who have a disability or who are the primary carers or the family members of people with a disability, who came together to establish a community housing project in Bentley. For its success, it relied on some government funds. The project was opened about 12 months ago. Their spokesman, Bill Booth, is well known in the disability services area. He has a daughter with a disability. He is an articulate, very intelligent and outspoken person. He is also very

entertaining and forthright in his views. He sent me a copy of the group's newsletter, of which he is the editor. It is a most interesting and entertaining publication. He fires a few broadsides at the various levels of government about what they could, and could not, be doing. His personal note to me states -

Hi, Bentley project now 1 year old & going well -

The Government deserves credit for helping to establish it -

- but support services are underfunded & insufficient!

That is the key to many of the situations currently faced by people with a disability in Western Australia. A few years ago one of the biggest challenges facing government was the provision of accommodation for people with disabilities. Many were living in hostel accommodation or very unsatisfactory community environments. The challenge was there for Governments to provide alternative, better standard accommodation. That was brought to the attention of the Minister who had responsibility for disability services in the previous Labor Government, the member for Belmont. He managed to obtain some funds to transfer people out of unsuitable accommodation into that which was more suitable. The Welcome Home campaign of about 1995-96 brought the matter to a head and substantial amounts of money were put into the accommodation field in Western Australia. There is still a chronic need for increased accommodation.

The greatest growth in demand on the Disability Services budget has occurred in the support services area - that is, therapy, services for carers, respite programs and so on. I do not think this Government and, certainly, the Federal Government are doing enough to address it. The State Government is aware of the situation. Various initiatives have been implemented in the past year or two. Since I have been in Parliament there have been two initiatives to provide better support for carers and extra therapy. However, the fact is that insufficient funds are available for these programs. This is the basic cry we hear from people like Bill Booth.

As the opposition spokesperson for Disability Services, I hear from a lot of people who echo the remarks that Mr Booth has made in this short note to me - more money is needed.

Mr Omodei: Who is that?

Mr CARPENTER: It is Bill Booth from the In Homes Support Group. I am glad the Minister has just come into the House, although he probably heard what I just said. The Government is aware of the need for more funds in the disability services area, particularly in therapy, care and respite services. The demand for these funds is growing at a great rate. The Minister will probably know better than anybody else in this Parliament, including me, that the growth in this area is amazing. It is a daunting task for Governments to keep up with the growth in the demand. People with a disability and their families no longer accept that they must have an inferior quality of life. An enormous transition in attitudes occurred during the 1980s and into the 1990s, when people with a disability became more vocal and more aware of their right to a good quality of life, and that they should not be relegated to a lesser quality of life just because of their disability. This is the difficulty the State Government faces in this area now. It is part of my responsibility as shadow spokesperson in this area to bring these sorts of problems to the attention of the Parliament.

I note that there have been a series of dorothy dixers directed to the Minister for Disability Services over the past few weeks, and I am glad that has happened. The Minister is fighting an internal battle, not only about funding for disability services, but also about protecting the ministry and his department from the possibility of amalgamation with another department and the creation of a superdepartment. If I am right in my belief that the Minister is fighting a battle along those lines, I support him and I encourage him to keep up the battle. As he knows, everybody in the disability field who relies upon some government support is very anxious that the department remain separate; that is, we have a separate Minister, with a separate budget and separate legislation to direct it.

I have been at public meetings with the current Minister for Disability Services when this topic has been raised in questions and he has stated his position, which is the same as mine; that is, he supports the maintenance of a discrete department, a discrete ministry, a discrete budget and discrete legislation. If he is able to stave off the knife wielders in the Government and the people who would prefer to see an amalgamation of departments and a superministry then all power to him - I hope he is successful.

The last thing we want to see in this State is the Department for Family and Children's Services, for example, amalgamated with the Disability Services Commission. The chief executive officer of the department, Mr Fisher, is already the acting chief executive officer of the Disability Services Commission. I am meeting him on Friday for the first time and it occurs to me to ask him which job he is doing well and which he is neglecting. Is he doing three days a week at Family and Children's Services and two days at the Disability Services Commission or vice versa? If a man is the chief executive officer of one department, he cannot perform as the acting chief executive officer of

another department with a different Minister and responsibilities. That situation provides us with a little insight into the thinking of those in the Government other than the Minister for Disability Services. I would hate to see him become the victim of a rationalisation program, not because I have any special love of him, although he is not a bad fellow, but because the people relying on the department and the Disability Services Commission would suffer as a result and it would be a huge step backwards.

Everyone says it will never happen. However, members should pursue those who think it could happen and see whether they will say categorically that it will not. They do not say that.

I do not want to be effuse in my congratulation of the Government because it has yet to meet major challenges in the disability services arena. When they were in government, members on this side faced the same challenges and met them only to a certain extent. They will face the same challenges should there be a change in Government in the near future and they probably will never be able to address them completely. As I said, expectations are growing at a faster rate than the system's capacity to meet them.

I will use some of the statistics available to bear out what I am saying. The annual client and service data report reveals what is happening in this area and what will happen in the future with increased demands on the Government purse. This is a major challenge.

Mr Omodei: That is only part of the picture. They are the people who use the Disabilities Services Commission. It is much bigger than that.

Mr CARPENTER: I am referring to the number of people with disabilities who register. The figures are staggering.

When the Budget was released I was asked to comment by the media. I said I thought the disability field was underfunded by 25 per cent. I based that figure on the 1995-96 national report on disabilities, which referred to the \$300m of unmet need in Australia. If one roughly extrapolates the figure to Western Australia, the figure is about \$30m or \$40m, which represents about 25 per cent of the Budget. I was not doing anything fantastic with the research; I was simply making a general deduction based on the figures available. I do not think I am wrong; perhaps I have understated the case.

I do not know how my remarks were translated to the Minister, but after I made them he was quoted in the newspaper as saying that when he became Minister he was devastated by what the Labor Government had done - according to him it had failed miserably. I understand politics but I cannot accept that that was the case and I do not think many others would. I do not think the Minister believes it either.

Different circumstances and expectations prevailed 10 years ago. I will detail some of the figures applicable to the disability services area when the Labor Party came into office in 1982 and the Minister can tell me whether he believes that the then Government failed miserably.

Circumstances changed dramatically between 1982 and 1992-93. When the Minister makes those comments, he should remember that, when he became the Minister responsible for the area, the Liberal Government had been in office for four years. If he says he found a shocking legacy of neglect in the department then he is reflecting badly on his predecessor, the member for Greenough.

Mr Omodei: That is not correct. As the Minister responsible, the member for Greenough started the five year business plan and we are in the third year of that plan. Obviously we recognised a problem and moved to fix it. We created the Disability Services Commission, introduced the Act and implemented other measures.

Mr CARPENTER: This Minister was appointed after four years of Liberal Government. The plan was introduced during the third year of that Government.

Mr Omodei: It was the second year.

Mr CARPENTER: It was in 1996.

Mr Omodei: We are in the third year of the plan now.

Mr CARPENTER: That was the first year in which there was any real increase in spending. We had had three years of neglect by his colleagues. I have spoken to people who worked closely with the previous Minister after he was appointed and they have told me that he worked assiduously to get more funding for this area, but he was unsuccessful. He managed to get funding in the 1996 Budget, and I congratulate him for that; he did a fantastic job. However, the current Minister cannot say that the Labor Government left a terrible legacy when the level of funding declined for the following three years before the major funding injection. I will not mention what the Commonwealth Government has done since.

While the member for Greenough is on our agenda, I will refer to a speech he made in December 1992, when he was the shadow spokesperson for disabilities and the then Labor Government was introducing a Disability Services Bill, which was the first such Bill in Australia and a major step forward in the area. As the shadow Minister, Mr Minson said -

The Opposition is in basic agreement with the Disability Services Bill and supports where the Bill is heading and what it is trying to achieve. As I consulted various people who had an interest in this area I was impressed that a real desire existed to keep politics out of the delivery of disability services. It is commendable that this at least has escaped politicisation; it probably would be one of the few areas that has so escaped.

At that stage he was not barking his bile about the shocking level of neglect. In fact, he was congratulating the then Government for its initiative.

During the same debate, conducted on the last sitting day of 1992, before the election in 1993, the former leader of the Liberal Party, Mr Barry MacKinnon, the then member for Jandakot, made a contribution. He is a person for whom everyone in the disability services area has the utmost respect. As members know, Mr MacKinnon has a personal and profound interest in this area. In his last speech to this Parliament, on 3 December 1992, at about 11.37 pm he stated -

... I am disappointed that the Minister for Disability Services, Mr Ripper, is not in the Chamber because of his illness. I know he has a sincere interest in this matter and I would prefer to have paid the compliment to him in person for the work he has done in this area. I do not often compliment the Government but when it is due it should be given.

That is a contemporaneous view of the Labor Party's record in government from the then former Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr MacKinnon, who is held in the highest regard by those in the disability services area. If anyone had had an insight into the shocking level of neglect, as the Minister described it in his comments to *The West Australian* a few weeks ago, it would have been Barry MacKinnon.

Mr Omodei: He would not have known the extent of the underspending.

Mr CARPENTER: Mr MacKinnon had been in the parliament for 14 years and had a son with a disability. He would have had a fair idea of what was going on. Mr MacKinnon's remarks should be borne in mind by the current Minister when he is reflecting on the record of Governments of the opposite persuasion in the disabilities area.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Mr CARPENTER: I now continue my remarks on the Disability Services budget by introducing some statistics outlining the difficulties Governments face in coping with the increased demand on services in the disabilities sector. The 1998-99 estimate of expenditure on Disability Services was \$139m, which is an increase of \$9m over the actual spending in the previous financial year. The \$139m, as a percentage of total revenue for the State - which was \$7.414b - according to my loose mental arithmetic is roughly 1.86 per cent of total government spending. That is an increase from the 1.83 per cent of government spending in the previous year.

Looking back to the last Budget of the previous Labor Government in 1992-93, the total spending on disabilities was \$81m for the Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons, and \$7m for the Disabilities Bureau, giving a total of \$88m. The total state revenue for that year was \$5.14b, therefore the percentage of total spending directed to disability services in that year was 1.71 per cent. A real increase occurred over that period. Over six Budgets, the increase was approximately 0.1 per cent of total government spending. In some senses, it is a significant increase. However, when one factors in the growth in population and the number of people who describe themselves as having a disability, the size of the increase is vastly diminished.

In taking up my earlier point in my rebuttal of the Minister's comments about the record of the Labor Government, the 1982-83 Budget, the last of the conservative Governments of Sir Charles Court and Ray O'Connor, had a total spending of \$2.23b. It is difficult to ascertain from the budget papers of that year the allocation for disabilities because different categories applied from those of today. Doing the best I could with the information available at the Parliamentary Library, the 1982-83 Budget allocated approximately \$17m to the category headed "Relief of aged, indigent and the infirm". Expenditure on aids for disabled people was \$250 000. The \$17m and \$250 000 represented 0.74 per cent of total government spending in that year. Being generous to the Government of that time, in strict statistical terms other expenditure would have been made on disability in that Budget in, say, the public health or Health Department allocation. If we allow for another 0.3 per cent, and give the Government credit for spending about 1 per cent of its Budget in 1982-83 on disabilities, one can see a dramatic increase in the allocation

made in 1992-93 during the time of the previous Labor Government, when expenditure went from 1 per cent of total spending to about 1.71 per cent, and it is now up to 1.86 per cent.

A trend has been evident over the past 15 or 20 years with an increased call on the government purse from disability areas, and that increased demand has been met by Governments of both persuasions. Therefore, it is unfair to sledge the Government of, say, seven or 10 years prior for the amount of money spent on disability services. I reiterate that I acknowledge some of the initiatives of this Government in the disabilities field. However, the Labor Governments of the 1980s and early 1990s instituted a number of reforms in the disabilities area. For example, it set up the Disabilities Bureau, which was the precursor to the Disability Services Commission. It introduced the first Disability Services portfolio, which was a major initiative, since replicated elsewhere. That Government brought disability services legislation to Parliament requiring all government agencies to institute a disability plan, and such a policy is considered to be par for the course these days. The Labor Government also trialled and approved the very good local area coordination scheme, which was extended by the current Government to cover almost the entire State - I understand that some pockets of the metropolitan area remain uncovered. This program is generally regarded as a good initiative and has improved service delivery for people with a disability. It is something for which the former Minister for Community Services, the current Deputy Leader of the Opposition, should be congratulated. Also, the Labor Government introduced a post-school option program, which was again seen as a model in other parts of the country.

All Governments struggle to do their best in this field. Some significant initiatives were introduced in the disability services delivery area by the previous Labor Government, and vast increases in the amount of money spent in that area occurred when compared with that of Governments of previous eras. However, that is to be expected. As I said before, a radical change has occurred in the expectations of people with disabilities about the quality of life they should enjoy. Governments must match that change in expectation.

While on the subject of comparative budget and growth figures, it is interesting to look at the total state Budget for the 1978-79 year; namely, 20 years ago. The total spending by Western Australia in that year was \$1.443b compared to the 1998-99 Budget of \$7.4b. In other words, in 20 years the total budget has grown five times. It is a tremendous growth. If we project forward another 20 years - as was done in the statistics provided in the report released by the Minister - one could anticipate a state budget of \$35b or \$40b.

Mr Trenorden: Fifty billion dollars.

Mr CARPENTER: There we go. One can only speculate about the enormous amount of money in a budget of \$50b - not the \$35b I anticipated - needed to meet demands in the Disability Services portfolio. I was somewhat disappointed. When this report - the annual client and service data collection 1997 - was released by the Disability Services Commission, I was asked by a reporter from *The West Australian* what I thought of it. I had not seen it at the time. However, I said that any amount of additional information in this special area is to be welcomed. I am sure it will have a positive contribution to policy making in the field. When I finally got a copy of the report, it showed that many of the statistics relied upon were figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 1993 which had been released before. They were released in the Disability Counts document in 1995 and 1996.

Mr Omodei: No. The Disability Counts were released early this year or late last year.

Mr CARPENTER: The figures have been released before and they are five years old. We are in 1998 and looking at figures from 1993. The Minister was asked about the implications from the report and he pointed out that the statistics contained therein show that approximately 305 000 Western Australians described themselves as having a disability. Bearing in mind that those figures were for 1993, that 305 000 has grown quite considerably. That 305 000 represented 18 per cent of the State's population in 1993. If we make the general calculation based on the growth of the State's population since then, members might be surprised to find that considerably more than 305 000 now have a disability.

The population in Western Australia in 1993 was 1.68 million and, according to the Bureau of Statistics figures to the end of 1997, that figure is now 1.805 million. The general population trend in this State in the past 20 years is a growth of 2 per cent per annum. Based on the current population figure of 1.805 million, assuming 18 per cent of that population have a disability, we are now looking at at least 325 000 to 335 000 people in this State with a disability. If we factor in the commonly held view that the population of people with a disability is growing at twice the rate of the general population, that growth has gone from 305 000 in 1993 to more than 350 000 people with a disability today. In other words, since the figures that the Minister relied upon in this report were taken, there are probably another 50 000 people with a disability in Western Australia.

I bring up those vitally important statistics - I am sure they are riveting for everyone in this Chamber - because I go to the point that I made when the Budget came down and also the response to some dorothy dix questions asked of

the Minister in this Chamber about the level of service provided to people with disabilities in Western Australia. The specific question to which I am referring was asked by the member for Carine of the Minister for Disability Services on Thursday, 30 April. The question related to the amount of accommodation provided to people with disabilities. The Minister in his answer said that the Disability Services Commission's business plan would provide over a five year period an extra 510 accommodation places for people in urgent and critical need. He went on to say that 360 of those had already been provided as we were in the third year of the plan and another 150 would be provided in the next two years - in other words, 75 a year.

There is a problem here that becomes obvious as soon as one starts looking at the statistics. The Government is providing an extra 75 places a year at a time when the number of people with disabilities is growing rapidly. It is quite obvious we need to do more to keep up with the demand. The Minister did say -

Although this is a remarkable achievement, many people still have urgent need for accommodation.

When I asked by interjection how many, he said, "Certainly there are hundreds".

I agree with the Minister that there are hundreds because many of them contact my office and I am sure that they all contact either his office or the office of the Disability Services Commission. Going back to the budget figures of the last Labor Government in 1992-93, the number of people listed as in critical need of accommodation was 37. Admittedly different criteria might have prevailed then, but we have gone from 37 in 1992-93, despite the increased amount of money that the Government has put into disability services in the interim period, to a figure of hundreds of people. The Minister himself admits there are hundreds of people with a disability in urgent need of accommodation. Those figures are borne out by practically every study conducted in the field.

I re-emphasise the point about the need for Governments to spend far more money than is being spent at the moment. Continuing with that question on 30 April, I asked the Minister by way of interjection whether the Government was keeping up with growth in demand in the funding for people with disabilities. The Minister said, "We would be close to it". We might be close to it, but I doubt that the Government is actually -

Mr Omodei: It all depends which category the member is talking about. The member will remember that in 1993 no statistics were kept and no accounting analysis like the recent analysis I launched the other day of the people who use the Disability Services Commission. It is something which changes all the time depending on the activity of the local area coordinator.

Mr CARPENTER: I acknowledge that, but what the Minister is doing is reinforcing what I am saying; namely, that the criteria have changed dramatically, probably, from 1978 - the first set of figures at which I looked.

Mr Omodei: No comparison.

Mr CARPENTER: The Minister is the one who made the adverse comparison about the achievements of the different Governments.

Mr Omodei: No, I dealt in dollar terms with what the member's Government, when the Labor Party was in power, put into the Disability Services Commission. That was approximately \$3m or \$4m recurrent. We are up to \$35m recurrent this year. There is no comparison.

Mr CARPENTER: The Minister will have an opportunity to make a speech. There is grave difficulty in making a comparison. However, the facts are borne out by every statistic that is provided and the Minister himself acknowledges the fact that there is now a greater requirement for increasing the percentage of state government revenue to be spent on disabilities; and that figure is growing annually at quite a startling rate.

According to the figures released by the Minister in this document last week - and bearing in mind that these figures are actually out of date by five years, which is a long time - the report describes the number of people who need help and are said to have received help. A total of 146 900 people said they received help, which is 91 per cent of those who said they needed it. The remaining 14 900 said they did not get any help and they would do the best they could. The report said that the help provided is not always adequate, resulting in an estimated 54 400 people in Western Australia with disabilities reporting an unmet need for help.

My time has almost expired. However, I want to go from those general statistics to relate a few instances that would illustrate those figures in a more personal way. In my electorate there is a high concentration of people with a disability. It is an area of low cost housing and a high percentage of Homeswest provided accommodation. Only today I had a call to my office from an elderly lady who lives in Willagee who has been a beneficiary of the taxi user subsidy scheme. That scheme provides people with a disability who cannot use public transport with access to transport via cheap taxis. Last year's Budget considerably tightened the criteria for the taxi users subsidy scheme. People who are reapplying for taxi vouchers are finding that they are no longer eligible. The person who spoke to

my office today is an elderly woman with chronic arthritis and a variety of medical conditions which essentially preclude her from using the only available public transport in my electorate, which is a bus. Now she is being denied use of the taxi users subsidy scheme and she cannot use a taxi either. Essentially she is confined to being a prisoner in her own home unless people are prepared to come and pick her up.

Two or three days ago, a woman who is the senior carer of her disabled son came to my office. Her son was born profoundly deaf and has grave problems with speech and with making himself understood. He also has a mild intellectual impairment. He was previously a beneficiary of the taxi users subsidy scheme. However, a short time ago when he reapplied for access to the scheme because his vouchers had expired, he and his mother were confronted with a form that basically cut them out of the loop of eligibility for the taxi users subsidy scheme, because the form inquired whether he would under any circumstances be able or prepared to use public transport, and he replied in his honesty, "Maybe". While he probably would be able or prepared to use public transport if he was accompanied by his mother or someone else, on the basis of his answer on that form he can no longer access the taxi user subsidy scheme as he used to do to attend wood turning classes and one or two other community activities. This young man is now denied access to taxis, and also to public transport because he cannot use it on his own, and so he is basically a prisoner in his own home. This is what this Government is doing to people with disabilities because of what I believe is the inadequate spending in the Disability Services Commission area across the board -

Mr Omodei: You are dead wrong. I know you are trying to paint a picture to the general community, but our taxi users subsidy scheme is the best in Australia.

Mr CARPENTER: It is not as good as it was a couple of years ago. That is the point I am making. People are being denied access to it. I will send the Minister details of those cases, and he can advocate on their behalf. If the Minister is prepared to do that, that would be good.

The raft of increases in government taxes and charges falls most heavily upon people on fixed incomes, and almost invariably people with severe disabilities are on fixed incomes. Those people are confronted by this Government, year in and year out, with increased charges which they cannot escape. This has a dramatic impact on the quality of life that they are able to access.

I know this falls outside the strict parameters of the Disability Services Commission, but the Minister should be made more aware of the impact of his Government's increases in taxes and charges on people with disabilities and advocate on their behalf among the economic rationalists who run his Government, because he is doing them a grave disservice, as is the Federal Government. The Minister knows that the Federal Government is doing people in this State with a disability a grave disservice.

I was interested to have a close look at the figures that the Minister provided after his meeting with the federal Minister for Family Services, Warwick Smith, about the amount of support that the Federal Government is providing to people with disabilities in Western Australia. I congratulate the Minister for trying to extract more money from the Federal Government for people with disabilities, via the Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement. However, the extra funding that the Minister managed to extract, of \$10m over four years, or \$2.5m per annum, is a pittance. I do not have the figures in front of me, so I will rely on my not always 100 per cent correct memory, but, for example, the amount of extra money that the Commonwealth set aside for aged carers in Western Australia was \$300 000 per annum over the next four years. That is about \$1 per year for each person in Western Australia with a disability. The number of aged carers of people with disabilities in this State is in the thousands, yet the Commonwealth has set aside only a small amount of money for that group of people, and the Minister knows it and would not be happy with the result of his negotiations with the Commonwealth.

I understand that the Minister has a difficulty, and that all State Governments have a difficulty, in trying to extract more money from the Commonwealth for anything, but the record of the current Commonwealth Government with regard to people with disabilities is nothing short of a disgrace. The Commonwealth Government has cut about \$400m from the national Disability Services budget over the past couple of years and is replacing that with pittances, such as \$300 000 per annum for Western Australia for aged carers of people with disabilities. That amount of money would not buy them a loaf of bread, let alone increase their quality of life. It is a great shame that this sort of attitude has taken hold in the Federal Government, and, I contend, in the State Government, despite what I honestly believe will be the best and earnest representations of the current Minister for Disability Services.

I hope the Minister is successful in staving off the people within his Government who are looking at axing the discrete portfolio area of Disability Services, because that would be a major setback for all people with disabilities in Western Australia. I hope the Minister is successful in lobbying the members of his Government to prevent that from happening.

MRS van de KLASHORST (Swan Hills - Parliamentary Secretary) [7.57 pm]: I support the Appropriation

(Consolidated Fund) Bills and the 1998-99 Budget. I will reflect on the role of the family in issues such as crime prevention, and crime and violence, but before I do, I want to commend the Government on its increase of 6.3 per cent in community development budgets. That makes a total of \$145.2m in the Budget to cover issues such as the fight against drugs, domestic violence, safety accommodation, outreach support services, youth training schemes for cadets, expansion of community and long day care centres, and, most importantly in my view, family assistance programs such as family help lines and family counselling that are based around the family and designed to strengthen the family.

That leads to the main theme of my speech, which is the effect of family life on crime and crime prevention. We need to look first at what is the family. I believe that a family encompasses all sorts of relationships in which children are involved. In the 1890s, the family was regarded as the embodiment of our civilised society. Family groupings were encouraged, people were asked to spread social harmony, and women, in particular, were asked to have caring and warm relationships in the community. At that time, the average number of children in the family was between six and 10.

However, a change occurred this century with the invention of the contraceptive pill, which gave women the freedom to choose to have not quite so many children. That had a domino effect, because it also gave women the freedom to participate in society and to gradually move into the work force. I believe the contraceptive pill is one of the most liberating and biggest changes that has taken place in our society this century.

Today we have a variety of family situations. The ability of women to control their fertility has led to families shrinking in size, with some families in Western Australia now having only one child, and the majority having only two children, although I acknowledge that some families in Western Australia have a larger number of children. We have also had an increase in the number of one parent families, because of either choice or separation. The extended family, which was once the norm, has also been changed because of sons and daughters moving to another State or area and being separated from their parents, and, as a result, the role of grandparents, aunts and uncles in helping to bring up the offspring has been reduced.

Does this matter? Does the family affect the economy, the welfare system, social policy, violence, crime and crime prevention? Does the family affect the wellbeing of our nation? We know from a large body of evidence that the answer is yes. Families are still the basic unit of society as we know it today. Research indicates that families provide material and emotional support. Families are the primary transmitter of culture from one generation to another. Even though societies have different cultures, ideas and values, those values are transmitted through the family.

I turn now to a distinguished scholar, Professor Garry Becker, who won the 1992 Nobel Prize. In one of his most important works entitled "Treatise on the Family" he states that the family merits the great attention it receives from both scholars and lay persons, for despite major changes over time and enormous variations across social and economic environments, it remains the most influential of all our institutions.

At an international conference of experts on economic and social questions held in Rome in 1996 on the theme of the family, the economy and the future of society, the summary paper stated that by having, raising and educating children the family is both the producer of human capital and its first investor; above all, the family transmits values and virtues thus creating human capital in the true sense - men and women who are willing to give of themselves, to make commitments, to trust others and to cooperate with them.

We can test this and gain an understanding of why families are important by looking back on our own childhood. I do not know if you, Mr Speaker, can look back, as I did. When I was a young child and my mother said something to me when I was naughty or I disobeyed her -

Mr Prince: You were never good!

Mrs van de KLASHORST: Okay! When my mother told me off, I can remember saying to her that when I grew up and had my own children I would never say that to them. Guess what? I often hear my mother's words coming from my mouth! I do that not only to my children but also to my grandchildren.

We must gain an understanding of why families are so important by looking back to our childhood. We must explore the influence of families. Whether a child is brought up by one parent, both parents or a carer, the role of the family is still extremely important. My mother and father passed on all their ideas. They did not do that just by talking but by role modelling, and it was done perhaps by just a glance or a severe look. My father and later on my stepfather were major influences in the life of our family and our childhood. That continued until my mother's death.

The importance and effect of families on family life, morals and social roles was set out in another article in a magazine "Kindred Spirits - May 1994". Over many years Dr Elizabeth Porter, a sociologist from Flinders

University, examined and reported on the social model she labelled as "a good family". She fully researched many different societies and every type of family she could find. She discovered that good families had nine key strengths. Those strengths began with the premise that within a family one can be oneself. We are moral beings, autonomous, capable of making individual choices, and being accountable and responsible for those choices and the consequences of them. She talked about how families allowed young people to try those choices within the safety of the family network; to find a balance between self and independence; to be separate from others yet still be part of a team - which is, of course, within the family; to try things out; to be secure; and to be an individual within the safety of the family where boundaries were set to suit the age of the child.

She wrote about how family members learnt negotiation skills, inclusiveness, togetherness, and to be good negotiators - all within the bosom of the family. They learnt regard for others. Loyalty is taught and learnt within the family structure. Being loyal in the family transfers to loyalty to groups and to one's country. Other family strengths are taught and passed on, such as truthfulness, treating others well, caring, loving, and relating to friends. Families foster intimacy and mutual understanding of others' needs - how one's needs fit with others. The family fosters a sense of belonging and the need for others. Within a good family structure we learn that we cannot only take but also must give. Dr Porter wrote about the ability to have and to own, and the responsibilities and rights which flow from having and owning.

What do Dr Porter and her family virtues have to do with crime, crime prevention and violence? Surveys and research indicate the rapid growth in violent crime over the past three decades has occurred due to a decline in family values. David Blenkinshorn, the President of the Institute for American Values, an organisation devoted to research and education on family issues, wrote about fatherhood, and how a good role model helps children to grow into good citizens. Good citizens are likely to obey the law and to care for others. He said that parental investment in children, both maternal and paternal, enriches children - using the complex organisational structures for the garnering of energy to transform the next generation. He also spoke about growing violence due to a lack of family role modelling, especially the value a father or a male figure gives to the male offspring in a family. We all know that neighbourhood standards are mostly set by mothers but they are enforced by fathers and the adult males in the community. He feels that the rapid growth in crime and violence in our society simply comes back to the lack of family values and the failure of families to pass on values.

Many other surveys indicate that children living in dysfunctional families are more likely to be drawn into the justice system, to be suspended from school, to display emotional and other problems, to not get on with their peers, and to become violent and end up being drawn into the justice system. Research indicates that a family situation has an effect on crime, crime prevention and violent behaviour. We know that family values and morals taught within the family structure can help prevent crime and young people from moving into the criminal justice system.

Therefore, as a Government, we should work on policy directions. We must work with the community, because Governments cannot do it on their own, to nurture and encourage constructive and supportive values and strengths in families. The whole community must be involved. Recently we saw some very bad examples on television where young people in Armadale were out of control and probably will end up being involved in the justice system. However, we should provide good role modelling by citizens - not only parents or carers - so that children are encouraged to follow the role models and grow up and develop as good citizens.

I am very pleased to note in the budget papers that Family and Children's Services and the education system are working on early intervention programs. It has been proved that such programs can stop serious delinquency, because the origins of social delinquency, serious delinquency and adult crime can be traced back to the offender's childhood. Bullying, lying, and stealing at school is just the beginning, which, if not corrected and without intervention, can lead to more serious crime and perhaps criminality during adulthood. We must implement early intervention programs which target high risk children. If we work with dysfunctional families, even with pregnant women, to assess the development of the child and if we implement the right programs we can prevent delinquency and juvenile delinquents from becoming adult criminals.

I have been doing a fair amount of reading. Worldwide a huge knowledge base is emerging which supports the need for early intervention programs. These programs range from prenatal home visits with expectant mothers, working with the family to enrich home life and intellectual development of preschool children, right through to family intervention programs which train adults in more effective parenting methods. We need to work with the family. Working with the dysfunctional child alone does not work. We need to intervene and turn the whole family around.

If we are to turn the tide of crime we must realise that the wellbeing of the family is critical to the wellbeing of our nation. Family life has a bearing on crime and violence. Family issues must be at the centre of government policy and part of decision making across all government ministries and agencies. At every level of government we must make decisions that support, help and strengthen the family. I commend various Ministers for doing this. However, Governments cannot do it alone. The whole community must realise that we will not solve crime in our society with

more prison cells, mentoring programs, anti-violence curricula, anti-stalking laws, children's advocates, income transfers, self-esteem programs and the like. While all of those are important and each has a role and place, they will not turn the tide if we do not first solve the problems of dysfunctional families in our State and in our country.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [8.12 pm]: The people of Thornlie have been asking what the 1998 Budget means for them. If they read the budget speech they will see that the notion of a social dividend has shifted somewhat. It is now to make sure that "future generations are not burdened by excessive levels of debt". It is an interesting shift in government policy from when we saw "social dividend" in different terms.

The 1996 social dividend as we understood it then - about a better health care system, quality education, and efficient, cost effective and affordable public transport, has evaporated. We now have a new definition of what is the ultimate social dividend. The Budget says that children will grow up in a State with low debt levels and one which is forging ahead with state of the art economic and social infrastructure for the next century. I hope that this will be the case in Thornlie. However, it will take a Labor Government to deliver this. This Government is failing my electorate in a number of areas, some of which I will canvass tonight. Also, if time permits, I will address the Budget from the perspective of my shadow portfolios of the Arts and Heritage.

What does the Budget mean for the ordinary person in an everyday setting and context? First, one must look at the increases that were introduced not in the budget papers but several weeks before the Budget came down. For the ordinary person the Budget provides increases in car registration fees of between \$47 and \$100. The increase for a Holden Commodore is \$55. Third party insurance has increased by \$12. We have the 4¢ a litre Charlton fuel tax, which is still being collected.

Mr Bradshaw: No, it is not.

Mr Prince: Not since the High Court decision. It is now a federal tax.

Ms McHALE: Members opposite should not get so excited. I made a mistake. Members should calm down. I thank the Minister for Health, but I wish he would help in other ways.

Several members interjected.

Ms McHALE: The interjections indicate at least that members opposite were listening to my every word.

Will members opposite argue that stamp duty and bus and train fares have not increased or that public transport concessions have not decreased in the Budget? Will members opposite argue that standard adult fares have not increased? It is generally recognised - obviously not by this Government -

Mr Osborne: Not by the majority of people who voted for us.

Ms McHALE: Member for Bunbury, the majority of people want an affordable public transport system. The Government is taking that away from the community. The Government's transport policy is not the appropriate policy for this State and by increasing fares the Government is further eroding the passenger throughput on public transport.

Mr Omodei: Do you think that transport for country people should be subsidised by 70 per cent? That is what occurs in the metropolitan area. It does not happen in the country.

Ms McHALE: Does the Minister for Local Government want to penalise the metropolitan passengers? That is a cockeyed view, Minister.

Mr Omodei: The fares for metropolitan transport cover only 31 per cent of operating costs. It is intended by 2000 to try to boost the figure to 40 per cent. What would the member for Thornlie do?

Ms McHALE: When we get into government we will show what we can do with an efficient public transport system which would meet the needs of the local community. The Government's transport plan is heavily focused on road building. As the Treasurer said in his speech, "There is more". I think he was trying to be funny, but I do not think it worked. He said there was more for the everyday person in the everyday electorate.

Since the promise of a social dividend by the Treasurer, families have been continually hit by increased taxes and charges. I said that this Government is failing in a number of areas in my electorate. One area is education. I welcome the allocation of \$100m for computers in schools. I welcome the target that has been set, which is an extremely adventurous target and one to which the Opposition will keep the Government; that is, one computer per five high school students and one computer per 10 primary school students.

Mr Omodei: The Margaret River High School already has one in six.

Ms McHALE: That is because the member's party is in government and he can channel funding to his electorate.

Mr Omodei: So we are pork-barrelling our own electorates.

Ms McHALE: That is what the Minister said. I will tell members what is happening in my electorate. From my reading of the Budget - I am sure the Minister for Education will clarify this for me - it appears that that target will be met in the next 12 months. Unless it is not the case, I hope to be standing here in 12 months' time and reviewing how schools in my electorate have fared in meeting this target.

I want to put on record the current position with computers in schools in my electorate. Ensuring that schools have a very good supply and ratio of computers to students is critically important. The expression is becoming glib, but we are in a fast paced, technological society. If we do not give our young people skills in technology and computers, we will not be providing our future generation with appropriate skills. Having said that, it is not sufficient merely to provide computers. We need to look at what sorts of computers they are and what sort of infrastructure and training there is for our students.

On paper some of my schools appear to be reasonably well provided for. The ratio of students to computers ranges from one computer per 8.6 students at Thornlie Senior High School to one computer per 37 students at a small private school. These figures belie the real picture. I will go through the figures for my schools to put on record where they currently stand. These figures are based on a survey I have conducted over the past few days. I have not gleaned the information from any documents but have been given it through direct inquiries with the schools, so I am assuming that the data are correct.. The Sacred Heart School at present has one computer per 24 students. Thornlie Christian College has one computer per 20 students. Yale Primary School, which has 600 students, has one computer per 19 students, which includes 11 computers for Internet access in the library. It is hard to disentangle some of the data in order to know whether computers are accessible for scholastic studies other than library use. Langford Primary School is very small with a high Aboriginal population. It has one computer per nine students. I would add the rider that it has 15 computers, which include two new ones, two library terminals and 11 older ones of which 10 were donated from government departments and one from my office. Therefore, although it has 15 computers, only two are new Pentium machines. Lynwood Senior High School has one computer per 10 students. As I have said, Thornlie Senior High School has one computer per 8.6 students. The school has a population of 1 140 students and 132 computers. However, that figure includes two new computers, 25 old but useable ones, and 12 Pentiums used for the library - the rest are obsolete. Although on paper the school fares well, if we exclude the obsolete computers, the ratio is increased quite dramatically.

Mr Omodei: What kind of computers are the obsolete ones - 486s?

Ms McHALE: Thornlie Senior High School has not told me that, so they may or may not be 486s. One of the other schools has told me that its 486s are past their use by date. The figures I have been given include preprimary children and four year olds. Lynwood Primary School has one computer per 38 students. I will therefore be watching that school carefully to make sure that ratio comes down. Thornlie Primary School currently has one computer per 14.5 students. It has 48 computers, which includes 22 machines that are 11 years old. Therefore just under half are 11 years old. Technology changes in 12 months, so I doubt the viability of those computers. Thornlie Primary School is very close to the target at one computer per 12 students. Forest Crescent Primary and Preprimary School currently has one computer per 20 students. It has 39 computers, of which 24 are obsolete systems. Brookman Primary is another school with a large Aboriginal population in a low socioeconomic area. It has one computer per 20 students. Ferndale Primary School is spot on at a ratio of one computer per 10 students, but of its 23 computers six are obsolete and two are used only for the library. Kinlock Primary School is another school I will be watching very closely. The figures for this school include the four year olds, so that might distort the ratio, making it larger than it would be if they were excluded. The school has one computer per 33 students. Maddington Primary School has one computer per 21 students. Kenwick special school has one computer per 30 students. Perhaps the Minister for Disability Services might have a comment to make on that.

Mr Omodei: It depends whether you are talking about high school, preprimary, primary or convent students.

Ms McHALE: Kenwick special school has a range of students, as the Minister will know.

Mr Omodei: The computer that went out of your office to the school would have been a 486 and the school would have loved to have it. Some computers are upgradable and some are not.

Ms McHALE: I am not saying that the systems are obsolete; the schools are saying that for their educational programs the computers are obsolete.

Mr Omodei: I find that interesting. The computers must be 386s.

Ms McHALE: I will check and get back to the Minister.

Dr Hames: The 486s are not obsolete.

Ms McHALE: The Minister is not saying that 486s are obsolete.

Mr Omodei: People can still do lots of things with 486s and install lots of programs. They do not get access to the Internet unless they have a Pentium and a proper program.

Ms McHALE: I will check for the record what the systems are that they say are obsolete.

In going through those figures I am doing two things. I am putting on record the current benchmark so that I can assess the Government's commitment to having a target ratio of one computer per five students at high school and one computer per 10 students at primary school. I, and more importantly the community of Thornlie, will be assessing that commitment in the light of those figures. The second point in raising that data is to show that it is not good enough for an analysis to be made of the absolute number of terminals for the absolute number of students. If we are being serious about the provision of education, we need to look at the quality of the computers that are being used to make that assessment. Schools are worried that the number of computers they have will be taken at face value. As I have said, we need to take into consideration whether their computers are obsolete and therefore should not be counted. From the information I have, they are called boat anchors, for obvious reasons.

A number of schools appear to have a large number of computers, but in real terms many PCs should be ditched: Many of them are worthless, particularly as an educational tool. That is a critical point when assessing the Government's commitment to making our school equipment technological and state-of-the-art. The funding for our computer network needs to be recurrent, otherwise schools will start off with up-to-date hardware and software which soon becomes obsolete. Older systems do not have the capacity for the software that is being used today, and without ongoing funding the schools will soon find themselves back where they started. The schools in my electorate are excited about the Government's commitment. I welcome the \$100m commitment; I welcome the target that has been set - one computer for every five high school students and one for every 10 primary school students - and I welcome the fact that that will, I hope and believe, be achieved over the next 12 months. It is important, if one is serious, to follow up that commitment with support and not rely on 11 year old computers.

Mr Omodei: The Government never said it would spend \$100m in 12 months. It would be impossible to do that. It will be spent over the next four years. We will train the teachers. The recurrent funding is there over four years. What happens after that is an issue the member for Thornlie should ensure the Government looks after.

Ms McHALE: I hope that in four years' time I will be standing here and assessing the Government's commitment. The way the budget speech was written implied - and that is why I made the point explicitly, because I want to understand - that that is over the next 12 months; but now the Minister is saying that it is over the next four years.

Mr Omodei: One would not be able to have access to enough computers and would not be able to train enough people in 12 months. I thought the member would understand that.

Mr Osborne: Especially for remote schools. They do not have the access to fibre optic cable, the integrated services digital network or the satellite system, so those systems must be put in place as well.

Ms McHALE: I could quite easily spend it in the next 12 months in Thornlie because I have calculated on the figures that I have been given -

Mr Omodei: \$100m?

Ms McHALE: I do not need \$100m. I need sufficient funding for 183 computers - not even replacing the obsolete ones and the ones that are 11 years old. This is not a matter of one or two computers; it is a lot of computers.

Mr Omodei: A computer that is 11 years old?

Ms McHALE: Minister, this is why I am saying that this is a real problem.

Mr Omodei: Having \$100m to spend is a real problem.

Ms McHALE: The problem is the way the Minister is looking at it. The program will be much bigger because if one is serious about installing state-of-the-art equipment, as is stated in the budget speech -

Mr Omodei: Now the Labor Party is saying that \$100m is not enough!

Ms McHALE: I will quote from the Budget. It is my responsibility to make the Government deliver on its promise that -

Our children will grow up in a State with low debt levels and one which is forging ahead with the state-of-the-art economic and social infrastructure . . .

I include in that the computers that the Government is promising. In addition to the obsolete computers and the 11 year old computers in my electorate, I need 183 new computers to reach the Government's target. That is not of itself sufficient because at least half of the current ones in my electorate are worthless or not appropriate as an educational tool.

Mr Omodei: They are probably the ones the Labor Party supplied.

Ms McHALE: The Minister is good at griping about what we did or did not do and I am sure he did that in opposition when we were in government.

Mr Omodei: It was a pretty ordinary effort. You were pretty good at borrowing billions of dollars but not very good at spending it in the right places.

Ms McHALE: I am sure we could have done a lot better than we did in terms of computers, because the current situation is not good. The Government has committed itself to spending \$100m - over four years, according to the Minister - and I am keen to ensure that the students in my electorate benefit. In order for that commitment to be met and for my community to think they are getting something out of the Budget, they need at least 183 computers. I do not know whether the Government has done this exercise that I have done throughout the State. It was interesting doing the survey because some schools could not tell me how many computers they had. Some schools could, straight away, but others could not. I had to contact each one individually and I now have a very sound benchmark against which to measure. I would be interested to know whether the situation in Thornlie is replicated in every other electorate.

Providing the computer hardware is a good initiative but one must think also about the need for recurrent funding for training the teachers to cope with the new technology, to provide software, and to support this significant investment by providing some on-site technical support. Some schools, particularly high schools, could have perhaps 200 or 250 computers on-site, which is a significant investment which must be supported. From a technical point of view, I wonder whether the commitment has been thought through.

I have spoken about school chaplains in this House on a number of occasions, have asked questions about the budget allocation to school chaplains and have supported the need to increase the amount. For the past three years the Government's commitment to chaplains has remained static at \$90 000, which does not go very far. It certainly is not the whole budget for running the chaplaincy program. I looked at the Education budget and found no reference to the chaplains, although, given that it is a relatively minor amount, that does not surprise me. I am unsure at this stage whether the budget provision has actually increased. I have telephoned the department and have been told that the Education Department has decided to increase the allocation from \$90 000 to, I believe, \$150 000. I am pleased that that will happen, if that in fact is the case, because school chaplains provide a service. Some students would not go to a chaplain, but others would. In our increasingly complex and stressful society, there is a need to have somebody unrelated to the teaching staff in a school to provide some form of advice and support. It is recognised that school chaplains focus quite strongly on spiritual elements as well as the physical elements, but at Thornlie Senior High School the young female chaplain plays a vital role in the pastoral care system and deals with conflict resolution; grief through divorce, sickness or death; social issues such as health; drug abuse; sexual issues; and other crisis issues that face our children. I am pleased that the department has decided to increase the funding from \$90 000 to \$150 000. I do not want to sound ungrateful, but I will say that that increase has been due. Nevertheless, it will improve the financial status of the Churches Commission on Education in relation to that service.

In contrast, the number of psychologists in the now Cannington and Fremantle districts have reduced. Although the reduction is quite small it affects the service to our high schools. I am not making a link between increasing the funding to school chaplaincies and decreasing the psychologists; the reduction in the psychologists occurred with the change in staffing formula. I am pleased that the school chaplaincies have increased. Nevertheless, we need to increase the support to our students of services such as school psychologists, social workers and so on, because, as I am sure the Minister for Youth will agree, if one takes a holistic approach to our youth, our schools play a role much broader than the educational programs they offer. They are there for the whole care of our students. I am concerned about the reduction in school psychologists.

My theme in opening was that this Budget and this Government have failed the electorate of Thornlie in a number of areas. I have raised the issue of the Langford redevelopment - the reviving suburbs program - several times in this House and I intend to continue raising it because nothing gets done. I became very agitated when I read the budget speech on the day it was delivered. It states that the Government will progress the Homeswest New Living program which is rejuvenating old public housing in suburbs such as Kwinana, Lockridge, Balga, Koondoola and Girrawheen. One could imagine my distress when I read it again. I could not see the word Langford on the page; it was not there at all. One needs to remind members that the Premier delivered a press statement in December about the new Homeswest living program which at that time included Langford; so where has it gone? I approached the Minister

for Housing and asked about Langford, and he said not to worry because it was included in the project; it was just an oversight that it was not in the budget papers. The Minister for Housing is a very honest man with a great deal of integrity, and his comments reassured me. I was concerned again yesterday when I read the two page spread in *The West Australian* about the New Living program. The chief executive officer of Homeswest was reported as saying that the program was happening in suburbs such as Kwinana, Lockridge, Koondoola, Girrawheen and Balga; no Langford. Either he is perpetuating this oversight, which I am sure he is, or Langford has disappeared. I am not prepared to let Langford and its community disappear from the New Living program, because that area has been waiting for many years for something to be done; the situation predates this Government. Langford has been waiting for some action and some improvement. On 30 April I made a speech in this Parliament when I called upon the Minister for Housing to personally intervene to ensure that the Langford redevelopment program went ahead. The contract for the Langford redevelopment was awarded to BGC and contract negotiations were commenced in October. It is now 19 May, some seven or eight months later, and we are still waiting for the contract to be signed by Homeswest and BGC.

That is an inexcusable delay. I call upon the Minister for Housing to determine the problem. On 25 March the Minister wrote to me stating that the draft contract for Langford had been prepared and was the subject of extensive negotiations between Homeswest and BGC. The Minister said it was essential that all contract issues were fully resolved and agreed by both parties before the contract could be finally executed. Regrettably the Langford community consultation process, which forms part of the project manager's brief, cannot proceed until the contract has been finalised. I accept it is important to ensure that the contract between the two parties is watertight, will not get the Government into any difficulty, and will produce what Homeswest and the community want for Langford. However, it is not good enough that I must keep bringing this matter to the attention of the Parliament. I know the Minister for Housing will be concerned about it and I hope that he personally intervenes. I was distressed and concerned as the local member that Langford did not even warrant a mention in the 1998-99 budget speech when the other suburbs, quite legitimately, were mentioned. The Langford community is desperate for this project to go ahead and it saddens me that the many struggling families are still being ignored.

I move from the impact of the Budget on my local electorate to the arts community. As shadow Minister for the Arts, I will make two comments on how I view the Budget impacting on the arts. In a world of competing resources - members of the Opposition constantly say that not enough money is spent on health and education - I recognise that it is difficult for a spokesperson on the arts to say that more money should be allocated to the arts. However, it is imperative for the health of any community to have a flourishing creative community. It is imperative for a healthy community to have a strong, vibrant, artistic and cultural heart. Appropriate funding must be made available to ensure that our artistic community continues to flourish and that we nurture our local creative community.

The second point I make in providing a context for this Budget is last week's federal Budget, which, overall, was very disappointing for the arts community. Artists and arts organisations will find it more difficult to obtain federal funding. It will have repercussions for regional Western Australia, perhaps not in the short term, but over the next 12 to 18 months.

The regions in Western Australia must receive sufficient funding to protect their cultural heritage. Although regional Western Australia needs appropriate transport systems, health and education, it also needs its own identity. That will evolve mainly through its artistic and cultural heritage. There is a problem with arts funding in the federal Budget and, on the first reading of it, there is also a problem with the state Budget.

The Government refers to a couple of interesting initiatives in the Budget, one of which is the Carnarvon Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Centre to which \$1m has been committed over three years. In the first year I believe the allocation will be \$80 000 to \$100 000 with the rest being distributed over the next two years. In discussions with the committee established to oversee the development of the cultural centre it was made clear to me that it will cost at least \$3m. The \$1m that has been committed will not provide a cultural and heritage centre.

This Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Centre is a critical initiative that the community in Carnarvon has sought for years. Although I am pleased that a commitment has been made to it, the amount is insufficient. I do not want the community in Carnarvon to be disappointed again as a result of lack of funds. It is imperative the Government look beyond the \$1m and understand what will be the actual cost. When built, it will be a significant centre for the diverse Aboriginal communities in the Gascoyne region. I have seen the plans. It is a very adventurous and ambitious centre and will have a significant impact on the region, but it must be funded appropriately.

I refer to the rather glib statement that the Government will include theatres as part of its proposed convention centre. When I asked the Premier how many theatres would be built he replied, "How many do you want?" I am neither the Minister for the Arts nor the Premier. If I were the Minister for the Arts, I would know what theatre provision was required to take the community into the twenty-first century.

Mr Osborne: I think the point the Premier was making was that the number of theatres would be decided as a result of public representation and market potential.

Mr Bradshaw: The theatres would be for not only art, but also lectures and other things.

Ms McHALE: I am sure that is what they will be used for. Theatrettes are often included in convention centres for workshops and so on. However, I drew the inference that the theatres proposed for the convention centre will address the theatre needs of Perth. They will not.

Mr Bradshaw: Who said that? Do you support the convention centre?

Ms McHALE: I think the Labor Party has made its position on the convention centre very clear.

Mr Bradshaw: You are being purely political about it.

Ms McHALE: I will provide the member with the statements we have made if he is interested in knowing what the Opposition thinks about the convention centre. In any event, additional theatre space is badly needed. I am pleased to hear that it is not the Government's intention to deal with the theatre problem by including them in the convention centre. I was heartened to hear that if that is what the member for Bunbury meant.

Mr Osborne: I did not say that.

Ms McHALE: Either the member for Bunbury or his colleague on his right said that the theatres to be included in the convention centre are not intended to address Perth's theatre needs.

Mr Osborne: I said it was not possible for the Premier or anyone to be specific at this stage about what facilities will be built, because we are awaiting the reaction of the arts community and the tourism industry and the result of market studies.

Ms McHALE: It appears that we are building theatres but we are not sure for what purpose.

Mr Osborne: Keep an open mind.

Ms McHALE: The Government has committed \$100m to build a convention centre but we must have an open mind about the facilities it will provide! That is an interesting way of allocating funds!

Mr Osborne: It has not been spent.

Dr Hames: It is stuck in the bank earning interest.

Ms McHALE: It is like the \$100m in the Education budget for computers; it will not be spent over the next 12 months, but over four years.

Mr Bradshaw: We will not spend it willy-nilly like you people did. We want to stagger the spending so that it is spent properly.

Ms McHALE: It is interesting how members opposite reinvent history after 10 or 15 years. We did not spend money willy-nilly; we were in government for many years and had several terms.

Mr Minson: I thought I had considerable respect for the member for Thornlie, but she has just lost me.

Ms McHALE: I am not an apologist for the past. I am more concerned with the present and what will occur in the future.

Dr Hames: Having said that, will you sign the Sorry Book?

Ms McHALE: Absolutely.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bradshaw: What about the one for the Labor Party in the 1980s?

Ms McHALE: Let us not degenerate.

It is disappointing that the Budget does not make any provision for an increase, however meagre, for Museums Australia, a national organisation with a Western Australian chapter. Museums Australia does a huge amount of networking among community museums and non-profit art galleries. The three backbenchers who are country members will know about the work done by local museums and historical societies.

Mr Minson interjected.

Ms McHALE: The Geraldton museum will become a member of Museums Australia, but unfortunately it is struggling on only \$30 000. It needed only about \$10 000 or so. The Minister for the Arts declined to even consider increasing its funding.

As I said at the outset, this Budget does not address the needs of the everyday person in an everyday suburb like Thornlie. On the face of it, a number of initiatives such as the provision of more computers for schools is an improvement. I will follow the progress of that expenditure assiduously and with great interest.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [8.57 pm]: I will first address a matter concerning the Health budget which has concerned me for some time and which is relevant now in the light of the recent and, we must all agree, very difficult abortion debate. An article appeared in *The West Australian* of 15 May which referred to a national survey on teenagers and abortion.

Dr Hames: You say Western Australia just like the Premier.

Ms WARNOCK: I am getting into the habit of it. The article referred to one in two teenagers falling pregnant and consequently having abortions. It reported that 27 000 teenage pregnancies occurred each year. Both sides of the recent abortion debate will agree that that is obviously far too many teenage pregnancies and far too many abortions among young women. It emphasises that we need much better and more widespread sex education about contraception.

I know some schools include it in their curriculum, but if so many teenagers are getting pregnant the message is obviously not getting through to them. The Family Planning Association of Western Australia is the leading non-government agency in this State dealing with sexual health education. It obviously needs more government support if it is to play a greater role in making information available to young people.

As the agency pointed out to me in some material it sent me about this issue, sexual health education in Western Australian schools has a very patchy record. Although many schools have excellent programs, some have very inadequate programs. The organisation has pointed out to the Government, in various submissions over a number of years, that it should be a matter of great concern in the approach to the twenty-first century that children can still leave school with little more than the information they have picked up from their peers. It is not good enough to print a few hundred thousand pamphlets and send them to schools, TAFE colleges and so on in the hope that someone will distribute them to students. The Family Planning Association of Western Australia believes, and I agree with it, that a systemic change is needed such that the Education Department either makes sexual health education mandatory or, if that is too difficult for some people, more actively promotes it. Schools now have a considerable degree of choice in this area. Specifically, I believe that people should be trained in the area of sex education to work in schools. Some teachers would be willing to be trained appropriately if they had the support of their schools. Information on contraceptive methods and choices must be made available to all adolescents through these programs. This will receive great opposition from some quarters, but I believe the Government stands condemned if it cannot achieve this objective in the state school system. That is not a new view: The Family Planning Association of WA has had it for a long time, and I share it because I was associated with the organisation for a long time. I agree with that organisation that nothing is more dangerous than ignorance.

The information is available from the Family Planning Association of WA but it is not exactly accessible. Quite obviously it is not accessible enough. The association cannot afford expensive media campaigns to advertise the fact that it provides these services and, somehow or other, it needs to get the message across. A whole section of the teenage population is missing out on the education or, if that is not the case, the message is not getting through to them as it should. The message must be delivered in a better way. The Government must take a bolder and less timid approach to this whole issue. It would make a big difference. Many members have had experience with their own families or children, and feel they have been successful or unsuccessful as sex educators for their children. Quite obviously, a number of children in Australia are not being educated properly in these matters and, whether it is done by the family, school, church or any other organisation, it is clear from these figures that it is not being done well enough. The message must get through to young people so that they avoid these problems.

Dr Hames: Of course, it is not just young people; it also affects mature people and married people. Of the 40 000 pregnancies a year in this State, half are accidental and of those half result in termination. I agree with you absolutely that we must do a lot of work to encourage better contraceptive practices.

Ms WARNOCK: I thank the Minister for Housing very much. People must come to grips with this, whatever their views on the subject. A new approach is needed because people have recently become more frank about this issue as a result of the recent debate.

Dr Hames: Once this debate is over, I will have a lot of discussion about how to do that to get better practices in place.

Ms WARNOCK: I will be happy to join the Minister in any effort in that direction because I am very concerned about it. The authors of the survey about which I spoke described teenage pregnancy as a neglected public health problem and stated -

Teenagers were more likely than other women to have premature babies with low birth weights and a greater chance of dying.

But the major reason for concern was the social disruption teenage pregnancies caused families, the loss of educational and work opportunities for the mother and the impact on the child who was likely to grow up in poverty.

Those facts are not new. People who have read about this subject will know them very well. This survey, which was published last week, has drawn attention once again to this problem and it must not be neglected. To give some idea about the figures, I quote again from the survey -

In 1995, 549 babies were born to girls aged under 16 and almost 4000 born to girls aged 16 to 18.

The highest birth rate was in the Northern Territory (78.2 per 1000 females), mainly due to the big indigenous population. One in eight teenage mothers in Australia was indigenous.

Queensland and Tasmania had the next highest birth rates (26 per 1000 and 26.8 per 1000 respectively), followed by WA (22.8 per 1000). Victoria had the lowest rate (14.3 per 1000).

That should be a matter of concern and we should all do what we can to change those statistics.

Dr Paul Lancaster, Director of the National Perinatal Statistics Unit at the University of New South Wales, who was responsible for the survey, said the high rate of abortions indicated that most teenage pregnancies were unplanned. That is quite obvious. He said WA's revised abortion laws should include improved information about unwanted pregnancies and abortions. I support that. His comments came after the Australian Medical Association called on the Minister for Health, Kevin Prince, to make public health education a priority to cut back on abortions. I would be happy to talk with the Minister for Health about that, and I am sure other members would be willing to join me.

I refer again to the funding amount, and some figures given to me by the Family Planning Association of Western Australia. Commonwealth funding to the association is being progressively reduced, as it is with other family planning organisations in Australia. The federal grant to the Family Planning Association of WA for 1995-96 was \$1.52m; in 1996-97 it was \$1.49m; and in the current year it is \$1.45m. This is a reduction of 5.3 per cent in real terms over the past two years but, taking into account the consumer price index increases and award rate increases, which the association must pay, the effective reduction is approximately 16 per cent. This is happening at a time when everybody is seriously concerned about reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies and terminations. In this situation, the funding for an organisation which is responsible for educating the community about these matters, among other matters, is being reduced.

Western Australian state government funding is project based, and it varies from year to year. It comes, for example, from a number of sources. The funding for education about sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS comes under the heading of public health disease control, and the phone-in service is funded from general grants. The organisation is funded by the State in a series of ways. It is pleasing that the general trend in Western Australia in recent years has been a slight increase. The funding comes from the Health Department, the Disability Services Commission, and Healthway. In the current financial year approximately 18 per cent of the Family Planning Association's income will come from state government bodies. In South Australia family planning receives approximately 39 per cent of its funding from state government bodies. The WA State Government could do a good deal better. The funding varies from State to State. The Family Planning Association fares slightly better than organisations in some States, but much worse than others on a national basis. Its total funding is \$2.45m and it obviously needs more than that in order to expand its education service. It would like to be able to train teachers, so that specialist educators can work with young people and understand how they need to be educated about these matters. In Fremantle, the Quarry Health Centre is a family planning facility solely for people under the age of 25 years. It will have counselling, education and clinical services there. However, education must spread further afield. We would get better results in that area than we have at the moment. We must grasp the nettle - if I may use a rather overused simile - and use the occasion of the very difficult debate we have recently had about the subject of abortion to work seriously at reducing the number of abortions, particularly among very young women; not by forcing women to bear unwanted children, but by providing much better education to prevent those unwanted pregnancies occurring in the first place. That is how I would like to see us go, and I know many other people in the community share my view.

I will discuss one other matter concerning health before I move to a totally different area in this Budget. Last week a woman telephoned me, drew this matter to my attention and later came to see me. It features in today's edition of

the *Guardian Express*, the local newspaper in my area. It concerns a service which is offered at the Women's Health Care House in Northbridge and which will have to close down on 28 May if promised federal and state funding is not released in time. This service is a victim of the present difficulties between the State and Federal Governments in relation to the Health budget. More than 30 women and 40 children could be affected if this service is closed down.

This service is called the mental health project and it is extraordinarily important to those who use it, more so because it is very rare in Perth that this service is offered. Apparently because there is difficulty in the negotiations between the Commonwealth and State over the state health care agreement, nationally funded mental health services are left with a very uncertain future. This service in Northbridge is likely to suffer as a result and it is very concerned that it may have to close down. It will mean that individuals who go there on a regular basis will have to use other facilities. I remind members that the aim of the service is something with which we all agree; that is, to try to reduce the number of people who are institutionalised as a result of mental health problems. One way of doing that is to provide services like this one at the Women's Health Care House. This has been very important to the individuals who go there. It has reduced their hospitalisation days and improved their quality of life through support services. If these programs are to close down, it will be very bad for those involved with this service. They will be without counselling and advocacy services. All people who know anything about mental health will know that that is extraordinarily important.

The woman, Alyssa Fawcett, who came to see me is quoted in the story in the *Guardian Express*. She is very concerned that this program will be closed down because it is the only one in the whole of Perth specifically for women in this position. Obviously women from all over town come to this centre. If it shuts down, she believes families stand to lose their mothers to increased hospitalisation and women could be driven to suicide and their families abandoned by their primary caregivers. These people suffer, and have suffered for a long time, from chronic mental illness, and have obtained a great deal of help from this service. As I said, one of the vitally important things about the service is that it keeps people out of hospitals. As a community, we have agreed for many years that that is a very good idea. Having agreed on that, it is a very wrong decision to close down institutions and then cease to provide services for these people in the community.

I urge the Government to rethink this issue, if the story in the local newspaper and that told to me by the woman who came to see me is true. I hope we may find a solution to the problem. I will be discussing this issue and writing letters to the Minister for Health to try to obtain some change in that matter. Having decided on a policy some years ago that we must de-institutionalise these areas to help people live in their own communities instead of being in hospitals, we now have a situation of uncertain funding for those new services. We may find that we will go back to the bad old days when people had no choice but to be institutionalised because that was all that was available.

I will now turn my attention to another matter altogether; that is, housing. I am very glad that the Minister for Housing is in the Chamber. Members have often heard me mention two areas: The first relates to both affordable housing and the lack of it in the splendid East Perth redevelopment area and the second is that of lower income people finding accommodation in the inner city. When I have spoken about the second issue, in the same breath I have talked about the wonderful work done by the Perth Inner City Housing Association, PICHA, to help provide accommodation for those people. Recently the problem of homelessness has become appreciably worse, particularly in the inner city area I represent. I intend to relate to the House my concerns about this matter, arising out of the work that is done in my electorate office every day and the general concerns of those in the welfare sector about this problem.

I rang one of a number of people in non-government bodies whom I usually ring at Budget time to check on what that person thought of the Budget. I ring a few people I know to get their views. On this occasion, I got an instant reaction from this person who works for a well-known welfare agency. He asked where is the social dividend, for one thing. He said that emergency accommodation must be increased; that there is a homeless crisis and emergency accommodation in this town is always full; and that supported accommodation assistance program, SAAP, funding must be increased. That was the spontaneous reaction of someone who works in the welfare sector, and who knows the area and its problems very well.

Dr Hames: The problem is that Homeswest brings down its budget in August. That will be addressed when we do the August budget.

Ms WARNOCK: I hope so. I am very glad to be able to give the Minister early warning. Frankly, the problem is increasing dramatically. I will tell members a couple of stories in a moment. This person made a comment about the story all members must have seen in the newspaper yesterday, that if the improved quality of Homeswest housing in Kwinana had cut crime rates so much, the Government has an absolute obligation to speed up the program elsewhere, and that it should be done as a matter of priority.

Dr Hames: We are doing that, too.

Ms WARNOCK: I will relate to members some of the examples of homelessness as they have come to the attention of my office in recent days. I have had a string of calls from people looking for shelter for the homeless. I came to the Parliament early this morning and I had a call from my electorate officer to tell me that, when she arrived at the office, even before the door was open, two people who were looking for emergency accommodation were already waiting for someone to arrive. I am afraid this is the way things have been in the Perth area lately. As I say, obviously it has something to do with the fact that I represent an inner city area and people who are homeless tend to gravitate towards the inner city. I have written to two Ministers lately, one of whom is sitting in the Chamber opposite me at the moment, and the other being the Minister for Family and Children's Services. I know one might regard it as abominable to quote oneself, but as I always say: What safer source does one have? I will relay the details of a letter I wrote to the Minister for Family and Children's Services recently.

I informed the Minister that my office had had a number of homeless families asking for help in the past few months and it is getting much harder to house them in a reasonable time. About 10 days ago, a family of two adults, a baby boy of 14 months and two girls aged eight and nine were in my office from 1.45 until 5.15 pm. I pointed out to the Minister that my electorate officer spent the whole time telephoning every crisis accommodation facility in Perth - and we are by now extremely familiar with all the crisis accommodation in the area. This family had only \$130 after giving Homeswest \$100 towards debt reduction. Princess Margaret Hospital and Anglicare also helped with debt reduction. Homeswest was unable to provide accommodation and no other accommodation was available. The Minister's departmental staff suggested a hotel room costing \$95, which the family and my electorate officer considered unacceptable because that would have left the family with \$35 for two weeks, thereby exacerbating the problem. My electorate officer was appalled at the idea of turning the family out onto the street, and splitting them would be a dreadful step back into the past. Eventually my electorate officer spoke once more to the Minister's office and somehow convinced the officers of the seriousness of the situation. Someone was then prevailed upon to provide a night's lodging.

As I said, I realise there are different perspectives to this problem. However, we must never overlook the danger of allowing families to be without shelter. We must make a determined effort as a community to resolve this problem with input from the various departments and worthwhile suggestions from the community. I sought to bring this to the attention of the Minister concerned, particularly in relation to family crisis care.

A man who has been living rough for a number of years - and there are plenty in my electorate - might be prepared to sleep under a bridge for one more night if he cannot find accommodation, although I would certainly try to find it for him, but we cannot have a family sleeping under a bridge. That is what we were seeking to avoid in approaches to the department over several hours one afternoon.

Dr Hames: For families to sleep under bridges with no hope of getting accommodation through Homeswest would be pretty rare if they have not had repeated chances -

Ms WARNOCK: I have had a few people approach me who are in that position.

Dr Hames: - or rejected options.

Ms WARNOCK: People have come to me lately in increasing numbers. When one gets a reputation for doing one's best to help people, increasing numbers turn up with the same problem.

I have recently been called by Aboriginal welfare officers and other welfare officers working in the area saying there is a crisis. There is no question about that. I asked an Aboriginal person who rang me this morning what was wrong with the Aboriginal hostel nearby. She said there was no room at the hostel. I have many refuges in my area and we always approach them first. They are turning people away because there is not enough room to accommodate them.

Dr Hames: Yet we have many houses at Cullacabardee.

Ms WARNOCK: That might be true, but we tried everything to get these people accommodation. We finally found something for the two people who turned up this morning. However, I had two calls today from Aboriginal people working in welfare organisations asking for help to persuade the Government to do more about crisis accommodation. I said that surely it is the role of the Aboriginal housing section of Homeswest as much as ours to help, but I was told that it was unable to help. The Minister and I might have a private discussion about why that is so. Homelessness in the inner city is a very serious problem, and not only among Aboriginal people. Increasing numbers of people are approaching me about this problem. It is not something that we imagine and we must find places for people to live. There is already a number of services in the inner city.

Dr Hames: It is hard to believe that those people do not have the opportunity to be housed somewhere providing they have not been very bad tenants in the past and that they take up the options.

Ms WARNOCK: There are some in that category, but it is not all of them.

Dr Hames: I will talk to Greg Joyce and arrange for you to have direct access to him at any time you have a problem. He will go through the history and if there is no problem he will ensure that those people find something.

Ms WARNOCK: I would be very grateful. That would help my office staff. I know that some of these cases are very difficult and I do not minimise that difficulty. I know the situation. However, ultimately an organisation such as Homeswest has a responsibility - it is the houser of last resort. If it cannot find somewhere for people to go, who will?

Dr Hames: It is the houser of last resort providing people pay their rent, get on with their neighbours and look after their houses. If they do not do those things -

Ms WARNOCK: If Homeswest is not the houser of last resort, who is? It is a serious question: Who will look after them?

Dr Hames: People must bear responsibility for their own actions. If they refuse to abide by the Homeswest requirements - for example, to pay their rent - it cannot continue to accommodate them. If they do not honour those obligations, all the other low income people for whom we provide accommodation would be in a terrible situation. Their family resources, independent means or welfare groups and support services are their last resort.

Ms WARNOCK: In the three and a half hours or so that my officer spent on the phone trying to work out something, we approached every houser of last resort. It was still a question of whether this family would end up under a bridge.

I referred to a letter dated 29 April that I wrote to the Minister for Family and Children's Services. I received a reply signed by her chief of staff in which it is stated that the Minister asked him to acknowledge my letter and thank me. He pointed out that my comments have been noted and thanked me for bringing them to the Minister's attention.

If Homeswest is not the houser of last resort, Family and Children's Services still has an obligation, as it did by law many years ago, to provide accommodation for people in a crisis situation. That is finally what we managed to sort out for those people. The department finally came up with a solution. I will not describe how we persuaded the officers concerned, but we used some fairly heavy-handed methods, and eventually they decided to help out. If Homeswest is not the houser of last resort in a crisis situation, is Family and Children's Services? Is that not its obligation?

Dr Hames: I do not know and I cannot speak for another Minister. We need some mechanism whereby, if accommodation is found for these people, their supporters will provide the support to guarantee payment of rent. If they pay their rent we will be able to house them. We bend over backwards; we give them chances again and again. We cannot go on doing that forever. At the end of the day they go to the member for Perth and she will shop around and find them emergency accommodation.

Ms WARNOCK: We are doing a lot of that at the moment.

Dr Hames: It is not fair of them to do that to you, to Homeswest or to the rest of society. They are so dependent on society that they will not take any responsibility for themselves, so everyone else must do something about it for them. If there were a genuine desperate situation that is not of their own choosing, we would sort out something for them. However, if it is something they have brought upon themselves again and again, they must be responsible for their own actions.

Ms WARNOCK: Some of the people who come to me have not been irresponsible; they have fallen into difficulties as a result of circumstances beyond their control, and as a community we owe them some support.

Dr Hames: As you know, Greg Joyce is very compassionate.

Ms WARNOCK: I know him well and I admire him.

Dr Hames: If you speak to him directly, he will look at those arguments and at the histories, and if you have a good argument, he will support you every time.

Ms WARNOCK: Fair enough. I have said that many Aborigines are homeless because of debt problems - I understand that well. Therefore, it is difficult for them to provide a reference for private rental. Although bond assistance is a great help, further assistance is needed in the form of two weeks' rent in advance, plus a one week letting fee. This is generally demanded in the private rent area. Often, as people are paying off debts to Homeswest, it is difficult to get out of this circle of debt. That is why a discussion is needed. Perhaps I could talk to Greg Joyce to find a way to help extract these people from this seemingly impossible situation. I made a number of suggestions on this matter in a letter to the Minister on 14 May.

Dr Hames: Often Family and Children's Services provides that assistance. On many occasions, we have negotiated with Family and Children's Services and they have provided the original start funding to enable people to move into accommodation. Often they have paid a debt to Homeswest to enable people to get into Homeswest housing.

Ms WARNOCK: Are they providing some sort of mentor service as well?

Dr Hames: We have a mentor support group already to help people manage their rent and debt. We have introduced a direct-debit system. As long as people stay on that system, it works well as rent is taken out of their social security. The problem is that people must agree to go onto the program to get into the accommodation; however, as soon as they get in, they cancel the direct debit and stop paying rent.

Ms WARNOCK: I am happy to talk to Greg Joyce about this serious problem. I have notes all over my desk from people who called me today. I asked people about the Aboriginal emergency accommodation, and I was told that a person who rang me today spent seven hours there yesterday with a family because it is so overcrowded with people facing this problem. I am not suggesting that an easy solution exists. One cannot flick one's fingers and it will be solved. It is among the most difficult problems we face as a community. This group of people is very needy. They have personal problems - many of us know about those - which do not arouse a great deal of sympathy in the community. However, a well-off, developed community like ours - we are not a third world state - which is currently boasting surpluses and economic success cannot ignore this problem and still be regarded as a decent community. I regard this provision of assistance to be a community service obligation. I am happy to be on any discussion group or committee to attempt to find a solution. Frankly, I am extremely concerned about the problem.

Dr Hames: I will arrange a meeting with you and Greg Joyce as the first step.

Ms WARNOCK: I thank the Minister for that comment.

I finish my contribution on a lighter note by fulfilling an obligation. I was in East Perth last Saturday for the auction - I have missed only one - where I met Mr Richard Lewis, a former member of this House. He is never terribly pleased to see me when we meet on these occasions. However, I said that even though he was given a job for the boys, he was the right boy for the job. He has been working very well down in the East Perth redevelopment. Last Saturday he engaged me and said, "Here you are again" or words to that effect. I said, "Yes, and I am afraid I will be here next time if there is another such occasion." He immediately asked me why I did not say something nice about the Government, and I asked him to tell me something the Government had done which I might think was nice. He then said that extra funding was provided in my electorate for the National Trust to renovate the East Perth cemeteries. I told him that many people outside Parliament have difficulty believing politicians' promises, but I made one to him: I promised to say something nice about him and mention him in my speech on the appropriation Bills in Parliament this week - I do so now. I want all members opposite who are in regular contact with the gentleman to whom I referred to report that I said something nice about him and the Government!

It is rare that I find myself agreeing with and enthusing about something done by the present Minister for Planning and Minister for Heritage; indeed, it may be the first and last time I can do this in Parliament, but I am keen to take the opportunity as I frequently say that I believe in giving credit where it is due.

Dr Hames: While in the process of giving credit, next time you talk to people at the Perth Inner City Housing Association about inner city housing, ask them how much money they are getting through Homeswest in inner city housing programs. I think you'll be back again.

Ms WARNOCK: I am always willing to give credit where it is due.

To finish on this more cheerful note, East Perth cemeteries, that historic pioneer graveyard on the highest point of Plain St, has received \$200 000 through the National Trust in this Budget to restore its tiny church's roof, to landscape and to install some lights in the area. I am extremely pleased that the Government has seen fit to fund restoration work on this important historic site.

I must always declare an interest when discussing this subject as I have some ancestors buried at the cemetery. It is important not only because of my personal connection, but also as it is the duty of the present generation to preserve the important features from our communal past for future generations.

Mr McGowan: I am sure they will appreciate it.

Ms WARNOCK: Indeed. The East Perth cemeteries - several cemeteries were located at the site, so the plural is correct - are a great repository of this State's early settlement history. We should work hard to preserve it and make it as interesting as possible for visitors, whether they be locals or from interstate.

I said I wanted to finish on an up note. I have no difficulty trusting politicians, although I know some people differ

with me in that regard. I ask government members who are in regular contact with Mr Richard Lewis to mention that I have not welched on my agreement; that is, I said a nice thing about him and have been full of compliments to the present Government for its excellent work in the East Perth cemeteries.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [9.38 pm]: I raise an issue which did not receive enough attention in the Budget; namely, salinity, which is our number one environmental problem, as well as a serious economic and social problem. It is a problem of huge magnitude. In fact, 1.8 million hectares of land in this State are salt affected, and we are told that the figure will double in the next 20 years if we do not do much about it. The Water and Rivers Commission refers in the budget papers to about 6.1 million ha of land being affected in the next 50 years before we reach equilibrium. The problem is stupendous and deserved more attention than it received in the Budget.

We know that \$64m is lost every year from agricultural production as a result of salt affected land. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation indicated earlier this month that soil salinity in Australia has the potential over the next 50 years to expand to cover 95 per cent of the total irrigable land in the nation, and one-third of the dry land arable areas, and Western Australia is thought to have about 70 per cent of this problem. Salinity is a huge problem. It is an economic problem for farmers, and a problem in its impact on infrastructure and on the environment.

As to farmers, late last year I visited a catchment group that is centred in the area where I grew up. I had not been to some of the paddocks for 20 years. I was absolutely horrified. What I remembered as a child as small salt scalds had become full-on areas of total salinity that could not cope with vegetation. Fortunately, those farmers got together and, working as a group, had implemented many measures to improve the situation. However, they pointed out that when salinity starts to affect their land, at first they do not notice it. They are aware that the crop gives them a lower average than expected but they do not know whether the reason is frost, rainfall or a dry end to a season. It is only now that they recognise very early symptoms of salinity from their crop yields; and they will be looking at that more in the future.

Salinity also affects the infrastructure of towns. When I was in a different catchment I got a really good example of it. I was taken by a group of farmers to a road beside which there were salmon gums. In some areas of the eastern wheatbelt the only areas left where there is remnant vegetation are the roadside verges because they have not been cleared. With this road, the shire altered the drainage and constructed a culvert and ditch to make a turnaround circle for the school bus. The upshot was that the water table rose, the salt came up and it killed off the salmon gums. The farmers were jumping up and down. On the one hand they wanted the bus turnaround area for their children. On the other hand, salmon gums are hard to grow; they are extremely hard to germinate in the wild and very hard to grow any other way. The farmers did not want to see the few remaining salmon gums killed. That shows the complexity of the salinity issue. People can do what they think is a rational and reasonable act for the betterment of the whole community, but in fact it has a major impact because of salinity.

In 1996, prior to the state election, the Government released the salinity action plan. It is a plan that sets out a structure for the next 30 years at a cost of \$3b to tackle salinity. The Opposition endorses this plan. We commend the Government for introducing it. However, being in opposition, we will make sure that the Government keeps to the plan and implements what it said it would. When the Premier launched the plan in November 1996 he warned that a delay of one year in fighting back would add two to three years to the time needed to beat the salt menace. They were fighting words and that is what we all thought would happen. We were promised \$100m to tackle salinity - one-third each from the State Government, the Federal Government and the private sector. We were also told that the State Government had some sort of arrangement with the Federal Government and that we were going to see a lot of Natural Heritage Trust funds flow into the State to tackle salinity. In addition to that, we were told that 100 million trees a year would be planted. It was a grand plan, one that we all welcomed. It was a plan that, with the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Primary Industry and the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources - as he was then - being right behind it, we thought would be implemented. However, it is not exactly what is happening.

I refer first to the Natural Heritage Trust: Unfortunately much of the money acquired by the trust previously came from the Federal Government to programs funded through the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. What were previously recurrent funds coming into this State for scientific research related to the environment, now come from the Natural Heritage Trust. That is a bit of a con because people think that a heritage trust that community groups apply for is a sum of money set aside for the community whereas, in fact, the Federal Government is using this trust for recurrent funding.

One other practical problem with the trust was that earlier this year groups were required to complete application forms by 6 March for the second round of funding. I think that was so that all the cheques would be out around now in case there was an early federal election. However, the difficulty for quite a number of groups in this State was that they knew they had been successful in the first round but they had not received their cheques by 6 March, let alone

spent it or evaluated the good work that they had done with their money. Consequently, they felt a bit silly applying for more money when they knew they had not yet received the cheque for the first lot. That created problems for them in having to explain how they had spent the first lot that they had not actually put into their bank accounts.

One positive aspect of the Natural Heritage Trust is the partnership agreement between the Commonwealth and the State. The partnership agreement emphasises biodiversity, which is very important to tackling salinity. I was interested to note in the budget statements that the Department of Conservation and Land Management said the salinity action plan provided the opportunity for CALM to tackle salinity while at the same time increasing biodiversity. However, CALM then talked about timber production and growing pine; and that does not do a whole lot for biodiversity.

The other issue with biodiversity in this State is that in 1992 the then Labor Government released the draft nature conservation strategy for public discussion. Since then there has been no action whatsoever. We were told in the past few years that the nature conservation strategy would not be proceeded with because of litigation concerning the forests. That litigation stopped and I now wonder where the nature conservation strategy is. I hope we see it soon.

What is in the budget for salinity and does it match the Government's promises? I hope the Deputy Premier can help me. Everyone in this House agrees that salinity is the number one environmental problem, but although the word salinity is often mentioned in the budget papers, amounts of money are hard to find. The CALM budget refers to planting 3 000 hectares of pine and 3 000 hectares of land care trees, a total of 5 million trees. That is a long way from 100 million trees; admittedly, trees are being planted privately, although I am not sure whether to the same extent.

CALM also says that it is spending \$4.65m on salinity relating to planting the trees, in particular with the maritime pine. Over the next four years there will be a capital expenditure by CALM of \$78m. The difficulty is that that \$78m covers capital expenditure for the management of forests, sustainable wood production and tourist facilities as well as for salinity. So, it is hard, when one looks at the CALM budget, to work out exactly what is new money for salinity and what is specifically directed towards salinity.

I raise the matter for this reason: In November 1996 we were told that \$100m a year from state, federal and private sources would be spent on salinity. A year ago in the Parliament the Deputy Premier said that the target was \$100m a year by 2000.

Mr Cowan: One hundred million dollars a year?

Dr EDWARDS: I think that is what the Deputy Premier said when this subject was debated. Perhaps the Deputy Premier can correct me because it is possible that what the Deputy Premier said is the same as what the Premier has just said; namely, that with the promise of further funds from the Commonwealth and input from the private sector, the Government now expects to spend \$100m on salinity control by the year 2000; again, that is a very different statement.

Mr Cowan: That is right.

Dr EDWARDS: So, that is the same as the Deputy Premier's statement a year ago.

Mr Cowan: That also was what was in the budget papers.

Dr EDWARDS: Yes, that is right, I am quoting the budget papers. However, that is a very different statement from that of 14 November 1996 when we were told that \$3b would be spent over 30 years at \$100m a year. The Deputy Premier is now talking about \$100m from early 1997 to the end of 2000. It is less than was promised.

Turning now to what is specifically stated in the Budget, I have been through the parts that deal with salinity because last year the Deputy Premier said that in 1998-99 there would be new funding of \$10m for salinity. I cannot find the allocation. It may well be that the new way the Budget is set out means that it is not easily found and it will not be visible until the end of the Budget Estimates Committee hearings.

However, if we take the budget papers at face value, in the Agriculture portfolio, an extra \$400 000 has been allocated for salinity. We are told that \$4.65m has been allocated to the Department of Conservation and Land Management, but we cannot work out from the budget papers, because the presentation is different from last year, what money is new and what is old. We are told also that \$3.4m has been allocated for the establishment of a maritime pine nursery. However, while that is a valuable commitment, it is for capital works to construct a nursery and not for putting trees in the ground. The budget of the Water and Rivers Commission contains an extra \$9 000. However, in the budget of the Department of Environmental Protection, it is extremely difficult to work out whether it contains any extra amount.

The outputs refer to two salinity projects in 1997-98, and two projects in 1998-99, but I cannot determine whether that is the same two projects or two new projects. If we put the most generous slant on the section that deals with these projects, and if we compared last year's budget and this year's budget and assumed that all of the extra money would be spent on salinity, at the most the amount would be \$200 000. If we added all that up and assumed that all of CALM's \$4.6m was new, which it could not possibly be, we would come to around \$8m. That figure is over exaggerated, but, even so, it is less than the \$10m that I mentioned. I look forward to teasing out in the Estimates Committee hearings exactly what money is being spent on this most serious issue.

I raise the issue of salinity for another reason as well. Today's *The Australian* contains a large report about how people are moving even from urban areas to the inner city. It contains a charming article about Perenjori, which of all the towns in Western Australia has suffered the greatest decrease in population. Between 1976 and 1996, the population decreased from 1 210 to 695, which is a huge drop. It also contains a poignant story about a couple called Jack and Glenys Cooper, who went to Perenjori 40 years ago because it had a Bank of New South Wales; they had the idea that they would find a town which had a Bank of New South Wales, where they would get good service, and settle there. However, as the article points out, the bank is no longer there, the garage is no longer there, the two machinery businesses are no longer there, and a lot of other facilities that were there 40 years ago, or even 20 years ago, are no longer there. That touches on the problem of salinity, because it shows that in areas where the population is declining, real effort must be made to work with the populations that remain to make their areas sustainable so that people can continue to make a living.

I was fascinated, and it is ironic in some ways, that the author of this report for the Australian Bureau of Statistics was a man called Salt. It seemed a bit strange!

I now come to the member for Vasse, because one of the issues that is mentioned for Western Australia is that people want to live on the coast, and lifestyle issues become incredibly important. The author of that report said that Busselton was the fastest growing city in the nation. I did not realise it was a city.

Mr Masters: It will be a city by 2010.

Dr EDWARDS: It had a population growth of 5.7 per cent per year to June 1997.

Mr Masters: It also has a major salinity problem in the hinterland.

Dr EDWARDS: Yes, and it is not alone. Urgent action must be taken on salinity, all over the State, but particularly in those areas where people are directly affected.

I will now make some specific comments about the Budget. In the presentation of the CALM budget this year, we see what are called outputs, which are basically performance measures. We have outputs for nature conservation and for native forest management. However, given that these areas are scientific and employ a lot of scientists, the outputs fail to mention refereed scientific papers as a performance measure. That is a big deficiency. One of the outputs of astronomical services - the Observatory - is five papers in the last financial year, and it is projecting five papers for this financial year. The Kings Park Board also had five papers last year and is projecting five papers this year. The Zoological Gardens Board, a small institution, had 11 papers. CALM needs to get its act together and include that output as one of its performance measures.

Another issue highlighted in the CALM budget is the delay in the adequate management of regional parks. About a year ago, we had a fancy launch, and lots of promises were made about the better management of regional parks. However, little has changed. It is interesting that the Planning budget refers to continuing negotiations with CALM, whereas we were told a year ago that this matter would be settled within a few months. I continue to receive complaints about the management of regional parks - that the firefighting and ranger services are not adequate, and that generally, with the transition from the Ministry of Planning to CALM, the level of maintenance has been reduced.

I turn now to the Environmental Protection Authority budget. I welcome the increased funding for the EPA. However, I am concerned about the media release from the EPA during the week that said it had no money to conduct a strategic assessment of the West Kimberley agricultural proposal. The Minister for Primary Industry tabled the memorandum of understanding for that proposal about 10 days ago. One of the deficiencies of the MOU is that the environment is referred to only in terms of environmental impacts. There is neither a requirement for the proponent, nor a promise from government, about baseline studies being done to show us exactly what is in the environment before we start talking about the impacts. While I have faith that the proponent will do the environmental impact studies properly, under the MOU he is required to look only at certain aspects. He is not required to look at the full biodiversity that we do not know about. I hope that will be corrected.

Mr House: I have said fairly regularly since I tabled that MOU that any agreement between the State and the proponent will be the subject of a state agreement Act in this Parliament. While you have raised an issue that may

be of concern to a lot of people, the comfort will be that I am sure the Parliament will not agree to a state agreement Act that does not encompass the issues that you have raised; and even in just raising them, you have drawn them to the attention of other people, including the proponent. Therefore, while I do not want to comment on the depth of that, I think we would all be concerned about the environmental issues, and the comfort will be in that state agreement Act.

Dr EDWARDS: We had a state agreement Act for Oakajee, but the EPA was able to find the money to conduct a strategic assessment, and that provided a lot of comfort, because the EPA did that at around the time the agreement Act went through the Parliament, so we knew that the EPA was looking at it objectively and independently, and it raised a host of issues that the proponent picked up in his environmental impact statements.

Mr House: That was as a result of the state agreement Act.

Dr EDWARDS: No. The strategic assessment was actually separate. I do not have a problem with the MOU, because obviously the proponent should do an environmental impact assessment. However, nobody knows a lot about this part of the State. Scientists do not go to this part of the State because it is difficult to justify the expense of flying up there and camping for two weeks to do the necessary research. We do not fully know what is there, and if we look only at the impacts of various parts of the proposal, we may miss some of the bigger picture. If the EPA cannot even afford to do a strategic assessment, the likelihood that we will miss something is increased. We could buy less trouble if we did that work up-front rather than play catch-up. From the proponent's point of view, the risk is that he will spend the \$1.5m a year on his feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, only to discover that some really basic impact has been overlooked because he did not know it was there.

Mr Masters: I thought the EPA, if it was asked to assess a proposal, given that it was based on information, would make that judgment and run the risk that the proponent would be refused the project if the baseline data was not provided.

Dr EDWARDS: It is a more elegant way to do it, as happened at Oakajee with a strategic assessment which was quite separate and which independently identified some of the issues. I take the member's point about the EPA doing its job properly. It is a matter of concern that the EPA said it did not have the money to carry out that strategic assessment.

Mr Masters: I am not convinced it should have the money for that kind of assessment. It is a proponent driven environmental impact assessment process in Western Australia, and if the proponent does not provide sufficient data for the EPA to make a judgment, the EPA, as an independent body, should say so and make a judgment on that basis. Often it may be that it should not go ahead.

Dr EDWARDS: There is a philosophical difference because part of that environment is potentially pristine, and the values are not known. The proponent can look at one part of the environment and assess the impact, but I am arguing that the Government should send environmental people in there beforehand to find out about the environment and to determine what should be conserved. Then the proponent can do what he needs to do under the environmental impact assessment process. I hope the Government will rectify this deficiency.

I now raise a couple of issues of further concern. The first relates to Perth's Bushplan. For two years the Government has promised that the Minister for the Environment, in conjunction with the Minister for Planning, will release Bushplan which arises from work done through the review of System 6, the Ministry for Planning's Perth environment project, and work by the Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection. When Hon Peter Foss was Minister for the Environment he promised in July 1996 that Bushplan would be released shortly. Promises were then made that it would be released just before the election, then autumn of last year, then July 1997, then October 1997, then January 1998, and finally June 1998. It has now become imperative that the document be released. One of the reasons is that many small community groups have spent hours working in bushland trying to preserve it, and they now have a good feel for what should be preserved. Many of them have been involved in these procedures for identifying bushland. Many have made submissions to the review of System 6 or to the urban bushland advisory council, saying which pieces of bushland need to be protected. Bushplan is the culmination of about 20 years' work looking at urban bushland in the Perth metropolitan area and working out which land is of value and which should be protected. Considerable taxpayers' money has been spent on this process. Therefore, it is disappointing that the release of the document continues to be put off. It has now reached the stage where both conservationists and developers need to know what is in the document, which land is earmarked as worthy of conservation and which land is not. This will allow people to get on with what they want to do in the areas that are not worthy of conservation. A signal should be sent strongly and early about the land that is earmarked for conservation.

It is alarming to read the statements from the Ministry for Planning. Some people have seen the draft Bushplan

because the signals from the conservation movement are that it is a good document. The Ministry for Planning is concerned about it, probably on the basis of cost. I was interested to read in the budget papers under the planning section that protection for bushland and other natural values needs to be extended to incorporate techniques other than mere reservation and acquisition. The problem is that, without the release of the Bushplan document, nobody knows what that means. It seems to send a strange signal. Where are the Government's priorities? More than \$400m has been spent on the Northbridge tunnel and this year the Government has promised to construct a convention centre worth \$100m, and yet nothing leaps from the pages of the Budget to indicate money has been allocated for Bushplan. That indicates that unless Treasury has done some magical tricks, no money has been allocated. A substantial amount of money is needed in this area.

I now quickly raise some issues in my electorate. In the suburb of Maylands there is an antiquated bridge over the railway line. It is so old that people do not use it because it is unsafe. There are large signs warning people not to walk on it when it is wet or too hot and not to run on it. One day as an experiment I pushed a pram over the bridge and I nearly killed myself. The bridge presents a lot of problems to the local community. It is not built to ACROD standards. The Blind Institute is located in my electorate, and people who are visually impaired have difficulty using this bridge because of its steepness and its uneven bitumen paving. As a community group, we have worked on this issue for a long time and had agreement from the Blind Institute and from people who are deaf and blind that they would accept a crossing over the railway line that was at grade, provided it had tactile signals, bells, whistles, and automatic closing gates. We looked at a number of similar gates with officers from Westrail. The difficulty is that Westrail has advised that the Coroner does not like these crossings and, therefore, Westrail will not install one. The community has been told that an underpass will be constructed. That might be a good thing, but at the moment no money is available for that purpose. The at grade crossing would cost about a quarter of the cost of an underpass. When community groups, such as the Blind Institute and representatives of deaf and blind people, are happy that their members can cope with an at grade crossing, we want to know why that cannot be provided. We will continue to lobby the Minister for Transport on this issue, so that ultimately there will be an improvement on the current situation.

The second issue relates to the Dianella child health clinic. Recently I was asked to visit the clinic, and I am concerned about its state of disrepair. The pavement is uneven and I had to look very carefully where I trod. I am told a number of children have fallen in that area. Even worse is the system of glass louvred doors in the clinic. The catch to the door is less than a metre from the floor. It is within the reach of small children, and a child on one side of the door could flick the louvres up or down and catch another child's hand in the door. It is a dangerous situation. In addition, the clinic does not have a refrigerator. That seems strange, given that it issues injections, it is obliged to have groups of mothers there for some time who may want refreshments, and it may want to keep some chilled drinks available for the children. I hope the Health Department will take up this issue. I am aware that it is a joint issue between local government and the Health Department, but I do not receive straightforward answers from local government. It seems that the demarcation between local government and health issues is not always clear.

I close my comments on this Budget by stating that each year I have been in Opposition the budget papers have been presented in a slightly different format. That may be clever from the Government's point of view, but it is difficult to compare the figures from one year to the next. This year it is good to see outputs and performance measures included, but most of them are meaningless. The only meaningful ones that I have found relate to refereed scientific papers. On others we are told that already the performance measure is 100 per cent. However, we are not told how it is measured. No proper performance indicator could possibly be 100 per cent, because the world does not work like that. I wish I had a performance indicator of 100 per cent on consumer satisfaction in my electorate office!

MR NICHOLLS (Mandurah) [10.10 pm]: I wish to use my opportunity in this debate to concentrate on health issues. My comments are personal and do not necessarily represent the views of my colleagues or the Government. I make that disclaimer because I have not taken up this issue with the Minister for Health or anyone else. Given today's events with the nurses exhibiting their desire for an increase in salary, and given the debate in the community about the pressures on the health system, I thought that it would be appropriate to address the health problems and not the symptoms which cause concern in the community. The issue that we need to consider closely is the myth about universal health cover - the promise sold to the community of Australia by the Labor Government in 1983 when it introduced Medicare.

Before members opposite interject and pursue their political strategies, I would like them to listen to the comments of the federal Minister for Health in 1983, Dr Blewett, in his second reading speech on the Medicare Bill -

Medicare will provide basic health cover free of the hassles and worries of the current private insurance scheme. It will also make health insurance fairer and affordable to every Australian because everyone will contribute towards the nation's health costs according to his or her ability to pay.

... Medicare will provide the same entitlement to basic medical benefits, and treatment in a public hospital by the hospital's doctors, to every Australian resident regardless of income. This universality of cover is

obviously desirable from an equity point of view. In a society as wealthy as ours there should not be people putting off treatment because they cannot afford the bills. Basic health care should be the right of every Australian.

Those are basic principles in which we all believe. It should be possible for everyone in Australia to go to a hospital or a health clinic to access any necessary health service. Unfortunately, that ideological promise does not address the fact that someone must pay. Not enough people contribute enough money to pay for a universal health system.

Labor promised that we would be able to access the health system; that we would be able to turn up at a hospital and be served. The House might like to reflect on the number of patients waiting for treatment at that time. I turn now to an answer to a question in *Hansard* on 10 October 1984 provided by the then state Minister for Health. Medicare came into effect in February 1984. The information provided in the answer was that pre-February 1984 at Royal Perth Hospital 95 people were waiting for ear, nose and throat treatment. The waiting time pre-February 1984 was 13 to 52 weeks. The number of patients waiting for admission in August 1984 had increased from 95 to 406; the waiting time was between 24 and 52 weeks. At Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in December 1983, 91 patients were waiting for ear, nose and throat treatment, and the waiting time was 12 to 16 weeks. At Fremantle Hospital, 134 patients were waiting for ear, nose and throat treatment, and the waiting time was 16 to 56 weeks. The number of patients waiting for orthopaedic treatment was 128. I draw this information to the attention of members because at the time the Medicare experiment was introduced in Australia -

An opposition member: The solution!

Mr NICHOLLS: The interjection is timely! Today, more than 15 000 people are on the waiting list. I may stand corrected on the precise number, but the point is that when this social experiment was introduced in Australia, the number of patients on the waiting lists for ear, nose and throat treatment at major hospitals was around 300. However, the promise made by the Labor Government at the time was that this would be a universal health system and would provide access to that health system for everyone and everyone would pay. The resources would come from the Medicare levy - and the wealthy people of Australia would fund the Medicare levy! That was to be the solution.

Another interesting aspect is that today we talk about the decline in private health insurance, but in the same speech Dr Blewett states -

After the introduction of Medicare it is desirable that the private health insurance funds be able to wind down their medical benefit activities as soon as possible.

I highlight that point because we have heard debate about why people do not take up private health cover. A former Prime Minister stated proudly that he did not have private health cover because he paid the Medicare levy -

Mr Prince: As did the Minister for Health at the time, Dr Carmen Lawrence.

Mr NICHOLLS: The point is that the social experiment, the provision of universal health care, was supported by the argument that people in Australia could not access health services fairly because they could not afford private health cover. Now, even more people cannot access the health system due to the long waiting lists, but members of the Opposition whose colleagues introduced the system with the idea that the Medicare levy would fund it, say that it was a great innovation. I suppose they believe that it was the solution!

That social experiment promised a lot, but has delivered very little. It has delivered a huge blow-out in debt. It promised a lot, but it has extended the waiting lists and effectively has resulted in a crisis in the health system across the country. Members opposite may like to argue that this is a Liberal or coalition problem. It was all hunky-dory under the Labor Government but now it is a problem. Not even the strongest diehard Labor supporter could swallow that. The waiting lists in 1983 were very small. They were very short by comparison with the waiting lists of today. The promise of access to health systems without a problem, irrespective of income level or status, effectively has not been delivered.

It is also interesting to look at some of the bases on which some of the decisions were made. The Medicare arrangement, the new social experiment in 1983, contained a provision to ensure people who took out private health cover and who continued to insure against their health needs would not be allowed to insure for the gap. I read through the options in the speech of the then Federal Minister for Health to find the reason people could not insure against the gap. The reason was to stop the doctors from ripping off the system. I quote from the speech of the then Minister, Dr Blewett. He refers to the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Efficiency and Administration of Hospitals, the Jamison inquiry. The speech states -

In this report Jamison notes that 'it' -- gap insurance -- 'underpins the practice of fixing charges above the schedule fee'. Therefore, if we allowed gap insurance we would not be saving people money. They would

simply be paying \$2 from their own pocket on top of their 100 per cent of schedule fee rebate, instead of \$2 for the difference between the Medicare benefit and the schedule fee on a standard GP consultation . . . It is only doctors who would be financially better off if gap insurance were permitted. For all of these reasons the Government will not allow gap insurance to be offered. In this way doctors will be encouraged to limit their charge to a level around the schedule fee and this will be important in containing Australia's overall health bill.

A lot of low income and disadvantaged people in my electorate, and probably right around Australia, may have a bit of an argument with that. When they go to a doctor who does not bulk-bill and they must pay the schedule fee, they are out of pocket by more than \$2. Further, a number of low income people, particularly the elderly, in my electorate who do take out private health cover simply because they want to protect themselves against the waiting lists or not being able to get health treatment, are also prevented from insuring against the gap simply because of an ideological belief that it is wrong to allow people to insure for the gap. I will argue that that is one of the fundamental reasons we are seeing such a rapid decline in the private health insurance system.

Mr Riebeling: Do you think the US system is better than ours?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am not interested in the US system; I am interested in what is happening in Australia. I am also interested in what we had in 1983, before the mates of the member for Burrup introduced the social experiment and put Australia in a situation where not only are we unable to afford health care, but also we are actually penalising people far more than we were before the previous Federal Labor Government got its hands in the till.

Let us look at what is happening in health at the federal level. The current federal Leader of the Opposition, Mr Beazley, has resolutely committed Labor to Medicare and said that there should be no changes to it. If we do not have some changes soon, we will not have to worry about it because we will not be able to afford Medicare.

Ms Anwyl: What would you do?

Mr NICHOLLS: The solution I see is to encourage more people to take out private health cover. That idea is not new; we hear it every day.

Mr Riebeling: You have done that.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member is saying that he has already done that.

Mr Riebeling: No; you have done it.

Mr NICHOLLS: I have done nothing. I am saying that we can address this matter in other ways as well.

Mr McGowan: Starve more money out of the public system.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is from a Labor member who is part of a group that promised a universal health system, that all people would have access to health cover, that there would be no increases in waiting lists, who sits in this place and mouths some rhetoric about not being able to support it. The member is skating on thin ice. People in his electorate cannot get into hospitals, cannot get surgery, and all he can do is to sit in this place and mouth rhetoric about putting more money into the system.

The attitude of those opposite is not to look for a solution, but simply to stick with a failed promise. The member for Rockingham is proud to have his photograph taken with the federal Leader of the Opposition. There is a story on the front page of the newsletter put out by the federal Leader of the Opposition. There are no scruples attached to it. He has his photograph taken with a child - he reckons this is a good political angle - from Warnbro who is three years old and needs surgery to restore his hearing. The article states that he is on a six month waiting list. Who was one of the architects of the failed Labor promise? The current federal Leader of the Opposition, yet he has the gall to be using my money and that of everybody else to circulate his newsletters, and to suggest that we have a health system in crisis. Can members guess whose fault that is? It is Howard's! The federal Leader of the Opposition is one of the architects who dreamed up and introduced this great health system, who promised members of the Australian community that they would not have to worry, they could forget about taking out private health insurance because the then Federal Labor Government would look after them. After a couple of years, suddenly he forgets. After 13 years in office and nearly sending this country to bankruptcy, the federal Leader of the Opposition has the gall to blame the current Government. It is not a healthy position for the member for Rockingham to be seen in the same photograph as the federal Leader of the Opposition.

Mr McGowan: I am not in the same photograph.

Mr NICHOLLS: I apologise. The member for Rockingham is in another photograph also on the front page of the newsletter. If I were the member for Rockingham, I would also be pointing out that I was not in a photograph with

the federal Leader of the Opposition. The member's rhetoric is letting him down. I am going through the reasons that his colleagues - although I admit he was not in Parliament then - sold the Australian people a lemon.

Mr McGowan: I was in high school at that time.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Rockingham may like to take an interest in the history of this matter and read some of this information so that he can get some background to it.

Mr Riebeling: I am interested in where you have been for the past six years. You were administering this system.

Mr NICHOLLS: As members opposite will know, the Medicare system is one to which the States signed a commitment. Is the member for Burrup suggesting that, as a State, we should opt out of Medicare?

Mr Riebeling: That is what the Minister for Health has done.

Mr NICHOLLS: This Minister for Health has had the courage, the backbone, to stand up and say that we will not sell this State down the river, that we will not simply take whatever is handed out because we know the system is not working, that the black hole is getting bigger and if the system is to remain in place, the State needs funds to enable it to deliver the service.

Several members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I can understand members opposite being sensitive. If I were in their position, I would be reacting in the same way. What options do we have? Whatever they are, they must include a safety net for disadvantaged and low income people. All members in the House will agree with that. If we do not encourage people to go back into private health cover, I do not think this country will be able to afford the current system. Although I believe the architects of this system, members of the previous Federal Labor Government, pursued a notion and probably believed it could provide a universal health system without the private health funds, the reality is that the experiment has not worked. As a country, we must encourage those people who can afford it to go back into private health cover. We can do that in a number of ways. First, the private health insurance companies should be allowed to provide gap insurance.

Mr McGowan: Talk to your Prime Minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am trying to outline some of the options. Maybe I can persuade the member for Rockingham to join me in thinking that this is a good idea. Second, people who take out private health insurance should be able to claim a tax deduction, irrespective of their income, or receive an exemption, up to a certain amount, from paying the Medicare levy. Therefore, people who insure themselves and who go to a public hospital as a private patient will not find that because they have been dumb enough to admit to being a member of a private health fund when they go into hospital, they not only receive a bill but also find that the health fund does not cover the total cost of fees. In that way not only do they pay private health insurance and the Medicare levy but also they receive a bill. It does not take too many brain cells to work out that that is a pretty big disincentive to private insurance, and the nation should address that.

The Government must reward someone who pays private health cover and provides for his own hospital and health care rather than imposing a double tax. I have no definite view on whether that should be a tax rebate or an exemption from the Medicare levy. However, that should be considered as soon as possible. The Australian people need to know why that should not occur. Currently a rebate is allowed for people with a joint income of up to \$70 000. That is a start, and I commend the Federal Government for that. However, it should extend that to everybody with private health insurance, otherwise the disincentives in the existing system mean that people are driven out of the private health system, resulting in a greater burden for the taxpayers of Australia.

It is time to stop bleeding the nation. It is time to stop fooling the nation that a universal health system funded by a Medicare levy will provide everybody with access to hospitals and health treatment without a requirement for private health funds. I see too many people in my electorate who are waiting far too long for operations - no doubt it is a similar story in other electorates. It is no good saying that that is the way it is. We should pursue major changes to Medicare and not be like the federal Leader of the Opposition who says that the Labor Party will not change Medicare and is committed to retaining it in its present form. He was one of the architects of the scheme, along with his Labor colleagues who introduced this system with the intent, supposedly, to relieve the private health funds of their need to keep insuring Australians because the social experiment would prevail. That experiment is bleeding the taxpayer to death. If we do not change the Medicare system we will reach the situation where the majority of people will not have access to a decent health system. The situation is that bad. I am not privy to the financial details. However, it does not take too much effort to work out that if we keep on bleeding a system and it costs more than we can put into it, and the cost escalates each year, we will reach a point where we cannot afford it. We are close to that point.

The other health issue I want to touch on is slightly different. It relates to the renal dialysis unit that was opened in the new Mandurah hospital. Although the hospital is not complete - it will be completed by mid-year - the dialysis service is a major benefit to local people, particularly those people who need to use it three days a week. When I visited the unit last Friday and spoke to some of the people, the urgent need to encourage people to donate organs was brought home to me. It was not until I spoke to some of patients and asked them about the necessity for them to be near the renal dialysis unit that I understood the impact it has on their lives. These people cannot travel too far from the unit because they must be on the machine every second day. They must control their diet closely and the inconvenience of having to receive dialysis treatment for a number of hours is a real problem. Without kidney transplants they face a life of being semi-permanently attached to a machine simply to stay alive.

I wanted more information, so I contacted the Australian Kidney Foundation, and I thank the foundation for the information it provided. That information is alarming. The 1996 figures show that the number of organ donors in Western Australia is the lowest of all the States. I know that the Minister for Health has championed this cause on a number of occasions. However, it is not until one speaks to people whose lives are affected dramatically that one appreciates the need to encourage organ transplants. An interesting point about organ transplants is that Australia has the highest success rate in the world. We have very good surgeons and technical support and they are good at transplants.

Mr Riebeling: Is this the system that is collapsing?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am talking about the people who operate in the system. It is unfortunate that despite the large number of people who require transplants people are not deciding to donate organs before they die. Therefore, many of those potential organ donors are not helping others to stay alive and have a better quality of life.

Mr Masters: In the electorate of Vasse a wife donated her kidney to her husband. It failed to take. I instigated a campaign in the Vasse electorate to try to encourage people to donate a kidney. Not one person came forward. It is a severe crisis.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Vasse highlighted an important issue. Each member in this House, as a leader in his or her community, irrespective of political persuasion, should play a major role to encourage more people to become organ donors before a crisis occurs in their family.

It is important that people understand the seriousness of the situation. At present 173 Western Australians are waiting for a kidney transplant; they rely on a machine or some sort of support system to stay alive. In 1997 only 30 kidney transplants were performed in Western Australia. The community should be more aware of the benefits of organ donation and the quality of life an organ transplant would provide to someone. Even though it may be in a time of grief within a family or a time of stress, we should encourage more people to discuss the merits of donating organs. If members encouraged people to obtain information and to make a decision that would assist people to have a better quality of life, we could reach the point at which the majority of those 173 people would be given a new lease of life.

Mr Riebeling: Do you support the concept of a living will?

Mr Prince: The problem is that the relatives may say no.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes. Rather than getting into a game of political one-upmanship I suggest that the member for Burrup seriously consider what I am saying. As a leader in his community I hope the member for Burrup will take on the challenge and encourage members of his community to consider becoming organ donors, so in the event of their death they will benefit someone else.

It is not a pleasant issue to discuss. Having had the opportunity to talk to some people - the Minister for Health no doubt has had an opportunity to talk to a wide range of people who are affected by a number of diseases and who could benefit - the reality is that we do not discuss the issue at a community level. The media are touching on it and the Minister for Health is endeavouring to raise its profile. However, it would be more effective if each member representing his or her electorate took on the challenge of raising awareness in the community of the need to donate organs to help others enjoy a better quality of life. Would it not be great if over the next year or two this community could provide the 173 people waiting for kidney transplants with a new lease on life?

Statistics show that approximately two Australians die each week because they cannot get a kidney transplant. The Minister for Health could far more eloquently outline the limitations of suitable donors. However, the reality is that many people could have a better quality of life or stay alive if more people thought about the benefits they could offer others if they unfortunately die. It is something this community could do in a very short time if we worked together. I am sure that anyone who wanted information or who had questions could contact their local member or the Minister for Health and that information would be provided. I cannot stress enough that without donors, at best, these people spend the rest of their lives tied to a machine waiting and hoping that someone will donate an organ. Without a level

of awareness and an appreciation of the benefits on the part of the community we do not see a legitimate source for those organs.

I remind members that 173 people - or possibly more because these statistics might be dated - are waiting for organs and 30 transplants took place in 1997 in Western Australia. I suggest to the Minister for Health that that is not because so many kidneys were not acceptable - not enough kidneys were available.

Mr Prince: Many people indicate on their driver's licence that they want to donate. Unfortunately they do not discuss the issue with their family and when faced with the question their family refuses. That is the crux of the problem.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is the critical point. Not only is it important that people register as a donor, it is also important that they discuss the issue with their family before a crisis occurs. Does the Minister agree?

Mr Prince: Yes.

Mr NICHOLLS: If we as members of Parliament through our collective representation can focus on a joint effort to raise awareness of the need for people to donate organs, not only would many Western Australians be far better off but many would be very thankful.

It is important that we as a nation address our health needs. Not only should we commit ourselves to providing everyone in our community with access to good health care, but also we should ensure that we can afford the system we put in place. Whether it be the Medicare system or a modified system, I do not care. I am definitely committed to and support a safety net provision for those who are disadvantaged and on low incomes. However, I do not believe we can continue to pursue the ideological experiment that the Labor Party introduced in 1983 to the point where the nation is bled dry. It is also important to acknowledge that each of us has the capacity to help others by being an organ donor. I urge all members to consider seriously how they can play an active role in their community and encourage people to donate organs.

MS ANWYL (Kalgoorlie) [10.44 pm]: I first wish to address the areas of this Budget for which I have some responsibility as shadow spokesperson; that is, the Department of Family and Children's Services and youth affairs issues. I also wish to make some general comments about my electorate.

Along with other members on both sides, I have found it very difficult to follow these budget papers. The proof of that is the number of opposition members who have had to obtain briefings from Treasury in order to make some sense of the documents. While sitting here I have been able to compare the layout of the current Family and Children's Services budget with that of 1996-97. The information made available in the 1996-97 budget papers in respect of significant issues and trends, key outputs and activities, major achievements and so on was much more comprehensive two years ago than it is in this year's documentation. There is a very small footnote at the end of each agency budget setting out the number of FTEs, whereas previously a breakdown was available in each subsection of the Budget. That is not making government more accountable. Certainly, I can ask a number of questions on notice, and I will do that. However, it is more desirable that I be able to compare the number of public servants working in a particular area at first glance rather than having to go through that lengthy process. It does not make for the good working of this Parliament that members be required to obtain Treasury briefings and put questions on notice before they can make some sense of this.

Having said that, I am looking forward to the Estimates Committee process that will take place next week. I am alarmed that only three hours have been allocated for questions on Family and Children's Services, Seniors and women's policy areas, which are bundled into one. The fact that the information is not readily available from a perusal of the budget papers again does not make for proper accountability in the Estimates Committee process.

I will make some general comments about this Budget's abysmal failure to provide poverty relief to Western Australians in need. I had the privilege today of attending the annual conference of the Western Australian Council of Social Service and, of course, the Minister for Youth was there representing the Premier. In fact, he made some comments about the challenges we face in a modern society. We are all cognisant of them. Many members are attempting to bring themselves up to date with the information technology available to most Western Australians.

As an aside, it would be very useful if I could have a computer terminal in my office in this place, so that I could use my computer in Parliament. It would also be useful to have a connection in my electorate office, so that I could use it rather than having to boot my electoral officer from her access to a computer terminal. Good things come to those who wait. I have waited two years for a computer, so I am sure one day I will get a terminal.

Mr Riebeling: I have been waiting for six years.

Ms ANWYL: Six years!

Mr Bloffwitch: Have you not got your notebook yet?

Mr Prince: I am still waiting.

Dr Hames: I have not got one.

Ms ANWYL: Perhaps you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Baker), could let us know whether you have one.

Mr Prince: You appear to have touched a raw nerve.

Ms ANWYL: It is good occasionally to touch a raw nerve because we might then remind ourselves how far behind the rest of Western Australia we are, notwithstanding our large responsibilities for servicing and representing our electorates in what I consider to be a rather antiquated Chamber.

I return to the speech of the Minister at this morning's Western Australian Council of Social Service conference. It is important to note that the title of the conference is "Building Community in a Cut Throat World".

Mr Riebeling: Did they have a poster?

Ms ANWYL: They did not have a poster but perhaps they might later in the week.

The non-government sector having to get together in a conference with that title gives an indication of how that sector views itself as having to operate in Western Australia in 1998. The Minister outlined a number of problems that are faced by contemporary Western Australians. Nobody could argue with them. However, the Minister spent the bulk of his speech outlining those difficulties. At the end of his speech he said that if any suggestions came out of the conference, he would look forward to hearing about them. That is all very well but the whole process was set up for useful initiatives, bearing in mind that the non-government sector is dealing largely with people in need.

Mr Board: The purpose of my remarks when opening the conference was a short attempt to set the theme for the conference and not to solve the issues faced by the conference. Other Ministers will be able to deal with those. My role and directions were to set the theme and embellish on it, not to come up with solutions. I could do that at another time. We do not have all the solutions but certainly a lot of initiatives could have been discussed had we had more time.

Ms ANWYL: That is perhaps a fair comment. I thought that more time could have been devoted to advising the non-government sector of how the Court Government would support it, given that the non-government sector has a 25 per cent increase in demand for its services across the board. There has been no comparable increase in this Budget. If the Minister has any solutions to the issues that I am about to raise, he should feel free to interject.

We had been promised a social dividend in the lead-up to the last election. Western Australians were eagerly awaiting it. The failure of the Court Government to deliver a social dividend is obvious to most Western Australians.

Dr Hames: The social dividend is keeping you guys in opposition!

Ms ANWYL: We will see next time round. The Aboriginal Affairs portfolio is one in which there has been a huge failure to deliver a social dividend.

Dr Hames: Au contraire!

Ms ANWYL: The people of Kalgoorlie-Boulder are saying that the Water Corporation has not delivered much of a social dividend either.

Dr Hames: I can remember the previous member for Kalgoorlie complaining bitterly about the lack of support for Aboriginal communities in his electorate, when he was the Minister.

Ms ANWYL: How does that advance the present argument? That happened in the 1980s. Perhaps we could look forward occasionally instead of harking back.

Dr Hames: That is your favourite comment. You say to us, "Don't look back on the past. Forget the past because it did not happen."

Ms ANWYL: I am giving a speech about the present Budget. The Minister is saying that the social dividend is inherently to keep us in opposition. He is entitled to that view but he may wish to look in his portfolios. We will meet and discuss these issues in June, because of my timetabling problems and not the Minister's. However, we have huge problems in Aboriginal affairs in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

I am referring to the social dividend which the Court Government promised in 1996. All members can breathe a sigh of relief because I have not brought in the election promises document for the goldfields, as I did this time last year.

I do not propose to go through all of those promises again. Suffice it to say that a lot of Western Australians are still looking for a social dividend. It is not enough to say that there is a social dividend because the debt reduction per household has gone from \$22 000 to \$11 000. That may be the personal view of government members but the average Western Australian will not swallow it as somehow being the delivery of a much vaunted social dividend. The Court Government is complacent when it comes to the need for poverty relief for Western Australians who are doing it tough.

The initiative that was announced by the predecessor of the current Minister for Family and Children's Services was the poverty task force. The social services sector is saying that there is an across the board 25 per cent increase in demand for emergency relief and crisis support of varying kinds. It is saying that for some agencies, such as Anglicare, the need has increased as much as 52 per cent on the previous financial year. With the initiative of the poverty task force there was an opportunity for a whole of government approach to tackling problems associated with poverty. That opportunity has been lost in the 1998-99 Budget because the report completed in December 1997 has not been put to Cabinet, as I understand it, unless it happened yesterday. Therefore, this whole process of having a whole of government approach to the alleviation of poverty has been put back by at least 12 months. That would perhaps be all right if there was some evidence that poverty in Western Australia was declining, but in fact, the direct opposite is the case. We have been informed by the Minister that the whole of government approach to poverty relief may take place some time towards June or July. I welcome that and I will support it, but I do not see why it should have been put back for 12 months. The Minister has not been completely fair to those who have contributed so much time and energy towards the preparation of the task force report.

I am trying to set the scene. We had the promise of the social dividend; we have the huge increase in demand for poverty relief services; and we have a hostile federal environment through changes that are impacting on ordinary Western Australian families. I am glad that the Minister for Youth is in the Chamber, as I now refer to the impact in Western Australia of the removal of the youth allowance. We know that about 27 000 young people Australia-wide aged 16 and 17 years will be affected by the fact that they must return to full time employment and training and not receive the youth allowance. The New South Wales Government is concerned because it has estimated that the cost to it of the removal of the youth allowance for 16 and 17 year olds will be in excess of \$20m. When that calculation is translated into Western Australia, it is a significant cost to government. High schools are already overflowing in some areas, and one such school - to which I will refer later in my speech - is in my electorate.

I had the pleasure to be in the Federal Parliament when a question was asked of the Prime Minister about the effect of removing the youth allowance. He said that it represented the removal of a disincentive for the employment and training of 16 and 17 year olds. This represents an unusual use of language. The problem is that jobs are not available for 16 and 17 year olds. In fact, the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides a category of figures for 16 to 19 year old unemployed youths. As the Minister said today, Western Australia has the lowest unemployment figure in Australia, which is great. However, the figure is still high, and the number of 16 to 19 year olds looking for work is incredibly high. What will the Federal Government do about that? It will impose a means test on parents of 18 to 21 year old people in relation to the youth allowance.

Members should listen to my comments as their electoral offices will be inundated with people raising this issue after 1 July. The Federal Government will raise \$458m from the average family criterion; namely, those earning between \$23 000 and \$35 000 a year, which is not big bucks. The Federal Government will save \$458m in not paying youth allowance to those families. Therefore, families will have the full responsibility of maintaining their children until they are aged 21 years. I thought that 18 was the age at which one became an adult in this country. However, families must maintain their adult children until the age of 21 years.

Let us get real about the increased demand for poverty relief. Another area in which the Court Government has shown a horrifying level of complacency is child care. The federal Budget ripped out close to \$1b from child care services in this country, and the most recent figures indicate an underspending of about \$160m in this area. As child care had become so expensive, we had an underutilisation of child care places so less funding was required. People may say that that is good as those children should not have been in those centres in the first place. We hear arguments that women should not work and should stay at home, and we know that people think like that in the Court Government.

Mr Riebeling: And in the Federal Government.

Ms ANWYL: Most members of the Federal Government think like that. These cuts send a clear message that the Federal Government does not value child care. We have not had a great deal of lobbying from our state Minister about those cuts. Indeed, this State has been the worst hit of all States in that regard. Again, the capacity of parents to earn income will be directly affected by their inability to afford child care. Therefore, increased demand will arise for poverty relief because people cannot work as they cannot afford child care.

Whatever our political complexion, we have all seen increased contact in our electorate offices regarding the Homeswest waiting list. I was horrified to find underspending in the federal Budget of \$150m for public housing. Why was that? The State's contribution to public housing has been artificially lowered, and then given back as the State's contribution to the current overall Budget surplus. I could give more examples of these poverty relief creation actions in the Budget, but I wish to address other issues.

A critical area of the Family and Children's Services budget is child protection. I was reassured to hear the Director General of Family and Children's Services say at the conference today that he has no plans to outsource child protection. That was a huge relief! We know that some States have investigated the outsourcing of child protection. Victoria is selling off one of its major teaching hospitals in Melbourne, so precedents exist.

However, another question is whether we are resourcing this area properly within the government agencies with statutory responsibility for this area. I have mentioned the scant information contained in the amended format budget papers. Page 450 of volume 1 of the Budget Statements makes reference to performance measurements as they relate to the child protection budget. I have received a lot of information throughout the last 12 months about the department's inability to provide timely intervention when required. One of the statutory obligations of the department is to protect children from maltreatment and, where harm has occurred, from further incidents. We have the measure of quantity in output 7 in the budget papers. No increase in the number of allegations made is expected. One could argue about that claim. However, that is fine.

We have a new concept of timeliness. A difficulty is that if one imposes measures which may work in some portfolios, trouble will be caused imposing them in others. I know the member for Burrup has some views on this issue. Interestingly, 82 per cent of cases of allegations of child maltreatment had investigations commenced within five working days, bearing in mind that one is supposed to institute action within one day or as soon as possible. It is hoped that in 12 months the target will be 100 per cent of cases investigated within five days. I have news for whoever drew up those figures: I do not think that goal will be achieved without extra resources being directed to that area. In fact, unions representing workers in that field and the workers themselves who contact me frequently indicate that they are struggling to deal with even the most serious cases within five working days. It is common to have more serious cases not dealt with for a matter of weeks.

A departmental document indicates that "family support cases will never get a guernsey". Let us be accurate. Concerns are raised and decisions are made to prioritise cases. An official document was released of the investigation into the Midland office following the death of a young child. The official document states that child protection workers do not like to give priorities because they know they can never meet the time frames that they are supposed to meet in relation to those priorities. There is an acknowledgment that only 83 per cent of the cases could be dealt with within five working days. However, a target of 100 per cent exists, so it will be interesting to see how that is achieved. Funding for poverty relief or crisis support is estimated at \$216 145 for the current financial year. Despite evidence that there is an across the board increase of 25 per cent in people needing emergency relief, the department in its wisdom has allocated \$216 145, which will rise by a stupendous 250 contacts for the whole of Western Australia next year. I have news for the department: If all the non-government agencies are reporting at least a 25 per cent increase, then clearly that same sort of increase will occur in the contacts to the government department. However, that has not been budgeted for. I cannot tell the Parliament whether there has been an increase in full time employees because no data is available to me in this Budget, unlike Budgets for at least the past decade. Perhaps we will get to the bottom of it in the Estimates Committee if there is time; only three hours is set aside to deal with these issues and one wonders whether that is deliberate.

Child protection is another serious issue that has been raised with me - that is, whether the department can cater for young people up to the age of 18. There is an informal consensus among those who work in the field of young people and youth support that the department gives up when a child is 12 years old. It will always be difficult to get accurate data on that, because the agency will say that it does deal with children up to the age of 18. Notwithstanding that, it seems to me that a major gap exists in the delivery of services for people who are aged between 14 and 18. Many of those young people are living in very difficult circumstances; many of them are homeless, and many are living in situations that are less than perfect because the option would be to be homeless. With the impact of the youth allowance, while there are some exemptions for homeless youth, I suggest the community will see more stress on families. Families that are earning between \$23 000 and \$35 000 will realise they will not get any income support for their adult children. That is why it is so vital that we have an adequately financed youth sector.

A submission was put to the Minister for Youth some time ago by the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia about the need to have youth workers right across the State. Someone must pick up these young people at the street level, because homeless youth congregate in places out of school, as the Minister will know. Many young people are at school and there will be more after the 16 and 17 year old youth allowance ceases. A vital gap of service exists as it relates to young people who are homeless or otherwise having some significant problems in their life.

Mr Board: Young people who are homeless are picked up under the youth allowance. It is only the others who are at home who are being encouraged to stay at school.

Ms ANWYL: There are some very specific problems with that. I said a moment ago that I acknowledge that the youth allowance will still be available to homeless young people, but we have a vast subset of young people who live in places that may not be their traditional home and live in all sorts of different accommodations. They find it notoriously difficult to access public housing. What real estate agent will lease a property to three 16 year olds? I am suggesting that beyond the youth allowance there is the need for service delivery to a particular subset. It is my view that the Department of Family and Children's Services has its hands full with younger children.

It is all very well to focus on parenting and parent support, but if one follows that a step back in my argument, I said that Family and Children's Services workers have signed a document that states that family support cases - that is, the conferencing of troublesome, for want of a better expression, teenagers and their parents - in most cases will never get a guernsey in the scheme of things. There is a clear need for youth workers - people who are able to deal with those young people in terms of accessing options to look after their welfare.

Mr Board: I am not saying I have the solution. I am saying that I agree with you. There are needs for young people, but a lot of those needs are already being met. One of the issues is coordination, whether it be by church groups, or local authorities that employ youth officers, or non-government agencies that already have youth workers; a whole host of people work in the youth field. Sometimes the Government is just not coordinating and hitting the mark and a lot of these kids are slipping through the net. One of the issues that must be looked at is a stocktake of who is out there, what they are doing, and what they are achieving, and not always adding more and more to the pile. Where a need and a requirement exists that is not being met, the member is aware that I am happy to look at it and to try to address it, but we should try to get the best out of what is already there.

Ms ANWYL: I do not have a difficulty with anything the Minister said, except that if his Office of Youth will not deal with that issue, who will? His office is very good on the cadet side of things.

Mr Board: That is short change. We do a lot more than that, as you know.

Ms ANWYL: Is the Minister conducting an audit of youth services across Western Australia? That is what he just suggested is needed.

Mr Board: That has been done and we have given funding for that which has been added to, and we are lifting the funding again this year.

Ms ANWYL: Is the funding guaranteed?

Mr Board: Yes.

Ms ANWYL: If there is to be an audit of youth services, some of those answers should be made available to us.

Mr Board: It is one thing to have an audit of service delivery; it is another thing to actually solve the issue. They are two different things.

Ms ANWYL: I have not seen the document relating to that audit and I would like to see it. Can the Minister make it available to me?

Mr Board: When I have the document, I will be happy to make it available.

Ms ANWYL: Is it not yet completed?

Mr Board: No, it is being worked on.

Ms ANWYL: I look forward to its being completed. There is still a submission to provide a network of youth workers across the State, and I am not convinced that is happening.

I was recently in Victoria, and it almost hurts to admit this, but Jeff Kennett has done something good; he has set up a new support network right across the State. Instead of acting as general referral people, the youth workers in that State have a pool of funds at their discretion. They have specific teams which target particular problems in the community as needed on a 24 hour basis. We do not have to look very far to see where we have had areas of great need. I simply remind members of the tragedy that occurred with young people committing suicide in the northern suburbs. I know that the member for Carine has done a lot of work in trying to deal with that issue. We had the situation earlier this year in a south west town where there had been massive sexual abuse carried out by one person and the consequent trauma that ensued for that small place. These are the sorts of problems that might be tackled by these teams. What members must recognise - I do not know whether members are cognisant of this - is that the older one gets the less relevance one will have to a young person who is homeless or facing some other form of

trauma. So, it makes good sense to have a youth worker who may be the only significant adult in that young person's life whom that young person trusts. That is the beauty of youth workers; and I believe that there is a big role for the further resourcing of them.

One of the main themes that came from the Western Australian Council of Social Service conference today is the effect the Government's obsession with competitive tendering contracts is having on the non-government sector. The Minister may have left before references to that were made but there is much dissatisfaction in that sector with the effects that are being felt. Hence, I remind members of the name of the conference: Building Community in a Cut Throat World. The reference to cut throat relates to the competition in which non-government agencies now find themselves against each other. Whereas they previously worked in partnership, they are now guarding closely information that they may have because of the feeling that each time they have to competitively apply for the contract they hold, they risk losing it.

This is particularly felt in regional areas such as mine where services have been provided successfully and accountably by locally sponsored organisations. Then the super organisations come in from Perth. In my electorate, we have almost a monopoly developing where there has been a change in that area. One of the best examples is the way the disbanded Alcohol and Drug Authority has been taken over, successfully certainly in some areas, but disastrously in others. I will return to that at a later time.

I urge the Government to fund peak bodies properly. I am happy to hear that the Youth Advisory Council of Western Australia has its funding. There is certainly a lot of, effectively, muzzling of peak bodies because they are fearful they will not receive funding next time around.

In Kalgoorlie, the large item was the \$12m devoted to the upgrade of the high school facility. I welcome that. I am hopeful that the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's potential to be an educational centre for the region will be developed over the next decade or so, certainly with the advent of a campus of the Curtin University. In the city, there is a lot of potential for that to occur.

Some of the primary schools have urgent maintenance requirements and so forth. A couple of weeks ago I raised in Parliament the need for a grassed area at Kalgoorlie Primary School. South Kalgoorlie, one of the largest schools in the State, has a building called a "Bristol", a term which some of the more senior members of the Parliament may have heard before. I believe they are something to do with the Second World War. Somehow a "transportable" becomes a "permanent" and that is what we still have.

I am pleased that the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission has received a significant increase in funding. I hope the Minister for Regional Development is listening because I am concerned about the lack of willingness by that organisation to take on social as well as economic development. Although the charter of that organisation is clear, \$1.5m funding is a huge amount for development of the goldfields-Esperance region. Some comment was made in a recent report about the commission that more emphasis should be placed on social development in the region. I endorse that wholeheartedly.

The budget papers are imperfect. One of the most critical areas is mine safety, given the huge number of deaths in the goldfields in tragic circumstances in the mining industry. It is difficult to see from the budget papers whether resources for mine safety have been increased. I suspect they have not been. As I said, the full time equivalent figures do not lend themselves to analysis. That is another matter I must leave until the Estimates Committee.

The area of much concern, particularly among the more elderly members of my electorate, is health services. I listened to the speech by the member for Mandurah with interest, although I could not quite get his point.

Dr Hames: It was a good and true speech.

Ms ANWYL: It appears the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs endorses his comments.

Dr Hames: Not all, but most.

Ms ANWYL: Would the Minister also like to see a dismantling of Medicare?

Dr Hames: No; Medicare is good for people going to doctors but disastrous for people going to hospitals. In effect some people pay medical insurance twice. They pay through the Medicare levy and through private insurance. Before, they paid only through private insurance or got medical treatment free.

Mr Riebeling: You have to fund it from somewhere.

Dr Hames: It is not working. What we predicted has happened. It took longer than we thought, but people are coming out of the private system in droves and landing on the hospital and no-one has enough money to fund it all. I apologise to the member for Kalgoorlie; I should make a speech myself.

Ms ANWYL: That is quite all right. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder there is general concern about how people will be able to access services. People residing in my electorate are more fortunate than people in remote places who have greater difficulty accessing treatment.

One of the major problems developing in Kalgoorlie is waiting lists. Once we did not have waiting lists and, although we are more fortunate than some of the metropolitan residents, we now have them. I hope that trend does not continue. People who must travel away for treatment are disadvantaged in the sense that it is becoming increasingly expensive. As a result of the pressures of the economic situation where people are fearful of losing their jobs, it is a big deal to take time off work to travel to Perth for medical treatment. There are real concerns about the ability of those services to continue to be delivered in regional areas.

Mr Trenorden: There should not be concern for our electorates. Telehealth will provide fantastic benefits.

Ms ANWYL: That is some way off.

Mr Trenorden: It is only months away.

Ms ANWYL: Bulk billing is not available to residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder unless they are holders of some form of pension or health care card.

Dr Hames: Pension or health care card or any social security benefits.

Ms ANWYL: I understand that people who live in the city can access bulk billing more readily, because many low income people do not have access to a health care card.

We are in a hostile environment federally. Child care fees have been increased by \$20 per week per child. Pressures will be faced by families with adult children because of the abolition of the youth allowance. Because of those pressures across the system, the non-government sector that is providing emergency relief and assistance to people with welfare problems is experiencing at least a 25 per cent increase in demand, and it needs some assistance with poverty relief. Hopefully we can look forward to that in the next Budget, because it certainly has not been delivered here.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [11.30 pm]: I would like to contribute to the budget debate, and I thank the Leader of the House for allowing me to start my speech at 11.30 pm when everyone is listening. It is great that we get to speak on an issue such as the Budget at this hour!

This Budget gives us a great deal to look at. Whoever wrote this Budget for the Government should be employed by the Comedy Company. There are so many problems with this Budget that the Comedy Company could have a helluva good time with it. The Budget is supposed to be transparent and easy to read, but no-one believes that. This is the Government's sixth Budget. Every time it hands down a Budget, it is in a different format so that we cannot compare last year's Budget with this year's Budget. Once again, we are faced with that dilemma.

The Treasurer commenced his contribution to the budget debate by telling us that it was a wonderful Budget and it would allow future generations of Western Australians to benefit from the fact that under his Government's management, state debt had been reduced significantly. Unfortunately, those people who remember what has happened to this State's assets since this Government has come into office have a different picture of what has happened to this State's finances. Severe cuts have been made in public services, thousands of public sector workers have been cut from the payroll, and much suffering has been endured by the general public for the sake of debt reduction. However, not one cent that has been saved by those painful cuts has led to a reduction in state debt. This Government has been saying to the people of Western Australia for some years that it does not like debt, so it will sell everything on which it can lay its hands and pay off debt with that income.

Mr Trenorden: Things like the State Government Insurance Office.

Mr RIEBELING: Absolutely.

Mr Trenorden: You did that, not us.

Mr RIEBELING: That was one of the things of which this Government completed the sale.

Mr Trenorden: You put that sale together.

Mr RIEBELING: Was it not sold under this Government? That is all I am saying. The member for Avon does not need to get too excited about it. The only debt reduction that has occurred in this State has been as a result of the sale of assets.

Mr Trenorden: That is not true.

Mr RIEBELING: That is absolutely true. The member for Avon will have an opportunity to make his contribution to this debate, but he knows as well as I that without the sale of the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline, BankWest, the SGIO, the car fleet, State Print and the Hospital Laundry and Linen Service, there would be no reduction in state debt. This Government is saying to the people of Western Australia that if they are in debt, the solution is to sell their house, pay off the mortgage and rent it back. That is what this Government has done. However, future generations of Western Australians will not thank this Government for what it has done, because they will have to pay the rent to the people who now own the State's assets. Major state assets have been flogged off by this Government.

Mr Trenorden: What major state assets have been sold off?

Mr RIEBELING: I just went through them. Does the member remember the sale of the pipeline?

Mr Trenorden: The public did not get a great deal of direct benefit from the pipeline. It did not deliver services directly to the people.

Mr RIEBELING: Does the member remember that asset? That is an asset that I have mentioned. Does the member remember the sale of BankWest?

Mr Trenorden: That is one you organised.

Mr RIEBELING: Did this Government take credit for it? The Premier stood and said what a wonderful job he did by flogging it off. He took all the credit for the sale of the State Government Insurance Office, the car fleet, the linen service and State Print. At the end of the day the debts cleared do not amount to the proceeds from the assets sold. The member for Avon should have a good look at it, and he will then agree with me. The Deputy Premier, who I hope is still in the House, mentioned today what a wonderful job the Government is doing in allocating more money to regional business centres. He said \$500 000 extra had been allocated to these centres.

One document produced in these budget papers enables comparison with the projections for last year. The State Budget for 1997-98 in the Pilbara region sets out a summary of what the Government intended to do last year. The Government made a mistake and produced a similar document this year setting out the wonderful benefits provided in the Pilbara. At last, there was something by which to measure the Government's progress. The first dot point under regional development suggested that the Government was doing a good job and would cut \$600 000 from the Pilbara Development Commission's budget. That is wonderful news for this Government. At the first dot point in the 1997-98 document is the construction of the permanent visitors' centre in the Karijini National Park. That is the first thing the PDC was expected to achieve last year. However, at the first dot point in this year's publication is continuation of work on the design - not the building - and construction of a permanent visitors' centre in the Karijini National Park. That is exactly the same project, but it seems to be going backwards. This year the design and construction will be done, but last year only the construction was to be carried out. That seems a bit of a blow; perhaps not much was done last year.

At the second dot point in this wonderful document for 1997-98 is the implementation of the Pilbara land use strategy. Believe it or not, this year's document states: Implement the Pilbara land use strategy. That is two out of two, which is a bit of a worry. I went further down the page and found in the 1997-98 document at the fifth dot point: The maintenance of the successful prices surveillance system that monitors the cost of living in the region. I do not know how many country members are in this place now. The member for Ningaloo is not in the Chamber at present but he knows the folly of that statement. At the same dot point in this year's document - the Government has not used its imagination - is the statement: Continue the price surveillance system that monitors the cost of living in the region. It does not describe it as successful. Last year the Government thought it was successful. The problem is that the cost of living in my region is horrendous. It is not successful; it is a disaster. No-one knows about the prices monitoring system, except the people who work in the office of the Pilbara Development Commission.

The last dot point in 1997-98 states: Work to lessen the impact of artificial impediments to the development of downstream processing and economic growth generally. The second last dot point this year states: Work to lessen the impact of artificial impediments to the development of downstream processing and economic growth.

Dr Hames: Excellent consistency.

Mr RIEBELING: Why bother? Why not tell us to read last year's statement because it has not been done and the Government might do it next year?

That is a quick summary of comparing apples with apples. With the remainder of the budget papers we must dig deep to find a way to compare last year's figures with this year's figures.

Mr Trenorden: That is an ignorant statement. We have moved from a cash accrual Budget to an accrual Budget. It is a different system.

Mr RIEBELING: Every year it is a different system. Every year the Government introduces a new system to try to improve the situation. This is supposed to be a transparent system. I do not know anyone who knows what this means.

Mr Trenorden: You should talk to me about it.

Mr RIEBELING: I have spoken to Treasury officials. The member may think that he knows all about it. The Treasury officials tried to take me through it, but basically they said that we cannot compare any of this with last year's situation, and that we should wait until next year. Then they said that perhaps some of the figures in the annual report will relate to this. If that is the member's idea of transparency, that is okay, but I do not agree.

Mr Trenorden: We have moved to an accrual accounting system which provides transparency.

Mr RIEBELING: That is the member's opinion!

Mr Trenorden: It is not.

Mr RIEBELING: Okay, it is someone else's opinion. It is not my opinion, and it is not transparent.

Mr Trenorden: You are showing your ignorance.

Mr RIEBELING: Absolutely, and I will show some more ignorance! I can read these documents. Perhaps the member should look at the documents. Does the member agree with everything in this document?

Mr Trenorden: It is a report on the Budget. Do you know what it is?

Mr RIEBELING: I will go through the Budget Statements to see if the member agrees with the contents. Page 607 of this wonderfully transparent budget document relates to the Ministry of Justice - my area of interest. I point to a table which will be of some interest to the member. It is headed "Performance Measures for Output 8". The member may not have the Budget Statements in front of him, but he should read that page. One of the targets is unbelievable. The second performance measure relates to the number of escapes from our penal institutions. This year the estimated number of escapes is 60. Next year the target is 55 escapes! The member may think that it is good for the prison system to have a target of 55 escapes, but one may think that the target should be zero in a system which is supposed to keep people in prison. However, this innovative, easy to read and easy to understand Budget Estimates document states that the target figure for the number of escapes next year is 55! If in June next year only 30 prisoners have escaped we will let out 25 more prisoners! We will have a special that month, and let a few more out.

The final point in the brilliant graph relates to successful releases from custody. This is a system where once a person has finished his sentence, he is allowed out. It is a great system! In 1997-98 the estimated rate of successful releases from custody is 94 per cent - which means that 6 per cent of the time prisoners do not want to go out because this mob opposite has made job security so bad that prisoners do not want to leave prison! This is the wonderful new Budget. Members should read this document; it is fantastic stuff; it is better than a novel because it is so easy to read! I congratulate the person who wrote the notes for the Ministry of Justice because they are entertaining reading. We must also look at a couple of other measures, but I will return to the notes for the Ministry of Justice because there are a lot more laughs to be had.

Another area in this easy to read document which causes me a lot of concern is the roads program released by the Minister for Transport. Last year the Government released a document designed to help us read the Budget carefully. Last year it said that the construction and sealing of the Tom Price to Karratha road would cost \$39.9m. That is pretty easy to read. As I was wading through the papers for this year, I again found reference to this program, although it is in a different document. It took me a while to find it. This information is contained in the glossy publication entitled "Bringing the pieces together", which probably cost \$100 000 to produce. This is one of smaller publications put out by the Government in conjunction with the Budget.

Mr Wiese: It has pictures in it for you, Fred.

Mr RIEBELING: It has, indeed. Last year those opposite said they were part of the Government of better management. Can members have a wild guess at the costs for the work on the Tom Price to Karratha road?

Ms Anwyl: \$50m?

Mr Marlborough: \$60m?

Mr RIEBELING: Members are getting very close; it is now worth \$115m. I think Buckeridge must have got the contract. The cost for the same roadwork has gone up by \$70m. We should have done it last year. In one year the cost has gone up by \$70m. In these easy to read documents I tried to find out when this \$115m road is to be built. The Minister's office said, "We don't know; it hasn't been decided; it's in the 10 year plan." If we wait another 10

years, on these figures, the cost will increase by \$700m. Buckeridge will increase his worth by close to \$1b just by doing the work on this one road.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The members should be directing his remarks through the Chair.

Mr RIEBELING: I am more than happy to. This document details expenditure of \$5.082b. Although the document has been released, those in the Minister's office tell me the Minister is not very happy with it because - I do not think he read it first - it does not tell us when anything will be built. That is a bit of a drawback. Everybody is very happy that \$115m will be spent on roadworks in the Pilbara. However, over 10 years the whole program in the Pilbara is worth \$165m. If \$115m is to be spent on upgrading this one road, over the next 10 years only \$50m is left for the rest of the work in the Pilbara. It is a pretty big area, probably the most productive in Australia. That works out at \$5m a year, and not much roadwork can be done for that amount.

Mr Marlborough: Not if Buckeridge is involved.

Mr RIEBELING: He would not even start up his truck for that. As we all know, he is all over the Pilbara; BGC trucks are everywhere. He is involved in everything: The wharves, the roads and, although he does not have it yet, work on the airports is coming.

Mr Wiese: Will he then be a high flyer?

Mr RIEBELING: I hope he takes up high flying, skin diving, hang-gliding and all that stuff.

I will go through the more mundane though interesting figures about our prison system. This year's Budget provides for an increase of 100 prison beds. That is stated in a number of places throughout this easy to read budget document. Members opposite might think that is fantastic. I will compare what is contained on page 593 of the Budget Statements with a press release issued by the Minister for Justice on 25 March - that is probably when the budget documents were going to print. Mr Foss said that this was the world's biggest announcement! Usually once every decade or so the Government will announce the construction of a small prison. However, Mr Foss, not happy with making an announcement to build a prison, stated he would build a huge prison - a prison with 750 beds. Every expert on prison management says that the maximum size for an efficient prison is 450 beds. However, Mr Foss wants a 750 bed prison just so he can prove his incompetence. That is the level of management of this Government. Mr Foss was not happy with 750 beds; his press release went further. He announced a new women's prison - that was not enough! He went further and while he had everyone's attention he announced that he would reopen Riverbank Detention Centre, and redevelop Karnet and Wooroloo prison farms. We had so many announcements from the Minister for Justice he could hardly fit them into his press release.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: I am convinced that all members opposite would agree with the Minister for Justice. Basically, the emergency measure amounts to an additional 250 new beds into the current system. However, this easy to read budget document refers to only 100 beds. What happened to the other 150 beds? I am being kind to the Minister because he is a nice bloke. Not only does the Minister for Justice admit that we need 250 beds immediately just to break even, but also his press release states that each year a further 100 beds are needed to continue to break even. The figure of 250 is overshadowed already.

Several members interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: The unfortunate part about the budget papers is that the only target it does not refer to is the large number of deaths in prison. This year 11 people have died in prison.

Mr Trenorden interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: The member for Avon can compare that with New South Wales where fewer people are dying but it has three times the prison population. It is a major problem.

Mr Trenorden: What do the budget papers say about that?

Mr RIEBELING: They do not say anything about deaths in custody; they have a target for just about everything else. I will go through the budget documents slowly, so that members opposite will understand them. I will not read all the points, because I could not bear to go through every point. However, I have listed about 50 of them. Information in the budget papers indicates the success rate in the collection of fines. The member for Joondalup knows a bit about the current fines enforcement procedure in our court system. Certain things are starting to change. A lot more responsibility is being given to the sheriff. We know that that will happen because this document clearly states that it will. That task is being taken away from bailiffs and given to far more efficient people controlled by the sheriff.

One area affected is that of civil orders. Last year the average cost per civil order served by the sheriff was \$121. Next year the average cost will be \$150; that is a \$29 increase per action.

Several members interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: The average cost of civil orders served by bailiffs - the officers we are getting rid of - will fall from \$33 to \$28. That does not make sense given that we are getting rid of these officers. That is an interesting point and one that the sheriff should address before his attempt to build an empire goes any further.

Mention is also made of performance measures for output 3, which is the recovery rate for fines. The member for Joondalup will be able to tell me what is meant by the number of criminal court fines that are not enforceable. I worked in the courts for 20-odd years and saw a handful of non-enforceable fines. However, last year, under the new, wonderful enforcement system which confiscates drivers' licences, 12 195 fines were not enforceable. Next year that will increase by only a small amount to 12 205. I do not know why that is; perhaps the member for Joondalup can tell me. Last year 132 000 fines were imposed by courts and 10 per cent were not enforceable. There might be a rogue group of magistrates not doing the right thing. That is an unbelievable figure.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: No, it is not enforceable.

Mr Baker: Is that not capable of being enforced or not anticipated to be enforced?

Mr RIEBELING: I am glad the member raised that. The reference is -

3. Number of court fines (criminal) not enforceable.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: Reference is then made to all fines. I remember when I worked in the court system that if one wanted to write off \$10 one had to put in a report in triplicate and approach Treasury, which would reject the request. This year we will write off -

Mr Johnson: You will have a field day next week.

Mr RIEBELING: I can hardly wait for next week; it will be so much fun. About \$5m will be written off this year in unenforceable fines.

One of the other significant things of which this House should be made aware is that when the new enforcement system was about to come into being, we were told that everyone would pay their fines.

Mr Johnson: Were we told that?

Mr RIEBELING: Absolutely. We were told that it would be far more efficient.

Mr Baker: It is far more efficient. People now have the threat of losing their licence.

Mr RIEBELING: Does the member know how many people have lost their licences?

Mr Baker: Quite a few.

Mr RIEBELING: At this very moment 30 000 people do not have a driving licence because they have been unable to pay their fines.

Mr Baker: Many are probably still driving motor vehicles.

Mr RIEBELING: Absolutely. The Government has encouraged 30 000 people to drive while under suspension.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr RIEBELING: One of the other interesting things about our wonderful new system is the reference to time lines. The first reference is to the recovery rates for the fines enforcement registry. It refers to fines and costs collected within 12 months. What would members think would be a success rate?

Mr Baker: People change addresses from time to time.

Mr RIEBELING: Let us say that 10 per cent do that.

Mr Johnson: I would have thought that it would be 60 to 70 per cent.

Mr RIEBELING: It is 30 per cent. Infringement costs collected within 12 months are higher at 65 per cent.

Mr Johnson: That is the figure I was thinking of.

Mr RIEBELING: People who go to court are less likely to have an inaccurate address. Those people are apprehended, taken in and fined. Infringement notices involve people who are photographed by Multanovas and such things. One would have thought that those two figures should be exchanged. One of the amazing things about this document is the target. Last year it was a 30 per cent success rate within 12 months; next year the target is still 30 per cent, not even 31 or 32 per cent.

Mr Baker: It is very difficult to crystal ball gaze, is it not?

Mr RIEBELING: The member should go back to the second reading speech when this wonderful new system was about to come into being and look at the success rates which were being claimed.

Mr Baker: Within 12 months?

Mr RIEBELING: Absolutely.

Mr Baker: Did the speech say 90 per cent or 100 per cent?

Mr RIEBELING: Nowhere will the member find that it was said that the target would be 30 per cent in 12 months. Presumably 70 per cent of all fines registered through the courts result in a driver's licence suspension.

Mr Johnson: What was the figure before it was introduced?

Mr RIEBELING: I do not know.

Mr Johnson: I would suggest that it was a lot lower than this. We were getting more people in for a couple of nights in the lock-up rather than paying fines.

Mr RIEBELING: I remember the system. In the court I was involved in, after a year far less than 70 per cent of fines were outstanding.

Mr Wiese: Did people not wipe their fines off by doing time in a lock-up?

Mr RIEBELING: Yes.

Mr Trenorden: You just denied that.

Mr RIEBELING: No I did not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members should let the member for Burrup continue with his speech.

Mr RIEBELING: Page 603 refers to support for victims of crime. At page 591 under significant issues and trends, dot point three refers to the increased need for victim support services across the State. There is also reference to growth in violent crimes. We then go to the budget for the administration of the victim support and counselling service. With massive increases in crime, one would expect the budget to reflect a significant increase in the allocation to support victims of crime. However, in excess of \$160 000 is removed from that area. As members opposite will no doubt point out in this debate, that decision may have good reason, but it is not, as the Treasurer claimed, transparently obvious.

The total cost of the output last year was \$1.661m, and this year the figure is \$1.508m, which is a reduction of approximately \$150 000. It may not seem a great deal in the scheme of things. However, when one part of the Budget states that demand for services is increasing, and one looks for the relevant section in the transparent papers, one finds that resources allocated are reduced.

Mr Baker: It could reflect more flexibility and efficient financial management.

Mr RIEBELING: It could reflect anything. Nevertheless, when reading this more transparent and easy-to-read document, and when one underlines the trends and looks for the answer in the document, what does one find? Probably an explanation can be given, but it is not where I thought it would be in the budget papers. It is not where member opposite think it is either.

I have numbered the dot points on page 591 of the Budget Statements from 1 to 15. There is an increase in demand for rehabilitation programs to address offences involving sex, drugs and violent behaviour. One looks for the result of that dot point on page 607, but one finds that the new programs mentioned are not referred to at all. Basically, significant trends indicates that as a result of increased demand, new programs are needed. When one refers to offender management, no new programs are directed to tackling this problem.

It would be easy to explain if the Minister for Justice simply wants to identify a lot of problems with which he cannot deal - but he should say so at the start. One would assume in this easy-to-read document that the significant issues identified would have some corresponding action. They clearly do not.

Limited good news can be found in this Budget. Dot point 6 on page 593 refers to the provision of up to 100 male medium security beds, but the allocation should have been 350 beds. Also, dot point 7 on that page is a positive response to some of the problems in its reference to rehabilitation. It is refreshing to see that the Minister has finally grasped that one of the major problems in our prison system is the reoffending rate. To have an impact on the number of people in our institutions, we need to target those already in the system as they tend to keep coming back. The unfortunate thing, or perhaps the fortunate thing, about criminals in Western Australia is that they are not very good at what they do. They regularly come back into our prison system. If rehabilitation can break that, that is what should be done. For every \$1m put into rehabilitation programs in New South Wales, \$3m is taken out of its prisoner system because of the impact that it has on the reoffending rate. I do not know if that is right, but that is what I was told when I was there recently.

Some people say there is a need to increase judicial support and support services for the judiciary. One dot point is that the District Court will get a new judge. The outputs on page 596 state they will have new judicial and judicial support services. One would think that with a new judge and with the increase in pressures, one would see an increase in the amounts being put into that program; however, there is a \$2.1m reduction in this table from \$35.305m to \$33.278m. A reason may exist for that, but it is not stated here, because this is the budget estimate. Case processing is another budget allocation; last year \$54.9m was spent on that while this year it has an allocation of \$42.3m, a reduction of \$12m. Enforcements of civil and criminal court orders were given \$3.8m last year; this year it is \$3.6m. These figures do not match any of the rhetoric. Later the figures do, but these I have highlighted clearly do not and are clearly wrong. Somewhere in this document, one will find an explanation for that. I will be getting into that next week, but members opposite should not say that this is easy to read because this document is not. Some of the performance measures now to be used to gauge whether someone is efficient I presume are the targets for the Guardianship Board and the like of an 83 per cent satisfaction rate, and they are all basically people's opinions rather than actual statistical facts.

One fact that is undeniable when one reads this document is that the current Attorney General has absolutely no ability to solve the long waiting periods in bringing cases to the courts. The target that the District Court set for itself is to have cases come on for trial within 12 months; that is its target and hope. The budget papers say that next year the court will be doing that in 87 per cent of cases. Presumably the other 13 per cent must wait longer than 12 months. A criminal trial in the District Court or the Supreme Court will take a lot longer than 12 months; however, it might be accurate. The Magistrate's Court, which is the one which inevitably gets fewer resources, has the best result rate. Criminal actions in Magistrates' Courts are heard within six months. They achieve that in 94 per cent of cases, which is quite a reasonable rate. It would be difficult for many defence lawyers to get a case on and heard before that six month period.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr RIEBELING: That is what has been happening, but what happens in our criminal system is that the Attorney Generals have drinks and so forth with judges. We end up having the jurisdictional change, and so more work goes down to the lower courts and less work is undertaken by the senior courts, and added to that, a couple of judges are appointed.

In this Budget we have appointed at least one new judge and no new magistrates; yet the statistics show that the big increase is going to be in the Magistrate's Court. It may well be that there is justification for a new judge. I said that tongue in cheek. However, there is equally a saleable case that the time periods currently projected, if they take into account the new judge, are grossly inadequate. I do not know what is happening at the District Court, but to appoint a new judge and still say that cases will come to trial within 12 months only 75 per cent to 87 per cent of the time indicates that the appointment will not have much impact.

Ms Anwyl: A lot of that is due to restrictions on legal aid funding.

Mr RIEBELING: The legal aid problem contributes to that, of course, and that needs to be tackled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Marlborough.

House adjourned at 12.15 am (Wednesday)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to questions are as supplied by the relevant Minister's office.

ABORTIONS - NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS

2904. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

In the last ten years, how many specific complaints have been made regarding abortions performed in Western Australia, and in each case, what action was taken and why?

Mr DAY replied:

Records show that three specific complaints relating to abortion have been received by the Western Australia Police Service in the past ten years. Two of these complaints resulted from the same medical procedure. One person was charged with procuring an abortion. However, the charge was dismissed. Investigations are still pending into another aspect of the complaint. The third complaint relates to the location of an aborted foetus in November, 1996. Subsequent investigations led to the charging of Doctors Chan and Lee for 'Attempt to procure an abortion' under Section 199 of the Criminal Code. These charges are presently before the courts.

DRUG USE IDENTIFICATION SLIDER DISTRIBUTION

2907. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many copies of the Drug Use Identification Slider were produced by the Alcohol and Drug Co-ordination Unit of the WA Police Service?
- (2) When were they printed?
- (3) How much did they cost?
- (4) To whom have they been distributed?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 6,000.
- (2) September 5, 1997.
- (3) \$3,003.
- (4) Internally distributed to every sworn Police Officer in Western Australia.

CRIME RATES

2950. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to the State's crime rate for the year 1994, the second full year of a Liberal Government -

- (a) what was the number of motor vehicles stolen;
- (b) what was the number of break and enter offences reported;
- (c) what was the number of assaults reported;
- (d) what was the number of assaults against police reported;
- (e) what was the number of stealing with violence (including armed robbery) reported;
- (f) what was the number of drug offences reported;
- (g) what was the number of damage offences reported; and
- (h) what was the total number of offences reported to Police?

Mr DAY replied:

Figures provided are for calendar year

- (a) 17146.
- (b) 56182.
- (c) 10572.
- (d) 728.
- (e) 1253.
- (f) 10523.
- (g) 32093.
- (h) 218859.

CRIMES OF THEFT

2964 Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to theft other than motor vehicle, is Western Australia ranked No.1 as having the worst crime rate in Australia as shown by the Government's submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission?

Mr DAY replied:

Yes, according to the 1995 data which was included in the Commonwealth Grants Commission 1999 Review of State Relativities (Major Submission). However, in 1996 the rate of other theft decreased by 3.6% while the Australian average increased by 4.8%. All categories of property crime in Western Australia decreased over this period, while the Australian average increased in all but one category. It should also be noted, that as public satisfaction and confidence in the police service increase, crime reporting rates increase also. However, according to 1996 data which was included in the *Report on Government Services 1998*, the Western Australia Police Service experienced the second highest level of public satisfaction, based on last contact with police, of any Australian state/territory.

SEXUAL ASSAULTS - NUMBER

2965. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

- (1) In relation to sexual assaults, is Western Australia now ranked No.1 as having the worst crime rate for that crime in Australia as shown by the Government's submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission?
- (2) If yes, was Western Australia ranked 3rd in 1993?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes, according to the 1995 data which was included in the Commonwealth Grants Commission 1999 Review of State Relativities (Major Submission). However, in 1996 Western Australia dropped to third place following a decline in the rate of sexual assault reports, against a national average which had risen by 6.8%.
- (2) Yes, as was the case in 1996.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT

2966. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to unlawful entry with intent - other, is Western Australia ranked No.1 as having the worst crime rate for that crime in Australia as shown by the Government's submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission?

Mr DAY replied:

Yes, according to the 1995 data which was included in the Commonwealth Grants Commission 1999 Review of State Relativities (Major Submission). However, according to 1996 data which was included in the *Report on Government Services 1998*, the rate of this crime in Western Australia decreased by 5.8% while the Australian average increased by 6.1%. Indeed all categories of property crime in WA decreased over this period, while the Australian average increased in all but one category.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY WITH INTENT

2967. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to unlawful entry with intent involving the taking of property, is Western Australia ranked No.1 as having the worst crime rate for that crime in Australia as shown by the Government's submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission?

Mr DAY replied:

Yes, according to the 1995 data which was included in the Commonwealth Grants Commission 1999 Review of State Relativities (Major Submission). However in 1996 the rate of this category of crime in Western Australia decreased by 11.3% against a national average increase of 1.5%.

MANSLAUGHTER

2970. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police:

In relation to manslaughter, is Western Australia ranked No 2 as having the second worst crime rate for that crime in Australia as shown by the Government's submission to the Commonwealth Grants Commission?

Mr DAY replied:

Yes, according to the 1995 data which was included in the Commonwealth Grants Commission 1999 Review of State Relativities (Major Submission). However, according to 1996 data which was included in the *Report on Government Services 1998*, Western Australia experienced the second lowest rate of manslaughter in Australia following a 75% decrease over 1995.

CRIME RATES

2976. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

Since the Coalition Government took office has the crime rate in all the major areas of crime statistics shown that our crime problem is now worse?

Mr COURT replied:

Crime statistics for the period 1993/94 - 1996/97 reveal that the incidence of some crimes have decreased, such as sexual assault crimes (9.1%), motor vehicle theft (6.9%) and fraud (8.3%). While the overall number of crimes has increased by 17.3%, the Police Service recorded a 37.7% increase in the number of crimes which have been cleared.

DOCTORS - WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

3012. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 3 January 1998 concerning the Government forcing young doctors to sign workplace agreements?
- (2) Is the Minister aware he was reported as saying that it was Government policy to move away from centralised workplace agreements?
- (3) Was this an accurate reflection of what the Minister said?
- (4) If not, what did the Minister say?
- (5) Is the Minister also aware that he was reported as saying all the Government was doing was implementing Government policy?
- (6) Is it Government policy to require new employees to sign individual workplace agreements?
- (7) If not, what is Government policy?
- (8) Did the Government inform the public that under its workplace agreements legislation employees would have the choice of remaining under an award (or in certain cases under the relevant enterprise agreement) or entering into a workplace agreement?
- (9) Why have your new doctors not been given the choice the Government promised?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Yes, although I was referring to centralised awards and enterprise agreements. It is government policy to encourage negotiation at workplace level between management and employees. Hence a move away from centralised "one-size fits all" multi agency agreements is supported by Government as such agreements are usually less able to improve efficiency and productivity.
- (3)-(4) See Answer (2).
- (5) Yes.
- (6)-(7) The Government supports the offering of workplace agreements and there is no reason why a new employee cannot be offered a workplace agreement. The individual retains the choice as to whether to accept the agreement.
- (8) Yes. Current government employees have a choice of employment under a workplace agreement or the relevant award/enterprise agreement. New employees may be offered a workplace agreement only. There is nothing new in that, indeed in the private sector the offering of just workplace agreements is common practice.
- (9) The decision to offer the new employee group of Interns in 1998, a workplace agreement, is entirely consistent with Government policy. Furthermore, an agreement was reached with their union the AMA on this matter and that agreement is expected to be considered by Cabinet Standing Committee on Industrial Relations very soon.

DOCTORS - WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

3093. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 3 January 1998 under the heading of 'Young Doctors Face Sack'?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in that article Australian Medical Association (AMA) Executive Director Paul Boyatzis described the Government's approach to require young doctors to sign workplace agreements as 'gun to the head tactics'?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that he is quoted as saying in the article that the requirement for young doctors to sign workplace agreements was "a matter of implementing government policy"?
- (4) Was the Minister correctly quoted?
- (5) If not, what did the Minister say?
- (6) Does the Health Department require all new employees to sign workplace agreements?
- (7) When was that policy implemented?
- (8) Why did the Government refuse to give junior doctors the choice of being employed under the current enterprise bargaining agreement or a workplace agreement?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4)-(5) The Government fully supports the offering of workplace agreements to all employees.
- (6) The offering of workplace agreements to new employees has been introduced progressively throughout the Government Health Industry in recent years and this has been a management decision based on service needs.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) The 1998 intake of interns were new employees and as such management exercised its right to offer new and improved terms to these and other junior doctors. Indeed, the AMA has reached agreement with the Industry on a new collective workplace agreement for junior doctors which will shortly be presented to Government for approval and this agreement will be offered to all new junior doctors. In future only currently employed junior doctors will have a choice of the new enterprise agreement or the new collective workplace agreement. There is nothing illegal or inappropriate about this. The new workplace agreement offers more flexibility and benefits to employees and the employers and the AMA clearly believe there are benefits to all concerned.

TOURISM COMMISSION CONTRACTS

3117. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) When the Tourism Commission enters into a contract with a private company, does the Commission check to ascertain if that company has the -
 - (a) experience;
 - (b) operational capacity;
 - (c) financial capacity;
 - (d) operational effectiveness,
 to fully perform the requirements of the contract?
- (2) If so, what is the precise nature of the checks that are carried out?
- (3) If not, what is the nature of any checks that are carried out?
- (4) How are those checks and/or assessments made?
- (5) Does an officer or person nominated by the Commission examine -
 - (a) the company's books of account or such other financial records as reasonably present the financial viability of the company;
 - (b) the experience and qualifications of the senior executive staff and/or those staff members of sub contractors that will be used or engaged to perform the contract?
- (6) Does the Commission carry out such checks or assessments before or after the contract is signed?
- (7) Has the Commission had any occasion to decline to enter into a contract or cancel a contract when it is found either the financial viability, expertise or experience of a private company has not been sound enough to warrant it being given or to continue with the contract?
- (8) How many tenders and/or contracts have been declined or cancelled on this basis?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

For all contracts of \$5000 or more, the WATC has in place a Contract Checklist as a management guide to confirm that routine procedures have been complied with prior to a contract being entered into. The checklist is attached (see tabled paper). The checklist is designed to represent a best practice guide for staff of the WA Tourism Commission. The Checklist covers such issues as -

Statutory Compliance,
Corporate Governance,
Financial and Operational Risks and Exposures,
Legal and Contractual matters

and includes a check and assessment on the credit rating and management record of the other party, its principals and directors. The Checklist seeks assurance that all due State Supply Commission policies have been complied with. In addition, for major contracts, advice from the Crown Solicitor's office, or other legal practice, is sought. For contracts/purchases under \$5,000, the FAAA provisions and the policies of the State Supply Commission (eg the requirement for 3 quotes etc) are adhered to. In the context of the above, answers to the specific questions are provided below:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Refer to the attached contract checklist. (See tabled paper)
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Based on the contract checklist as a best practice guide and the financial/business acumen of the relevant project manager, the overall assessment of the contract in relation to the WATC is made and then approved by the necessary people.
- (5) (a)-(b) No. However often a project involves a feasibility study prior to any consideration of a contract. It is during this feasibility process that these assessments are made.
- (6) Yes, the checks are made prior to entering into the contract. As indicated in the general guidelines of the

checklist, these issues are addressed by the project manager and in turn, the Risk Manager and General Manager.

- (7) The WATC is not aware of any occasion when it may have declined to enter into a contract with a private company after ascertaining that its financial viability, expertise or experience is not sound enough to warrant a contractual relationship. However, it has on occasion determined not to progress an arrangement with a company based on the feasibility study undertaken which may have identified weaknesses in these areas.
- (8) The WATC is not aware of any occasion when a tender and/or contract has been declined after a contract has been entered into.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - NATIONAL POLICY BODIES

3144. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How many national policy bodies does the Minister and each of the departments and agencies under the Minister's control participate on?
- (2) What is the name of each policy body?
- (3) Does each policy body meet on one or more occasions during the calendar year?
- (4) Has the Premier and/or any of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control made representations to that policy body and/or the Commonwealth or other State governments for the policy body to be abolished or changed in any way?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) what was the nature of the submission made;
 - (b) when was the submission made?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development and Office of Energy

- (1)-(2) Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC)
ANZMEC Standing Committee of Officials
ANZMEC Energy Management Taskforce
ANZMEC Upstream Issues Working Group
ANZMEC Taxation Reform Taskforce
Gas Reform Implementation Group
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

Western Power Corporation

- (1)-(5) Not applicable.

AlintaGas

- (1)-(5) Not applicable.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (1) Two.
- (2) Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) (Participant: Minister for Education)

Conference of Education Systems Chief Executive Officers (CESCEO) (Participant: Ms Cheryl Vardon, Director-General, Education Department of WA)
- (3) MCEETYA meets at least once and no more than twice per year.
CESCEO meets twice per year.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

- (1) Three.
- (2) Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs
(Participant: Minister for Education)

Higher Education Taskforce (Participant: Mr Berry Durston, Director, Office of Higher Education).

Joint Planning Committee (Participants: Mr Peter Browne, Chief Executive Officer, Department of Education Services; Mr Berry Durston, Director, Office of Higher Education).
- (3) All three policy bodies meet once or twice per year.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

Curriculum Council

- (1) One.
- (2) Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (Participant: Mr Paul Albert, Chief Executive Officer, Curriculum Council)
- (3) The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities meet approximately four times per year.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
APPLICATIONS

3185. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) for what purpose was the application made;
 - (b) which organisation made the application;
 - (c) how many applications were made;
 - (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
 - (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
 - (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) To undertake a pilot implementation involving twenty regional, rural and remote communities. It will provide an evaluated model of a telecommunication network infrastructure to establish

telehealth and other community services for and in these communities, and the information required prior to the installation of a state-wide telehealth network.

- (b) The Health Department of Western Australia.
- (c) One.
- (d)-(e) \$8,393,650.
- (f) The Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (g) Once evaluated, all other State bodies.
- (h) 5 January 1998.
- (i) No.
- (j) Senator Alan Eggleston.
- (k) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS

3189. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) for what purpose was the application made;
 - (b) which organisation made the application;
 - (c) how many applications were made;
 - (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
 - (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
 - (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Projects in hand and planned were not considered to be suitable candidates.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS

3190. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -

- (a) for what purpose was the application made;
 - (b) which organisation made the application;
 - (c) how many applications were made;
 - (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
 - (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
 - (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr DAY replied:

Fire and Emergency Services Authority

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is currently considering making an application for a grant.

Western Australia Police Service

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No areas have been identified for claim of such a grant.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
APPLICATIONS

3193. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Attorney General's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) for what purpose was the application made;
 - (b) which organisation made the application;
 - (c) how many applications were made;
 - (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
 - (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
 - (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Attorney General sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Attorney General make a copy of each application available?

- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) No application by any department or agency within my portfolio responsibilities for grants under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund.

- (3) The existence, purpose and guidelines applicable to this fund is not widely known.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
APPLICATIONS

3194. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?

- (2) If yes to (1) above -

- (a) for what purpose was the application made;
- (b) which organisation made the application;
- (c) how many applications were made;
- (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
- (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
- (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
- (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
- (h) on what date was each application submitted;
- (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
- (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
- (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?

- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) The Western Australian Tourism Commission has not made application to the Federal Government for funding under the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund.

- (2) Not applicable.

- (3) The criteria for funding was not applicable to WATC activities at that time, nor relevant to Rottnest Island.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
APPLICATIONS

3195. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?

- (2) If yes to (1) above -

- (a) for what purpose was the application made;
- (b) which organisation made the application;
- (c) how many applications were made;
- (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
- (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;

- (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 3193.

COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
APPLICATIONS

3196. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Has any organisation within the Minister's portfolio area made application to the Federal Government for grant funds made available under the Commonwealth Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
- (a) for what purpose was the application made;
 - (b) which organisation made the application;
 - (c) how many applications were made;
 - (d) how much funding is each application seeking;
 - (e) what amount of state funding is committed to each application;
 - (f) which other State bodies are joint applicants;
 - (g) which other State bodies have an interest in each application;
 - (h) on what date was each application submitted;
 - (i) has the Minister sought discussion with the Federal Minister to support each application;
 - (j) which Federal Members of Parliament have supported each application;
 - (k) will the Minister make a copy of each application available?
- (3) If no to (1) above, why was no application made?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation was not aware of any available funding for regional telecommunications.

PEPPER SPRAY BANNING

3240. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) Is any consideration being given to the banning of pepper sprays in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, what is the rationale behind such a move?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Under Section 65 (4a) of the Police Act, the carrying of any weapon which is intended to cause injury is

unlawful, and the use of such a weapon, including a pepper spray, for offensive purposes would constitute an offence. While the actual possession of pepper sprays is not currently unlawful in Western Australia, the situation is being monitored.

POLICE SERVICE - CORE FUNCTIONS

3260. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Which functions are considered core Police Service functions?
- (2) Which functions currently performed by the Western Australian Police Service are being considered for outsourcing over the next 12 month period?
- (3) Which functions currently performed by the Western Australian Police Service could be considered for outsourcing at a future date?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) As outlined in the document Purpose & Direction, the Western Australia Police Service's core functions are:
 Prevention and control of crime.
 Maintenance of the peace.
 Traffic management and road safety.
 Emergency management co-ordination.
 Assisting members of the community in times of emergency and need.
- (2)-(3) No functions are currently being actively considered for outsourcing. The action of future governments are difficult to predict.

EVENTS FUNDING

Revenue

3288. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Will the Minister provide the House with the following information -
 - (a) the total allocation of Government funding to the events listed below -
 - (i) 1997 World Triathlon Championship;
 - (ii) 1997 World Windsurfing Championship;
 - (iii) 1998 Heineken Classic;
 - (iv) 1998 Hopman Cup;
 - (v) 1998 World Swimming Championship; and
 - (b) the total revenue received by the Government for the same events?
- (2) For each of the above events what was -
 - (a) the name of the company, or organisation, responsible for managing the event; and
 - (b) the name of private contractors and consultants involved in the promotion and running of these events?
- (3) Will the Minister table the income and expenditure statements for each of these events?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- | | | | Gov't
Allocation |
|-----|-----|---|---|
| (1) | (a) | (i) 1997 ITU Triathlon World Championships | \$1,400,000 |
| | | (ii) 1997 World Windsurfing Championships | \$300,000 |
| | | (iii) 1998 Heineken Classic | \$400,000 |
| | | (iv) 1998 Hyundai Hopman Cup | \$258,265 |
| | | (v) 1998 World Swimming Championships | WA Sports Centre Trust administered the event |
| | (b) | It should be noted that EventsCorp does not manage all events which it supports. Hence it can only provide revenue figures for those events it manages. | |

			Revenue
	(i)	1997 ITU Triathlon World Championships	\$410,587
	(ii)	1997 World Windsurfing Championships	\$239,319
	(iii)	1998 Heineken Classic	Not applicable - as managed by Tony Roosenberg Promotions
	(iv)	1998 Hyundai Hopman Cup	Not available at present
	(v)	1998 World Swimming Championships	WA Sports Centre Trust administered the event.
			Organisation Responsible
(2)	(a)	(i)	1997 ITU Triathlon World Championships
		(ii)	1997 World Windsurfing Championships
		(iii)	Heineken Classic
		(iv)	1998 Hyundai Hopman Cup
		(v)	1998 World Swimming Championships
	(b)	(i)	The 1997 ITU Triathlon World Championships was managed by Eventscorp. Jazz Design & Marketing and 303 were contracted to assist in Event promotion.
		(ii)	The 1997 World Windsurfing Championships was managed by Eventscorp. The Brand Agency and Ward Holt were contracted to assist in the Event promotion.
		(iii)	The 1998 Heineken Classic was managed by Tony Roosenberg Promotions.
		(iv)	The 1998 Hyundai Hopman Cup was managed by Paul McNamee Enterprises.
		(v)	The 1998 FINA World Swimming Championships managed by the WA Sports Centre Trust

(3)-(4) Reports as appropriate under the WATC Act will appear in the WATC's Annual Report.

HOPMAN CUP

WA Tourism Commission's Funding

3290. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

With regard to the 1997 Annual Report of the Western Australian Tourism Commission can the Minister explain the purpose of the \$100 000 Specific Purpose Funding (p.61) allocated to the Hopman Cup event?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The purpose of the \$100 000 Specific Purpose Funding is to support the event, thus ensuring it remains in Perth, Western Australia.

HOPMAN CUP

WA Tourism Commission's Interest

3291. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Tourism Commission have a 25 per cent interest in the Hopman Cup Joint Venture?
- (2) If yes, what profit did this 25 per cent interest earn the WATC in the years -
 - (a) 1995;
 - (b) 1996; and
 - (c) 1997?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 1995 - \$164,271.
1996 - \$133,245.
1997 - \$137,261.

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

3301. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the Minister support strong and effective firearms laws that are uniform across the nation?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of any instances where firearms, bought under the loophole in Western Australia's laws which allow gun owners to obtain a second licence within 28 days after the first, have been used in an armed robbery or any criminal activity?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, what action does the Minister intend to take?
- (4) If no to (2) above -
 - (a) is the Minister not aware of any instances where criminal activities have included guns bought under this loophole because this information is not collected; and
 - (b) why is this information not kept?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am unaware of any such loophole which exists in the Firearms Act 1973. When legislative amendments were made to the Act in 1996, it was always intended that firearm owners who wished to purchase a second or subsequent firearms, would not be required to wait 28 days for the approval of the licence. The specific information to which the question refers is unavailable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) (a) Yes.
(b) I have been informed by the Western Australia Police Service that the information is not kept because it is of no assistance in operational matters.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Allocation and Guidelines

3349. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for the Environment; Employment and Training:

- (1) How many staff in the departments and agencies under the Minister's control have been allocated Corporate Credit Cards?
- (2) Is there a policy in place to guide staff in the use of these credit cards?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, where is this policy published?
- (4) If no to (2) above, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Auditor General argued strongly for departments and agencies to make greater use of credit cards as they provided a more efficient and effective control on expenditure.

Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) 664.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Department's Accounting Manual which is based on the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Each staff member is given a copy of these instructions.
- (4) Not applicable.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

- (1) 37.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) The agency's Account Manual which is based on the Financial and Administration Audit Act and relevant policies and guidelines issued by the State Supply Commission.
- (4) Not applicable.

Department of Environmental Protection

- (1) 103.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The policy is incorporated in a signed Agreement entitled "Cardholder's Information, Conditions of Use and Agreement". A copy of this document is provided to each Cardholder.
- (4) Not applicable.

Perth Zoo

- (1) 27.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Purchasing Procedures Manual.
- (4) Not applicable.

Department of Training:

Central Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) 61.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The policy is issued to each card holder when the card is issued. It is intended that the policy will shortly be available on the College's Intranet.
- (4) Not applicable.

North Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) Three.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) In the 'Supply Management Procedures'.
- (4) Not applicable.

South East Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) Nine.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The policy forms part of the accounts manual. Copies of policy are handed to each card holder at time of issue.
- (4) Not applicable.

South Metropolitan College of TAFE

- (1) Four.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Policy Statement issued to the four staff members.
- (4) Not applicable.

Midland College

- (1) Two.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Midland College of TAFE Manual of Policy and Procedures Purchasing of Goods and Services. Published within college.
- (4) Not applicable.

Central West College of TAFE

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Great Southern Regional College of TAFE

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Currently developing Corporate Card Policy and Procedures.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

Hedland College

- (1) Three.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Administration Manual.
- (4) Not applicable.

Karratha College

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

South West Regional College of TAFE

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

Kimberley College

- (1) Four.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Quality Procedures / Resource Management Manual and guidelines of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.
- (4) Not applicable.

Department of Training and TAFE International

- (1) 31.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Each Cardholder signs an agreement which details the policy on use of the credit card.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Allocation and Guidelines

3359. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many staff in the departments and agencies under the Minister's control have been allocated Corporate Credit Cards?
- (2) Is there a policy in place to guide staff in the use of these credit cards?

- (3) If yes to (2) above, where is this policy published?
- (4) If no to (2) above, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Department of Minerals and Energy currently has 270 ACTIVE CARDS.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A Departmental Policy and Procedures Statement is issued to each prospective cardholder once their application for a corporate card is approved.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Allocation and Guidelines

3364. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many staff in the departments and agencies under the Minister's control have been allocated Corporate Credit Cards?
- (2) Is there a policy in place to guide staff in the use of these credit cards?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, where is this policy published?
- (4) If no to (2) above, why not?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION	ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY
(1)	Six	Two
(2)	Yes	Yes
(3)	Treasury Instruction 321 on Credit Cards.	Treasury Instruction 321 on Credit Cards. The Authority plans to include policies on the allocation of credit cards in its Accounting Manual and Human Resources Guidelines.
(4)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Allocation and Guidelines

3366. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How many staff in the departments and agencies under the Minister's control have been allocated Corporate Credit Cards?
- (2) Is there a policy in place to guide staff in the use of these credit cards?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, where is this policy published?
- (4) If no to (2) above, why not?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND RECREATION & RECREATION CAMPS AND RESERVES BOARD

- (1) Ministry of Sport and Recreation - 32
Recreation Camps and Reserves Board - 13
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A copy is issued to the staff member when the Corporate Credit Card is allocated - the staff member signs an agreement to abide by the conditions.

- (4) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

- (1) 41.
 (2) Yes.
 (3) WAIS Accounting Manual.
 (4) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

- (1) 6.
 (2) Yes.
 (3) Internal memorandum to card holders.
 (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Monitoring

3369. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

In relation to use of Corporate Credit Cards in departments and agencies under the control of the Minister -

- (a) what type of monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure that policy regarding usage of these cards is being adhered to;
 (b) what system is used to verify transactions; and
 (c) is a register of issued and cancelled cards maintained in each department and agency?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (a) Accounting staff are required to ensure that credit card transactions are within the Government and Departmental policy requirements.
 (b) The nature of the vendors activities and the description on the credit card statements is usually sufficient to verify transactions. Further information is requested from the credit card holder if required.
 (c) Yes.

Office of Energy

- (a) Branch Managers or Divisional Directors are required to sign off on each transaction by their staff.
 (b) Staff are required to complete a Corporate Credit Card Expenditure Authorisation form, attach the receipt, and forward it to their Manager or Director for approval for each transaction. These are checked off against statements before payment is made.
 (c) Yes.

Western Power Corporation

- (a) Monthly Corporate, Divisional and Cardholder expenditure statements are forwarded by the credit card company to Western Power's centralised Accounts Payable group for payment and reporting purposes. The Accounts Payable group distributes Divisional and Cardholder level statements to the Divisional Human Resources Centres for reconciliation, authorisation and appropriation of expenditure.
 (b) It is the responsibility of the Divisional Human Resources Centres to forward individual statements to Cardholders for reconciling. Cardholders are responsible for resolving any problems or discrepancies with the Credit Card Company and/or supplier immediately. Cardholders must verify their cardholder statements by reconciling individual transactions against the original proof of purchase slips. Once verified, the statement is signed as correct, the proof of purchase slips attached and then forwarded to the relevant Manager or General Manager for authorisation. Authorised statements, along with the attached proof of

purchase slips, are returned to the relevant Divisional Human Resources Centre and retained on file for audit purposes.

- (c) The Credit Card Company sends an "Employee Listing" Report each month to Western Power's Accounts Payable group. This report is a list of all credit cardholders including any that have been cancelled. The list is compared to the Accounts Payable register of approved cardholders.

AlintaGas

- (a) Credit card statements are closely monitored on a monthly basis by the CEO's Executive Administrator.
- (b) Each credit card statement is received by the CEO's Executive Administrator on a monthly basis.
- (c) Yes.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) Usage is monitored by the Contract Services Branch along with scrutinising through the accounts payment process of the Education Department. Transactions are regularly audited.
- (b) Transactions are reconciled to the monthly statements and verified by the use of the Card Power database.
- (c) Yes.

Department of Education Services

- (a) Officers issued with a credit card are fully informed of current government and departmental policies governing the use of corporate credit cards.
- (b) The monthly statements are checked against signed receipts by the officers who have incurred the expense and then receipts and statements are cross-checked by the Administrative Assistant before payment is made.
- (c) Yes, and the history of all transactions relating to the Department's three corporate credit cards is kept on file.

Curriculum Council

- (a)-(b) The accountant monitors and certifies every transaction.
- (c) Yes.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Monitoring

3381. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In relation to use of Corporate Credit Cards in departments and agencies under the control of the Minister -

- (a) what type of monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure that policy regarding usage of these cards is being adhered to;
- (b) what system is used to verify transactions; and
- (c) is a register of issued and cancelled cards maintained in each department and agency?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) All statements are perused by the Supply Services Section prior to payment to ensure compliance with Government and Departmental Policy.
- (b) Signed transaction slips are matched with times on monthly statements. Statements are then incurred by the cardholder, and certified by the Divisional Administration Officer.
- (c) Yes.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Monitoring

3386. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

In relation to use of Corporate Credit Cards in departments and agencies under the control of the Minister -

- (a) what type of monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure that policy regarding usage of these cards is being adhered to;
- (b) what system is used to verify transactions; and
- (c) is a register of issued and cancelled cards maintained in each department and agency?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

- (a) Corporate card expenses are authorised by the Western Australian Tourism Commission's Chief Executive Officer or Principal Accounting Officer. The Principal Accounting Officer also receives a monthly report from the Commission's corporate card provider consisting of reports on card members' spending, industry spending and itemised expenses.
- (b) The claimant provides a copy of the corporate card statement with credit card dockets and receipts to support payment. Payment is then authorised by the Chief Executive Officer or Principal Account Officer.
- (c) Yes.

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY

- (a) The incurring officer matches documentation to the cardholder statement as part of the preparation of the monthly reconciliation of credit card expenditure.
- (b) Cardholders must provide all documentation and receipts for reconciliation to the statement.
- (c) Yes.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Corporate Credit Card Monitoring

3388. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In relation to use of Corporate Credit Cards in departments and agencies under the control of the Minister -

- (a) what type of monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure that policy regarding usage of these cards is being adhered to;
- (b) what system is used to verify transactions; and
- (c) is a register of issued and cancelled cards maintained in each department and agency?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND RECREATION & RECREATION CAMPS AND RESERVES BOARD

- (a) Monthly statements are required to be checked by staff members' supervisors.
- (b) Transaction slips are required to be checked against credit card statements.
- (c) Yes.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

- (a) The usage of a credit card must be approved by the Department Manager and linked to a budget item. Each card statement is reconciled monthly with all substantiation attached and the manager then incurs the expenditure against the allocated budget item.
- (b) It is the Accounts Payable Officer's duty to verify all transactions.
- (c) Yes.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

- (a) All credit card transactions are monitored by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (b) Monthly credit card statements are matched to the relevant invoice or transaction docket and payment is authorised by the relevant manager.

(c) Yes.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3390. Mr RIPPER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Deputy Premier indicate for each staff person working in the Deputy Premier's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Deputy Premier's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Deputy Premier's office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed -

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Dr R Field	Class 4	permanent public servant
Mr P Jackson	Level 8	term of government contract
Mr G Klem	Level 8	permanent public servant
Ms K Kent	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Mrs G McQuillan	Level 7	term of government contract
Mrs J Shadbolt	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr M Beach	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mrs A Frodsham	A/Level 6(pt)	permanent public servant
Ms L Mackin	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms C Bolt	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms D Carter	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms J Bow-Marshall	Level 3	term of government contract
Ms M Gauci	Level 3	term of government contract
Mrs I MacAdams	A/Level 3(pt)	permanent public servant
Mrs D Craig	A/Level 3(pt)	permanent public servant
Mrs J Ross	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms S Walker	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms S Simons	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms K Rowcroft	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
+Mr E Rowley	Consultant on 12 month contract for service	
+Mr B Sutherland	Consultant on 12 month contract for service.	

(b)-(d)

	(b)	(c)	(d)
	9	8 - 2 unallocated	25
Dr R Field	Yes	Yes	2
Mr P Jackson	Yes	Yes	2
Mr G Klem	Yes	Yes	1
Ms K Kent	Yes	Yes	2
Mrs G McQuillan	Yes		2
Mrs J Shadbolt	Yes	Yes	2
Ms C Bolt	Yes		1
Ms L Mackin	Yes	Yes	2
Ms J Bow-Marshall	Yes		2
Mr M Beach			2
Mrs A Frodsham			1
Ms D Carter			2
Ms M Gauci			2
Mrs D Craig			1
Mrs I MacAdams			1

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3391. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
J Hammond	Level 8	Permanent Public Servant
R Ellis	Level 8	Term of Government
N Cant	A/Level 8	Term of Government
J Whittome	Level 6	Term of Government
C Dove	A/Level 5	Permanent Public Servant
A Paterson	A/Level 5	Permanent Public Servant
R Torrens	Level 5	Permanent Public Servant
B Campbell	Level 4	Short Term Ministerial Contract
D Summers	A/Level 3	Permanent Public Servant
G Burmaz	A/Level 3	Permanent Public Servant
N McMurray	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
K King	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
L Kalbus	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
M Grant	A/Level 2	Short Term Contract
K Huynh	Level 1	Short Term Contract
S McCarthy		Ministerial Chauffeurs Agreement

- (b)-(d)

Name	(b) Vehicle	(c) Phone	(d) Credit Card
J Hammond	Yes	Yes	Yes (x2)
R Ellis	Yes	Yes	Yes (x2)
N Cant	Yes	Yes	Yes (x2)
J Whittome	Yes	Yes	-
A Paterson	-	Yes	-
C Dove	-	-	Yes (x2)
Unallocated	-	Spare	-
S McCarthy	-	Yes	-

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3392. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;

- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

Name (i)	Level (ii)	Type of Contract (iii)
A. Munro	A/Level 9	Permanent public servant
K. Lynch	A/Level 8	Term of government contract
A. Murrell	A/Level 8	Term of government contract
D. Beurle	A/Level 8	Paid by AGWA
S. Clancy	Level 6	Paid by AGWA
M. Flugge	Level 6	Term of government contract
S. O'Donoghue	Level 6	Paid by Fisheries WA
J. Dedman	Level 6	Permanent public servant
J. Cole	Level 5	Contract AGWA
K. McCluskey	Level 5	Short term ministerial contract
N. Harrison	Level 5	Paid by Fisheries WA
A. Woolhead	A/Level 4	Permanent public servant
J. Trent	Level 4	Term of government contract
K. Pyke	Level 2	Short term ministerial contract
N. McGilvray	Level 2	Term of government contract

- (b)-(d)

Name	Vehicle (b)	Phone (c)	Credit Card (d)
A. Munro	Yes	Yes	Yes
K. Lynch	Yes	No	Yes
A. Murrell	Yes	No	Yes
D. Beurle	Yes	No	Yes
S. Clancy	No	No	Yes
M. Flugge	Yes	No	Yes
S. O'Donoghue	Yes	No	No
J. Dedman	Yes	No	Yes (x 2)
J. Cole	Yes	Yes	No
J. Trent	Yes	Yes	No

There are three (3) mobile phones available for general use by all staff.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3393. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for the Environment, Employment and Training:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr B Bradley	A/Level 9	permanent public servant
Dr P Biggs	Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr G Paddick	Level 7	term of govt. contract
Ms D Russell Coote	Level 6	term of govt. contract
Ms N Trigwell	Level 6	term of govt. contract
Ms D FitzGerald	A/Level 6	permanent public servant
Ms S Sidery	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Ms E Shannon	Level 4	term of govt. contract
Ms C Britnell	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms T Ryan	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms B Pelosi	Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms R Arguijo	Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms B Cheung	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms D Whyte	A/Level 2	ministerial contract short term
Appeals Convenor's Office		
Mr D Carew-Hopkins	A/Level 9	permanent public servant
Ms N Hill	Level 3	permanent public servant

- (b)-(d)

(name)	(b) vehicle	(c) mobile phone	(d) credit card
Mr B Bradley	yes	yes	yes (2)
Dr P Biggs	yes (paid for by CALM)	no	no
Mr G Paddick	yes	yes	no
Ms D Russell Coote	yes	yes	no
Ms N Trigwell	yes	yes	no
Ms D FitzGerald	no	yes	no
Ms S Sidery	no	no	yes (1)
Ms E Shannon	no	yes	yes (1)
Ms C Britnell	no	no	yes (2)
Ms T Ryan	no	no	no
Ms B Pelosi	no	no	no
Ms R Arguijo	no	no	no
Ms B Cheung	no	no	no
Ms D Whyte	no	no	no
Appeals Convenor's Office			
Mr D Carew-Hopkins	yes	yes	yes (1)
Ms N Hill	no	no	no

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3394. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr M Cormann	Level 7	term of government contract
Mrs J Tennant	Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr S La Piana	Level 6	permanent public servant
Ms D Cole	Level 6	term of government contract
Ms F McRobbie	Level 4	term of government contract
Mrs F Duda	Level 3	term of Minister contract
Mrs N Lobo	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms J Contessi	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms J Clark	Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms L Pearce	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

(b)-(d)

	(b) vehicle	(c) phone	(d) credit card
Mr M Cormann	yes	yes	yes (x2)
Mrs J Tennant	yes	yes	yes
Mr S La Piana	yes	yes	yes (x2)
Ms D Cole	yes	yes	yes
Ms F McRobbie	no	yes	no
Mrs F Duda	no	yes	yes (x2)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3395. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Chief Policy Adviser	Class 1	term of government contract
Coordinator Urban Development	Level 9	permanent public servant
Chief of Staff	A/Level 8	permanent public servant
Policy Officer	Level 7	term of government contract
Policy Officer	A/Level 7	term of government contract
Media Secretary	Level 6	term of government contract
Executive Officer	Level 5	permanent public servant
Policy Officer	A/Level 5	permanent public servant
Policy Officer	Level 4 (pt)	term of minister contract
Liaison Officer	Level 3	term of government contract
Appointment Secretary	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Research Officer	Level 3	term of minister contract
Correspondence Officer	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Personal Assistant	Level 2	permanent public servant
Administrative Assistant x 2	A/Level 2(pt)	permanent public servant
Receptionist		temp

(b)-(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	vehicle	mobile phone	credit card
Chief Policy Adviser	no	yes	no
Coordinator Urban Development	yes	yes	no
Chief of Staff	yes	yes	yes (x2)
Policy Officer	yes	yes	no
Policy Officer	yes	yes	no
Media Secretary	yes	yes	no
Executive Officer	yes	yes	yes (x2)
Policy Officer	no	yes	no
Policy Officer	no	no	no
Liaison Officer	no	no	no
Appointment Secretary	no	no	yes (x2)
Research Officer	no	no	no
Correspondence Officer	no	no	no
Personal Assistant	no	no	no
Administrative Assistant	no	no	yes (x2)
Receptionist	no	no	no

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3396. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr J Thom	A/9	Permanent public servant on secondment
Mr S Proud	A/7	Permanent public servant on secondment
Mr B Mitchell	A/7	Permanent public servant on secondment
Mr J Buxton	7	Term of Government Contract
Ms A Gomez	6	Term of Government Contract
Ms P Waghorn	4	Term of Government Contract
Ms I Lipari	3	Short Term Ministerial Contract
Ms N Raguse	2	Term of Minister Contract

Ms N Baskerville	A/2	Permanent Public Servant
Miss K Crosbie	A/2	Permanent Public Servant

(b)-(d)

(name)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Mr J Thom	yes	yes	yes
Mr S Proud	yes	yes	yes
Mr B Mitchell	no	yes	yes
Mr J Buxton	no	no	yes
Ms A Gomez	yes	yes	yes
Ms P Waghorn	no	no	yes
Ms I Lipari	no	no	no
Ms N Raguse	no	no	no
Ms N Baskerville	no	no	yes
Miss K Crosbie	no	no	yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3397. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr I Wight-Pickin	A/Level 8	Permanent Public Servant
Ms C Lacy	Level 6	Term of Government Contract
Mr C Allier	Level 6	Term of Minister Contract
Mr N Collard	Level 6	Serving Police Officer seconded to public Servant
Mr K Tennant	Level 5	Permanent Public Servant
Ms K Burton	A/Level 4	Permanent Public Servant
Ms V Miller	A/Level 4	Permanent Public Servant
Ms M Franse	Level 3	Term of Minister Contract
Ms M Hayes	Level 3	Permanent Public Servant
Ms N Hull	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
Ms M Ciavatta	Level 2	Permanent Public Servant

(b)-(d)

Name	(b)	(c)	(d)
Mr I Wight-Pickin	vehicle	phone	credit card
Ms C Lacy	vehicle	phone	
Mr C Allier	vehicle	phone	credit card (2)
Mr N Collard		phone	credit card
Ms K Burton		phone	credit card (2)
Ms M Franse	vehicle	phone	
Ms M Hayes		phone	

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3399. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Health:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(a)

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr K Humfrey	A/Level 8	Permanent Public Servant
Ms J Kirkwood	A/Level 7	Permanent Public Servant
Ms K Stoney	Level 6	Term of Government Contract
Ms B Rhodes	A/Level 4	Permanent Public Servant
Ms C Yii	A/Level 4	Permanent Public Servant
Mrs V Liakos	A/Level 4	Permanent Public Servant
Mr D Wooltorton	Level 4	Term of Minister Contract
Mrs J Bowman	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
Ms A Donnelly	Level 2	Ministerial Contract
Mrs T Lawry	Level 2	Short Term Contract

(b)-(d)

	Vehicles	Mobile Phones	Credit Cards
Mr K Humfrey	Yes	Yes	Yes (x1)
Ms J Kirkwood	Yes	Yes	No
Ms K Stoney	Yes	Yes	Yes (x1)
Ms B Rhodes	No	Yes	Yes (x2)
Ms C Yii	No	No	Yes (x2)
Mrs V Liakos	No	No	No
Mr D Wooltorton	No	Yes	No
Mrs J Bowman	No	No	Yes (x1)
Ms A Donnelly	No	No	Yes (x1)
Mrs T Lawry	No	No	Yes (x1)
*Office Vehicle	Yes		

* Not allocated to any particular staff member.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3400. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998 the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr W J Shepherd	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr T Papafilis	Level 6	term of Government contract
Mr H Ryan	Level 6	term of Government contract (shared with the Minister for Local Government)
Ms L Yagmich	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Mrs A Pover	Level 3	term of Government contract
Mrs R Smith	Level 3	permanent public servant
Mrs D Cacciola	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms C Leano	A/Level 2	permanent public servant
Ms A Parry	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

(b)-(d)

	(b)	(c)	(d)
Mr W J Shepherd	Yes	No	No
Mr H Ryan	Yes*	Yes*	No
Mrs R Smith	No	No	Yes (2) **

* Shared with the Minister for Local Government

** For the purchase of stationery and other items and services for the Ministerial Office.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3401. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) can the Minister indicate for each staff person working in his/her office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr BOARD replied:

(a)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
	Dr L Bungey	Level 8	Term of Government
	Mr P Tilley	A/Level 8	Seconded from CAMS
	Mr P Harris	Level 6	Term of Government
	Mr R Wise	Level 4	Term of Minister
	Ms J Kurowski	A/Level 4	Permanent public servant
	Ms K Goodwin	A/Level 3	Permanent public servant
	Ms L Davenport	A/Level 2	Permanent public servant
	Ms M DeBoer	A/Level 2	Term of Government
(b)-(d)			
	Dr L Bungey	(b) Yes	(c) Yes
	Mr P Tilley	Yes	Yes (2)
	Mr P Harris	Yes	No
	Mr R Wise	No	No
	Other officers' use	No	Yes (1)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3402. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response

(a)-(d) See answer to Question No 3400.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3403. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(a) As at March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr R Laming	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr H Pereira	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr R Stevens	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr B Boelen	A/Level 7	permanent public servant
Mr T Whittington	Level 7	term of Minister contract
Mr H Joynt	Level 6	term of Minister contract
Ms E Stevens	Level 5	term of Minister contract
Mr L Radis	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms D Weighell	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms J Holmes	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms N La Touche	A/Level 3	permanent public servant
Ms H Kotsopolous	A/Level 2	permanent public servant

(b)-(d)

	(b)	(c)	(d)
Mr R Laming	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Mr H Pereira	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Mr R Stevens	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Mr B Boelen	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Mr T Whittington	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Mr H Joynt	vehicle	phone	credit card (x2)
Ms E Stevens		phone	credit card (x2)
Mr L Radis			credit card (x1)
Ms D Weighell			credit card (x2)
Ms J Holmes			credit card (x2)
Ms N La Touche			credit card (x2)
Ms H Kotsopolous			

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3404. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
- (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr DAY replied:

(a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
R Reid	Level 8	Term of Government Contract
H Sharp	Level 6	Term of Government Contract
K Newman	Level 6	Term of Government Contract
M Thompson	Level 6	Term of Government Contract
G Power	Level 5	Term of Minister Contract
B McGlew	Level 4	Term of Government Contract
D Stratton	Level 4	Term of Government Contract
J Kennedy	Level 3	Permanent Public Servant
H Raykos	A/Level 3	Permanent Public Servant
M Malarkey	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant
R Gruszka	A/Level 2	Permanent Public Servant

(b)-(d)	R Reid	Vehicle	Mobile Phone	Credit Card (x2)
	H Sharp	Vehicle	Mobile Phone	
	K Newman	Vehicle	Mobile Phone	Credit Card (x2)
	G Power	Vehicle		Credit Card
	M Thompson	Vehicle	Mobile Phone	Credit Card
	B McGlew	Vehicle		
	D Stratton			Credit Card
	J Kennedy			Credit Card (x2)
	H Raykos			Credit Card
	M Malarkey			Credit Card
	R Gruszka			Credit Card

Under instructions from the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet, Credit Cards were issued to staff authorised to purchase office items in late 1997.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3406. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (a) As at 1 March 1998, the following staff were employed:

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Mr S Imms	A/Level 8	permanent public servant.
Mr G Harman	Level 8	secondment from Department of Transport.
Mr G Trenberth	Level 8	term of government contract.
Mr B Higgins	Level 8	secondment from Main Roads Western Australia.
Mr D Cunningham	Level 6	term of government contract.
Miss S Medica	A/Level 5	permanent public servant.
Miss J Criddle	A/Level 5	term of government contract.
Miss G Brown	Level 3	term of government contract.
Miss L Radeska	A/Level 3	secondment from Main Roads Western Australia.
Miss L Francis	A/Level 3	secondment from Office of Minister for Labour Relations.
Mrs C Rimmer	Level 2	permanent public servant.
Mrs K Bourke	A/Level 2	permanent public servant.

Mrs J Cobanov-Burke - on Maternity Leave until 15/12/98

(b)-(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Mr S Imms	vehicle	mobile	credit card (2)
Mr G Harman	vehicle	mobile	credit card (1)
Mr G Trenberth	vehicle	mobile	
Mr B Higgins	vehicle	mobile	credit card (1)
Mr D Cunningham	vehicle	mobile	
Miss S Medica			credit card (1)
Total	5	5	5

There is one spare mobile phone held within the office for emergency situations and official business use only, and two superseded mobile phones awaiting disposal.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3408. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 3403.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Staff, Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Government Credit Cards

3410. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

With respect to the Minister's Office -

- (a) will the Minister indicate for each staff person working in the Minister's office as at 1 March 1998 the following details -
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) level; and
 - (iii) type of employment contract;
- (b) how many vehicles are attached to the office and what are the names of the staff to which they are allocated;
- (c) how many mobile phones are available at the Minister's office and to which staff are they allocated; and
- (d) how many Government credit cards have been authorised for use in the Ministerial office and to which officers have they been allocated?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 3403.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS OVER \$1 MILLION

3430. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

Will the Minister provide the following details for all Government owned assets sold since January 1993 (excluding land and building sales undertaken in the ordinary course of business, for example land sales undertaken by the Department of Land Administration), in both the general government and government trading enterprise sector of their portfolio areas, which had a sale value of \$1 million or more -

- (a) name and nature of the asset;
- (b) date sold;
- (c) nature of sale and name of buyer;
- (d) proceeds received from the asset;
- (e) associated revenue from the sale, such as stamp duty;

- (f) the application of the funds received; and
- (g) any associated costs incurred in the sale process?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (a) There have been no Government owned assets worth a value of \$1million or more which have been sold since January 1993 by the Western Australian Tourism Commission.
- (b)-(g) Not applicable.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS OVER \$1 MILLION

3432. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Will the Minister provide the following details for all Government owned assets sold since January 1993 (excluding land and building sales undertaken in the ordinary course of business, for example land sales undertaken by the Department of Land Administration), in both the general government and government trading enterprise sector of their portfolio areas, which had a sale value of \$1 million or more -

- (a) name and nature of the asset;
- (b) date sold;
- (c) nature of sale and name of buyer;
- (d) proceeds received from the asset;
- (e) associated revenue from the sale, such as stamp duty;
- (f) the application of the funds received; and
- (g) any associated costs incurred in the sale process?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND RECREATION RECREATION CAMPS AND RESERVES BOARD

- (a) Nil.
- (b)-(g) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

- (a) Nil.
- (b)-(g) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

- (a) Nil.
- (b)-(g) Not applicable.

COLLIE POWER STATION

Pacific Power Contract

3435. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Was a cost benefit analysis undertaken on the contracting out of the operation and maintenance of the Collie Power Station?
- (2) If yes, what cost savings is the Minister expecting to achieve by having Pacific Power operate the new Collie Power Station instead of Western Power?
- (3) If not, is it standard Government policy to contract out essential operations of this size without first assessing the public benefit, or cost, to the State?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised that:

- (1) A cost benefit analysis was undertaken by Price Waterhouse Urwick in conjunction with Western Power.
- (2) The cost of contracting out the operations and maintenance of Collie Power Station will be 20% lower than if Western Power were to operate and maintain the station.
- (3) Not applicable.

COLLIE POWER STATION

Pacific Power Contract

3438. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that Pacific Power had been shortlisted as a tenderer for the contract to operate the new Collie Power Station before it carried out the feasibility study on the Bunbury Power Station?
- (2) If yes, would information received by Pacific Power during the Bunbury Power Station feasibility study have been of benefit in its bid for the Collie contract?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, did Pacific Power have an unfair advantage over other tenderers for the Collie contract?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised that:

- (1) Pacific Power was shortlisted as a tenderer for Collie Power Station on 9 September 1997. The study on the future for Bunbury Power Station was completed on 23 September 1997.
- (2) All consultants employed by Western Power are required to enter into confidentiality agreements. The Pacific Power staff engaged for the Bunbury Power Station Future Options Study were specifically excluded by the confidentiality agreement from participating in the Collie Power Station tender process.
- (3) Not applicable.

BED TAX ON HOTELS

3439. Mr PENDAL to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Government considering the introduction of a so-called "bed tax" covering hotels and other accommodation outlets in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, at what rate of the nightly tariff will the tax be struck?
- (3) Has this been canvassed with the peak tourism bodies in Western Australia on the possible effects on in-bound tourism?
- (4) If so, to what extent?
- (5) If a tax is to be introduced will the Minister consider quarantining the revenue raised for the exclusive use of promoting Western Australia as an in-bound tourism destination?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

CARAVAN INDUSTRY PROMOTION

3468. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In the last two years have any indications or undertakings been given to the caravan industry about the Tourism Commission undertaking a campaign to promote the industry?
- (2) If not, has any consideration been given to a campaign to promote the industry?
- (3) What is being considered?
- (4) What initiatives has the Tourism Commission taken over the last two years to promote the industry?

- (5) Have any undertakings or indications been given to the caravan industry that funding will be provided through the Tourism Commission for a caravan show promotion?
- (6) Was such an undertaking or indication given to the industry in the last two to three years?
- (7) If so, when?
- (8) What was the nature of the undertaking?
- (9) Was the undertaking or indication honoured?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) Does the Tourism Commission intend to allocate any funds in the 1997-98 financial year to the promotion of the caravan industry and/or caravan show promotion?
- (12) If so, what funds will be provided for this purpose?
- (13) Does the Tourism Commission intend to allocate any funds for the promotion of the caravan industry or caravan show promotion in the 1998/99 financial year?
- (14) If so, what amount will be allocated?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes, on the 21 January 1997, a letter was sent from the Western Australian Tourism Commission to the President of the then Caravan Parks and Trades Association (name was subsequently changed to the Caravan Industry Australia WA Inc) advising that a campaign targeting the caravanning sector would be undertaken in the 1997/98 financial year. This activity was also highlighted in the Tourism Commission's Partnership to Success document which outlines all cooperative activity planned for the 1997/98 financial year.
- (3) It was the Tourism Commission's original intention to undertake a direct mail campaign promoting the self-drive and caravanning market utilising the Wildflower Season as the catalyst for this campaign. In the planning stage of the campaign a strategic decision was made to broaden the profile of the campaign and place advertisements in the magazines of the Automobile Associations and produce a Wildflower brochure specifically designed for the self-drive and caravanning markets. A total of \$123 500 is being spent on the campaign and of the 45 accommodation operators opting to take advertising space in the brochure 13% (6 properties) are caravan parks. The strategy to amend this campaign was endorsed by the broader tourism industry through a series of industry forums and feedback sessions, all of which were attended by representatives of the caravanning industry.

Following these sessions, it became known to senior staff of the Tourism Commission that some members of the caravanning industry were concerned about the outcomes of these sessions and were still of the opinion that the Tourism Commission would be running a dedicated campaign for this sector of the industry. A meeting was held between the Tourism Commission and the President of the Caravan Industry Australia WA Inc on 19 February, 1998. The rationale behind the decision was explained and then both parties took the opportunity to discuss cooperative marketing initiatives for the 1998/99 financial year.

- (4) In the last 2 years, the Tourism Commission has participated in a number of caravan and camping shows held in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. In addition to attendance at these shows, caravan park owners have been encouraged to participate in the Tourism Commission's successful marketing programs like Winter Breaks.

The Tourist Centre in Forrest Place also plays an active role in providing information about caravan parks to consumers who are seeking this style of accommodation and experience. The most comprehensive source of information about caravan parks in Western Australia is contained in the Accommodation and Tours Listing Guide, for which the Tourist Centre is responsible for distributing over 10 000 copies annually.

- (5)-(8) In the same letter of 21 January 1997 and again in the Partnership to Success document, a commitment was made by the Tourism Commission that it would be involved with the major caravan and camping shows in the eastern states. The commitment was not to provide funding but to guarantee the Tourism Commission's involvement. The paragraph of the letter read:

... We are also committed to a program of participation at the various caravan and camping shows held around the nation during 1997/98 and have budgeted \$75 000 to meet the cost of our involvement ...

- (9)-(10) The Tourism Commission joined with six Regional Tourism Associations (RTA's) to create a presence for Western Australia at the Caravan and Camping show in Adelaide in February this year and was awarded the prize for the best domestic destination display at the show. The Tourism Commission also undertook a coordinating role at the recent Perth show and will join with its RTA partners to create a presence for Western Australia at the Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane shows to be held later this financial year.
- (11)-(12) A total of \$123,500 is being spent on a self-drive campaign and of the 45 accommodation operators opting to take advertising space in the brochure, 13% (6 properties) are caravan parks. Also, a total of \$75,000 was allocated in the budget to create a presence for Western Australia at major consumer shows, including the Caravan and Camping show.
- (13) In the meeting held 19 February 1998 with executives of the Tourism Commission, it was agreed that the Caravan Industry Australia WA Inc would prepare a cooperative advertising proposal for consideration firstly by the Tourism Commission's National Advisory Board and then by the Board of Commissioners. There are monies allocated for cooperative advertising in the 1998/99 financial year. The proposal will be assessed on the basis of the dollar value of industry contribution, the marketing strategy of the proposal and the anticipated increase in incremental business as a result of the cooperative campaign. This cooperative campaign will be in addition to the Wildflowers campaign as indicated in (4) above which will be repeated in the 1998/99 financial year. The Tourism Commission is planning to attend the Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane shows in the 1998/99 financial year however attendance at the Brisbane show will be dependant on support from the RTA's.
- (14) While the operational plan for the 1998/99 financial year is yet to be approved by the Board of Commissioners, an amount of \$147 510 has been allocated for attendance at trade and consumer shows including the caravan and camping shows. The final amount allocated for the cooperative advertising campaign outlined in (13) will be dependant on the factors also outlined in (13) and a similar amount of money, \$123 500 is expected to be spent on the Wildflower campaign in 1998/99.

WEST COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

3481. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the BHERT NEWS issued by the Business/Higher Education Round Table in March 1998?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the article that appeared on the page 5 of that publication dealing with the Policy Discussion Paper on the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy (WEST committee)?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Business Higher Education Round Table said that most of the proposals in the discussion paper were shortsighted, outdated and inadequate?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the discussion paper recommended the introduction of the voucher style funding system, involving special learning accounts for all school leavers who would use the money to shop around for the most appropriate course?
- (5) Has the State Government and/or the Minister or Education Department expressed an opinion on the recommendations of the WEST committee?
- (6) If so, what opinion has the Government, Minister or Education Department expressed?
- (7) Has the Government and/or the Minister expressed support for any of the WEST committee recommendations?
- (8) Has the Government written to the Federal Government urging support for, opposition to or modifications to the WEST committee recommendations?
- (9) What views have been expressed by the Government and/or the Minister in this regard?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) The Minister is aware that the Business Higher Education Round Table has expressed reservations about the policy discussion paper on the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy (West Review).
- (4) The Minister is aware that voucher style funding is one proposition canvassed in the discussion paper.

- (5) The Office of Higher Education of the Department of Education Services made a submission to the West Review.
- (6) The submission was broad ranging and presented a State perspective on the needs of higher education in Western Australia including:
- the economic, social and cultural life of the State;
 - demographic projections;
 - regional provision;
 - intersectoral cooperation;
 - Western Australian initiatives;
 - the importance of a strong State say in higher education policy and financing, and
 - questions the merits of taking user-pays and deregulation too far.
- (7)-(9) No. The West Review "Learning for Life" has recently been released, however, the Government is yet to express any opinion on its contents.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION'S INITIATIVES

3482. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the March 1988 publication of *Journeys*?
- (2) On page two of the publication was reference made to the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) implementing a range of marketing initiatives to address the downturn in Asian inbound tourism?
- (3) What initiatives have been taken by the WATC?
- (4) What is the cost of each initiative?
- (5) When did each initiative commence or when will each initiative commence?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The WATC, in cooperation with the Australian Tourist Commission, (ATC) and strategic partners in Singapore (Qantas and British Airways) and Malaysia (Malaysia Airlines) recently conducted two major consumer campaigns under the theme of "Half Price for Partner Deals". The launch of each campaign was based around the major consumer travel shows National Association of Travel Agents (NATAS) in Singapore and Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) in Kuala Lumpur. There were 26 operators and six inbound tourism operators who participated in the campaign, offering a selection of accommodation and tours - packaged with a very competitive airfare from each airline. The Singapore deal including return airfares, two nights accommodation, transfers, and a city tour sold for S\$648.00. As a result of this initiative, Singapore Airlines offered a comparably priced deal which resulted in a significant number of bookings. The package deal for Malaysia included return airfare, three nights accommodation, transfers and breakfast sold for RM1288. Simultaneously, a press campaign was launched in the UK in conjunction with the ATC and the UK's leading "Aussie Specialists", Travelbag and Austravel, promoting a special "three for two package" with a lead in price of 529 return airfare. The ATC has also adopted the "Perth Winter Initiative" Qantas/British Airways airfare as the lead-in Australian fare offer for its \$1 million tactical advertising campaign with Qantas which launched on 2 March, adding further impetus to Western Australia's marketing presence in the UK over this period.
- (4) Total cost of the campaigns including production was:
- | | |
|------------|---|
| Singapore | \$345,000 of which the WATC contribution was \$180,000 |
| Malaysia | \$102,000 of which the WATC contribution was \$ 50,000 |
| UK | \$161,000 of which the WATC contribution was \$ 85,000 |
| ATC/Qantas | \$1 million of which the WATC contribution was \$ 25,000. |

The balance of funds were provided by the ATC and industry partners.

- (5) The television and press advertising campaign in Singapore was launched on 9 March and concluded on 19 March, following NATAS. The Malaysian Press campaign was launched on 11 March and concluded on 16 March, following the MATTA Fair. The UK "Winter Initiatives" campaign was launched on 9 March and will conclude on 4 May, 1998. While actual figures have yet to be tabled by industry partners, indications are the campaign has been an outstanding success in each market. This is a remarkable response by the WATC to a difficult marketing challenge, achieved in a short space of time, which clearly

demonstrates how a totally coordinated approach by industry can provide significant benefits for tourism in Western Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

3483. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the March 1988 edition *Journeys*?
- (2) On page three of the publication is reference made to marketing in South East Asia being based heavily on relationships.
- (3) What funds have been allocated by the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) to relationship building?
- (4) What strategies does the WATC use to build relationships?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The WATC does not have a specific budget for "Relationship Building". Each and every marketing initiative the Commission plans and implements is budgeted for within the total funds allocated to the marketing of Western Australia in its core Asian markets. In each instance, these initiatives help to cement or establish business relationships which are beneficial to the growth of visitation to Western Australia from Asia. The total 1997/98 budget allocation for South East Asia is \$1,100,000.
- (4) The WATC's success in the core markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia has been achieved through a long standing commitment to work in partnership with all sectors of the South East Asian tourism and travel industry. This includes airlines, outbound agents, retailers, wholesalers, convention and incentive organisations and representative offices of the Australian Tourist Commission. The location of regional offices in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is testimony to our commitment to maintaining these relationships, as only through regular face to face liaison and consultation can the marketing initiatives (which have proven so successful), longer term strategic planning and identification of new product opportunities (beneficial to Western Australia's marketing in our core markets) be achieved. The WATC's initiatives are broad and cover everything from participation at major trade and consumer travel shows in conjunction with local suppliers to the planning and scheduling of cooperative marketing campaigns, such as the recent and highly successful Winter Initiatives campaigns. Participation in industry forums, the organisation of seminars, road shows, familiarisations, trade promotions and regular dissemination of information through media publicity, publications such as *Journeys* and sales calls are all a part of the relationship building initiatives implemented by the WATC.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

Exchange Program Sponsorship

3484. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the March 1988 edition *Journeys*?
- (2) On page five is there an article concerning the Western Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) sponsoring a team of four young West Australian business people to the Phillipines as part of a culture and professional exchange?
- (3) How were the 4 young people chosen?
- (4) Who chose the 4 young people to participate in the exchange program?
- (5) What funds does the WATC provide for this purpose?
- (6) What benefits to tourism are obtained by the sponsorship?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(4) This is an initiative of Rotary International and the WATC was approached by the group for assistance. It

did not provide any monetary support but offered the group the use of its Brand WA imagery which will be used on their business stationery and uniforms.

- (5)-(6) The WATC is only too pleased to provide this kind of sponsorship to such groups, as these young people can assist in promoting Western Australia as a great travel destination to those they meet. As word of mouth is still one of the best forms of advertising, the ability to use excellent young ambassadors at negligible cost is obviously of great benefit to Western Australia.

HORMONE GROWTH PROMOTANTS

Administration to Livestock

3496. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Is the practice of administering hormone growth promotants to livestock which is being produced for human consumption monitored by a scientifically responsible body?
- (2) If yes to (1) above -
 - (a) which scientific body?
 - (b) what animals are being tested?
 - (c) how often is testing carried out for -
 - (i) excessive dosing;
 - (ii) accumulation levels of HGP;
 - (iii) adverse effects of long term usage;
 - (iv) what quantities of HGP is passed into the food chain; and
 - (d) is testing done on fat and muscle separately?
- (3) Have unacceptable outcomes been found as a result of testing for (2)(c) above?
- (4) If yes to (3) above, what were the details of those cases?
- (5) If yes to (2)(d) above, what is the average percentage of HPG retention in each, at point of sale to the consumer?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that the European Community banned the use of HGPs in all domestic and imported beef products effective from 1 January 1988?
- (7) If yes to (6) above, what was that reason?
- (8) Have any scientific studies been done in Australia to ascertain -
 - (a) if there is a connection between the usage of HPG in animals and mutations of disease and/or protein;
 - (b) if the practice of feeding livestock with substances known not to be a naturally preferred food of a particular animal has an effect which may be passed to humans;
 - (c) what effects the practice of feeding livestock substances which are cannibalistic to a particular animal have on that animal's ability to resist disease; and
 - (d) if there is a connection between feeding livestock substances which are cannibalistic to a particular animal and mutations of diseases and/or protein?
- (9) What were the results of those studies in relation to (8)(a), (8)(b), (8)(c) and (8)(d) above?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) National Residues Survey (NRS) Section, in the Bureau of Resource Sciences, at the Department of Primary Industries & Energy, Canberra.
- (b) Cattle, poultry, horses, pigs, sheep and buffalo.

- (c) (i) Testing is carried out on a random basis Australia wide. The last published report of NRS is for 1996.
- | | |
|---------|------------|
| Cattle | 2003 tests |
| Sheep | 1137 tests |
| Pigs | 100 tests |
| Horses | 140 tests |
| Poultry | 32 tests |
| Buffalo | 24 tests |
- (ii) The same tests as above.
- (iii) There are no reported adverse effects of long term usage in adverse drug reaction reports. There is no benefit from long term usage and it is not practised.
- (iv) This is difficult to quantify. Minuscule amounts in comparison to the production of natural hormones in humans, and naturally occurring hormones in many other foods, eg. Cabbages.
- (d) The tissue tested depends on the particular chemical being tested for. Fat and muscle are tested separately for different chemical products.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) See the answer to question 2(c)(iv) and 2(d).
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Apparently due to common concern. There appears to be no scientific evidence supporting the ban.
- (8) (a)-(d) None located
- (9) Not applicable.

HOME BURGLARIES IN SOUTH PERTH

3498. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) I refer to the fight against crime in the suburbs, and in particular the continuing high level of home burglaries in the South Perth electorate and the clearance rate of 4.1 per cent and ask to what extent does truancy play a part in the home burglary scene in this area?
- (2) Do the police have a profile on burglars whom they suspect of committing most offences in South Perth and, if so, to what extent is this profile related to truants, other young people, or experienced organised, adult criminals?
- (3) Have police stopped visiting the scene of all burglaries to take such evidence as fingerprints?
- (4) If yes to (3) above, why?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) The Western Australia Police Service advises that truancy plays a minor role in the incidence of home burglary in South Perth. During the past ten months only two truants have been apprehended for committing burglary offences in South Perth.
- (2) The police profile of burglary offences committed in South Perth does not generally relate to either truants or experienced organised adult criminals. The profile generally relates to unemployed males in their late teens and early 20's with some form of drug addiction in approximately 70% of cases.
- (3)-(4) Police attend the scene of all reported burglaries. Each burglary is assessed individually and if forensic evidence is likely to be obtained, Forensic Officers attend the scene.

NORTH WEST ACADEMY OF SPORT

3526. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What is the total annual budget of the North West Academy of Sport?

- (2) How much of the budget is allocated for the operation of programs?
- (3) How much of the budget is allocated for staff?
- (4) How much of the budget is allocated for travel?
- (5) From which budget is the allocation made for the North West Academy of Sport?
- (6) Where is the North West Academy of Sport physically located?
- (7) How many staff are there currently at the North West Academy of Sport?
- (8) What are the classifications of the staff currently at North West Academy of Sport?
- (9) What are the qualifications of the staff currently at North West Academy of Sport?
- (10) Are staff provided with GEHA Housing?
- (11) Are all staff on employment contracts?
- (12) What is the proposed full staff establishment of the North West Academy of Sport?
- (13) What are the proposed classifications of the staff?
- (14) What are the proposed qualifications that will be required of future staff?
- (15) Will the North West Academy of Sport be required to produce an Annual Report each year?
- (16) If the answer to (15) is yes, will the Annual Report be presented to Parliament?
- (17) What level of corporate sponsorships is the North West Academy of Sport expected to achieve each year of its operation?
- (18) What sports will fall within the scope of the North West Academy of Sport?
- (19) What expertise will the North West Academy of Sport have in sports medicine?
- (20) What expertise will the North West Academy of Sport have in dietary matters?
- (21) What expertise will the North West Academy of Sport have in training regimes?
- (22) Will the North West Academy of Sport operate a gymnasium?
- (23) What sporting facilities will the North West Academy of Sport provide?
- (24) Is the North West Academy of Sport a Statutory Authority?
- (25) If the answer to (24) above is no, how is the North West Academy of Sport constituted?
- (26) If the answer to (24) above is yes, is it proposed to legislate the establishment of North West Academy of Sport?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) \$200 000 for the first year.
- (2) \$45 000.
- (3) \$90 000.
- (4) \$12 000.
- (5) Sports Lottery Account, Ministry of Sport and Recreation.
- (6) Pundulmurra College Campus - South Hedland.
- (7) One - the Director.
- (8) Contract position not tied to a specific classification.
- (9) Bachelor of Applied Service - Sports Science Coaching.
- (10) Yes, the Director has been provided with a GEHA house.

- (11) Yes.
- (12) There will be flexible staffing numbers. The Director plus coaches/expertise as required for development at any specific time.
- (13)-(14) To be determined as required.
- (15)-(16) Yes.
- (17) Initial objective is \$100 000 per annum.
- (18) Initial focus on major sports of the region such as basketball, football, baseball, however, still needs to be finalised.
- (19)-(21) Yet to be determined, however it will be as required for the programs and athletes.
- (22) Yes.
- (23) The Academy is hosted by Hedland College and Pundulmurra Campus. The Academy will utilise the basketball, tennis courts, oval and gym on campus.
- (24)-(26) It is proposed to include it in Schedule 1 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, which will mean it will be a statutory authority for the purposes of that Act.

UNIFORM ELECTRICITY TARIFF

Country Small Business Consumers

3532. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Has the regional uniform electricity tariff for small business consumers in regional Western Australia changed since 29 November 1996?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes -
- (a) in what way has the tariff changed;
 - (b) in what way did the change benefit small business consumers in regional Western Australia; and
 - (c) what was the dollar value of the change to Government?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

KARRATHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Security Screens

3547. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Education:

In relation to the facilities at the Karratha Primary School -

- (a) has a request been made for the installation of security screens throughout the administration and staff areas of the Karratha Primary School; and
- (b) what would be the cost of installation of security windows and doors to the areas identified in the request from the school?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Education Department of Western Australia that:

No formal request has been received from the school regarding security screens, however, the issue was raised in discussions between the school principal and the local CAMS building consultant. Also a verbal request was made recently which related to electronic security. The cost to install security services varies from site to site. The estimated cost for security services installation at this school would need to be obtained from the Department of

Contract and Management Services in Karratha. Works of this nature would normally be paid for from schools' minor works funds.

KARRATHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Break-in

3548. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Education:

In relation to the Karratha Primary School -

- (a) was the school staff room and administration office broken into on 5 January 1998;
- (b) what was the cost of repairing both the staff door and administration door of the school;
- (c) on 7 January 1998 was the dental clinic door broken into;
- (d) what was the cost of repairing the damage done on 7 January 1998;
- (e) was the administration office broken into on 12 January 1998;
- (f) what was the cost of the repairs to the damage done on 12 January 1998;
- (g) was the administration door damaged on 14 January 1998;
- (h) what was the cost of repairing that damage;
- (i) on 30 January 1998 was the administration area broken into and the public address system damaged;
- (j) what was the cost of repairs to the public address system that was damaged on 30 January 1998;
- (k) on 2 February 1998 was the staff area broken into;
- (l) what was the cost of repairs to damage done to the staff area;
- (m) on 2 February 1998 was the administration area broken into;
- (n) what was the cost of repairs to damage done to the administration area;
- (o) on 7 March 1998 was the staff area broken into;
- (p) what was the cost of repairs of that damage;
- (q) on 15 March 1998 was the administration area broken into;
- (r) what was the cost of repairs of that damage;
- (s) on 22 March 1998 was the staff room broken into; and
- (t) what was the cost of repairs of that damage?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Karratha Primary School has provided the following information:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) \$332.00
- (c) Yes.
- (d) \$268.50
- (e) Yes.
- (f) \$603.00
- (g) Yes.
- (h) \$401.40
- (i) Yes.
- (j) \$95.00
- (k) Yes.
- (l) \$308.00
- (m) Yes.
- (n) \$258.00
- (o) Yes.
- (p) \$303.00
- (q) Yes.
- (r) \$295.10
- (s) Yes.
- (t) \$284.85

MR NEIL HOLTZ'S DEATH

3549. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the death of Neil Holtz in custody -

- (a) was Mr Holtz described in departmental documents as being a "cocky" individual;
- (b) were some of the prison officers or Ministry staff concerned that the attitude of prison officers to Mr Holtz may lead to violence;
- (c) where any concerns as set out in (b) put on paper, and are now able to be supplied;
- (d) is it true that medical observation cells are used as a management tool for difficult prisoners that are not mentally or medically in need of these cells;
- (e) is it possible for a person on remand who is not serving a sentence for any other crime to be put into these punishment cells for 17 days;
- (f) what is the recommended longest period of time that a prisoner should be placed in a medical observation cell;
- (g) who determines the duration of stays in medical observation cells;
- (h) if it is the Superintendent of the prison is there a requirement to consult medical staff about the suitability of people in these cells;
- (i) is it true that chains and shackles and face masks are used to restrain prisoners in these medical observation cells;
- (j) in relation to shackles and masks how long are shackles and masks allowed to remain on an individual and, in relation to Mr Holtz how long was he chained and shackled for whilst in the medical observation cell;
- (k) did members of PASS interview a number of prisoners in relation to Mr Holtz's death;
- (l) were people interviewed by PASS immediately sent to solitary confinement for up to 21 days following the interview;
- (m) do you have a complete list of all witnesses to Mr Holtz's death and, if so, can they be supplied;
- (n) is it true that a key witness to Mr Holtz's death was within 7 days of the death transferred from Canning Vale to Roebourne prison, and is it also true that he has spent the best part of 30 days in solitary confinement since the death;
- (o) does the Minister agree with the comments of Athol Jamison that the number of deaths in our prison system are a statistical glitch;
- (p) does the Minister agree with the comments of Athol Jamison that prisoners receive medical treatment superior to that available outside of the prison walls; and
- (q) what is the Minister's response to the *Four Corners* suggestion that violence is used as a management tool in our prison system?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (a)-(c) Information cannot be made available at this time as the matter is subject to a Ministry of Justice investigation and Coronial Inquiry.
- (d) Yes. Prisoners who are considered at risk of causing harm to themselves or to prison staff may be held in medical observation cells while their behaviour is monitored. These prisoners are returned to the general prison community as soon as is practicable.
- (e) Medical observation cells are not punishment cells. Remand prisoners can be placed in medical observation cells for the same reasons as sentenced prisoners.
- (f) Prisoners in medical observation cells are assessed by medical staff every 24 hours and are returned to the general prison community as soon as is practicable.

- (g) The prison superintendent, or delegate, usually in consultation with the Forensic Case Management Team and medical staff.
- (h) No. There is no requirement for the superintendent, or delegate, to consult with medical staff, however, the advice of medical staff would generally be taken prior to placing prisoners in medical observation cells, and prisoners in medical observation cells are assessed by medical staff every 24 hours.
- (i) Restraints on all prisoners are applied as per the Prisons Act 1981, section 42.
- (j) See (i). In relation to the query about Mr Holt see (a).
- (k) Records indicate that members of the Prisoner Advisory Support Service interviewed prisoners during February, but the Ministry of Justice is not privy to the subject of those discussions.
- (l) No.
- (m)-(n) See (a).
- (o) I am not aware of these comments.
- (p) As they are in a closed environment, prisoners generally have greater access to medical services than they would have in the outside community.
- (q) Violence is not endorsed or accepted as a part of the management regime of the prison system. The Prisons Act 1981 and the Director General's Rules of the Ministry of Justice detail the behaviour expected of prison staff in their dealings with prisoners.

MUNDIJONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enrolments

3552. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students were enrolled at Mundijong Primary School in 1997?
- (2) How many students are enrolled at the school in 1998?
- (3) How many teachers has the school lost in 1998 as a result of this drop in enrolment?
- (4) Will the Minister explain why the school has lost this number of teachers?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I have been advised by the Education Department of WA that:

- (1) In 1997 a total of 172 students were enrolled at Mundijong Primary School. The total allocation of staff was 9.8 FTE (full-time equivalent).
- (2) In 1998 there is a total enrolment of 192 students. The total allocation of staff is 9.4 FTE.
- (3) The teaching FTE has been reduced by 0.4.
- (4) The new staffing formula ensures a more equitable distribution of teachers across the state. For 1998 only, an 8 per cent cap has been introduced to allow schools time to adjust to the changes associated with the new formula. The cap ensures that no school will gain or lose more than 8 per cent of teaching staff than they would under the old formula. In the case of Mundijong Primary School, much of the population increase can be attributed to the five year old pre-primary class. In 1997 the class had 17 students and one teacher. In 1998 it has 26 students, but still requires only one teacher. Likewise, the school has introduced a four year old program this year. However, because the 18 four year olds only attend for 2 half days per week, they are calculated as adding only 4.5 to the school's student population. The staffing allocation has been amended to reflect this.

DUMBLEYUNG DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Enrolments

3554. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students were enrolled at Dumbleyung District High School in 1997?

- (2) How many students are enrolled at the school in 1998?
- (3) How many teachers has the school lost in 1998 as a result of this drop in enrolment?
- (4) Will the Minister explain why the school has lost this number of teachers?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I have been advised by the Education Department of WA that:

- (1) In 1997 a total of 126 students were enrolled at Dumbleyung District High School. This comprised 102 primary students and 24 secondary students. The total allocation of staff was 11.85 FTE (full-time equivalent) comprising 6.45 primary teachers and 5.4 secondary teachers.
- (2) In 1998 there is a total enrolment of 116 students comprising 99 primary students and 17 secondary students. The total allocation of staff is 9.78 FTE comprising 5.58 primary teachers and 4.2 secondary teachers.
- (3) The teaching staff has been reduced by 2.07.
- (4) The reduction is mainly accounted for by the reduced enrolments of secondary students. The new staffing formula provides staffing based on student enrolments rather than the number of form classes, which for small district high schools was fixed. The introduction of the new staffing formula has resulted in a more equitable distribution of teaching staff among all government schools than existed under the previous formula. As a result of the redistribution of resources Dumbleyung District High School has experienced a slight reduction in teaching staff.

DRAFT CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Reference to Citizenship

3557. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of concerns that the proposed Learning Outcomes for the Overarching Statement of the Draft Curriculum Framework do not make direct reference to citizenship?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister indicate whether the suggested amendments from the Social Science Association of Western Australia which incorporate citizenship have been considered by the Curriculum Council?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate what approach the Government intends to take to -
 - (a) the inclusion of citizenship into the curriculum objectives; and
 - (b) the inclusion of citizenship education into the curriculum?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Minister is aware of the concerns, however, direct links are made to civics and citizenship in the Overarching Statement and the Society and Environment Learning Area Statement. Direct links are made in the text under Outcome 8 in the Overarching Statement which reads:

Students understand their cultural, geographic and historical contexts and have the knowledge, skills and values necessary for active participation in life in Australia.

Students use historical, geographical, political, sociological and economic knowledge to analyse and understand local, national and international events. They participate actively and responsibly in the democratic process within the school and wider community.

The Society and Environment Learning Area has essential content which relates to civics and citizenship that students need to learn in order to achieve this outcome.

- (2) The suggested amendments have been considered by the Review Groups responsible for the revision of the draft Curriculum Framework and have been incorporated where they are appropriate.
- (3) (a)-(b) The strong focus on civics and citizenship education is contained in the Society and Environment Learning Area Statement in Outcome 7 *Active Citizenship*. Students demonstrate active citizenship through their behaviours and practices in the school environment, in accordance with the principles and values associated with the democratic process, social justice and ecological sustainability. The text under this outcome reads:

The behaviours and practices students display as active citizens reflect their commitment to the values and principles associated with the democratic process, social justice and ecological sustainability. This process of active citizenship is the basis for students to formulate, guide and critically review responsible social and environmental action.

Responsible community civic participation is also enhanced through Outcome 1 in the Society and Environment Learning Area Statement which refers to investigation, communication and participation. The active learning which is emphasised in the teaching and learning section of the Society and Environment Statement also links to civics and citizenship education.

POLICE TRAINING BUDGET

3558. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it true that \$250 000 was taken from the police training budget this financial year to keep the air wing's aircraft flying?
- (2) If not, what is the case?
- (3) How much money was initially allocated to the police training budget?
- (4) How much money has been directed from the training budget and where specifically has each amount been diverted to?
- (5) How much money was initially allocated to the police air wing's budget?
- (6) How much additional money has the air wing received and from what specific sources was each additional amount of money gained?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Western Australia Police Service manages its overall budget on an ongoing basis. Adjustments to portfolio allocations are made in response to operational requirements.
- (3) \$3.211 million was allocated to the Police Service Training Branch for 1997/98.
- (4) \$250,000 was transferred from the Training Branch budget to a central fund managed by the Finance Division for the Commissioner of Police. None of this amount was allocated to the Air Wing.
- (5) \$892,000 excluding base payroll cost.
- (6) Funds have been transferred to the budget of the Police Air Support Unit:
\$3,000 as a portion of the devolution of consumables funding from the Police Supply Branch.
\$20,000 to recoup costs associated with major investigations expenditure from the central fund referred to above in answer 4.

CHILD ABUSE UNIT

3559. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many officers are currently allocated to the Child Abuse Unit?
- (2) What is the rank of each officer?
- (3) How many of those officers are on long term leave?
- (4) How many unsworn personnel work in the Child Abuse Unit?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 18.
- (2)

Detective Senior Sergeants	1
Detective Sergeants	3
Detectives	6
Constables	8
- (3) 1.

(4) 2.

WEST MIDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Four Year Old Program

3560. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will West Midland Primary School be able to offer a program for four year olds in 1999?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Final decisions have not yet been made regarding provision of a four year olds program at West Midland Primary School.
- (2) Planning for the location of kindergarten programs in 1999 is still underway. West Midland children are assured of a place in a kindergarten program with the local cluster of schools in 1999.

OMBUDSMAN

Extensions of Time for Investigations

3563. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Between 1 July 1997 and 31 December 1997 how many requests were made to the Ombudsman for a first extension of time to complete internal investigations?
- (2) For the same period how many second extensions were sought?
- (3) For the same period how many third extensions were sought?
- (4) For the same period how many fourth extensions were sought?
- (5) For the same period how many fifth or higher extensions were sought?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 411.
- (2) 239.
- (3) 164.
- (4) 119.
- (5) 123.

POLICE SERVICE INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

3564. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many internal investigations were completed between 1 July 1997 and 31 December 1997?
- (2) How many of those investigations were conducted by district officers?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) 437.
- (2) 390.

AGRICULTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S COMPUTERS

3583. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Primary Industry:

Regarding computers and computer accessories in this department, would the Minister advise -

- (a) how many computers were purchased in the last 10 years;
- (b) how many are still in the department;
- (c) what happened to the other computers;

- (d) is there an asset register for computers; and
- (e) who runs that register?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (a) The agency's asset register identifies the purchase of 2,793 computers.
- (b) There are 2,460 computers within the Agency of which 1,400 are in production use.
- (c) Where appropriate, machines greater than five years of age have been, or are in the process of being sold. The balance is used by the Agency for spare parts to support similar models.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Capital Assets and Infrastructure.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Manager, Internal Investigations

3586. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In 1995 was the Ministry of Justice involved in a conference or hearing before the Industrial Relations Commission concerning the position of Manager, Internal Investigations in the Ministry of Justice?
- (2) Arising from proceedings in the Industrial Relations Commission did the Ministry of Justice agree to have an independent person review the position of Manager, Internal Investigations to determine if that position was essentially a new position or one previously held by Mr Colin Whittaker?
- (3) What precisely did the Ministry of Justice agree to at the conference?
- (4) Did the Ministry of Justice agree to have an independent review?
- (5) Did the Ministry of Justice honour that commitment?
- (6) Who was appointed by the Ministry of Justice to conduct that independent review?
- (7) When did that person conduct the independent review?
- (8) Had that person previously examined that matter or a similar matter for the Ministry of Justice?
- (9) Exactly what matter or similar matter had been examined by that person previously?
- (10) Given that person's previous involvement with the Ministry of Justice, was he in a position to independently 'review' what had transpired?
- (11) If so, on what basis is that assessment made?
- (12) Did the Ministry of Justice renege on the agreement it made in the Industrial Relations Commission by having the review carried out by a person who had previously expressed an opinion on the matter under examination?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) The appointment of an independent reviewer to advise on whether the position of Manager, Internal Investigations, Level 8, was a new position or the reclassification of the position of Investigations Officer, Level 7, which had been occupied by Mr Colin Whittaker.
- (4)-(5) Yes.
- (6) Mr FJ Campbell, retired Public Service Commissioner on the advice of the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards.
- (7) Mr Campbell reported to the then Director General of the Ministry of Justice on 21 December 1995.
- (8)-(9) Yes. Before November 1995, Mr Campbell had provided independent advice to the then Director General

on the propriety of the selection process which had earlier been followed for the position of Manager, Internal Investigations.

- (10) Yes.
- (11) A conference was held before the Industrial Relations Commission on 6 March 1996 at which the Civil Service Association (the "CSA") claimed in part that Mr Campbell could not be seen as an independent assessor. The CSA had been informed by letter on 22 November 1995 that Mr Campbell would be conducting the independent review. That letter confirmed the proposal accepted by all parties at the Industrial Relations Commission conference on 1 November 1995. The Commissioner of the Industrial Relations Commission agreed that because a person investigates one matter it does not necessarily exclude that person from investigating another matter where there are similar factors involved in both. The Commissioner accepted that both Mr Campbell's investigations and reports had been conducted independently and he did not accept the CSA claim that Mr Campbell could not be seen as an independent assessor.
- (12) No.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Report of Investigation

3587. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a report tabled by the former Attorney General on 20 November 1995 concerning inquiries into the Department of Corrective Services?
- (2) Was the report a report from the Director of Public Prosecutions?
- (3) In commenting on the nature of the allegations made in the report, did the Director of Public Prosecutions observe on page 002 of the report that "all people named adversely in the report have been given the opportunity to respond"?
- (4) Did the report refer to the investigations unit?
- (5) Did the report adversely comment on the investigations unit?
- (6) Did the report say "It was my considered opinion that certain investigations carried out by senior administration and investigations officers employed by the Ministry of Justice appeared to be inadequate, incomplete and tarnished with suspicion of a complete cover up."?
- (7) Was the officer in charge of the investigations unit given an opportunity to comment on those findings prior to the report being released?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Is the report accurate in its claim that persons adversely affected by it were given an opportunity to respond as those adversely referred to in the investigations unit were not given that opportunity?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) Were there other inaccuracies in the report?
- (12) If so, what were those inaccuracies?
- (13) Has it now been acknowledged those inaccuracies exist?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(4) Yes.
- (5) No.
- (6) It quoted a report to that effect.
- (7) No.

- (8) The author did not consider there were adverse findings against this officer.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) Not about which I am currently aware.
- (12)-(13) Not applicable.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Mr Colin Whittaker's Correspondence

3588. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In 1996 did Mr Colin Whittaker write to the Acting Director General of the Ministry of Justice on a number of occasions?
- (2) Did the Acting Director General of the Ministry of Justice reply to Mr Whittaker's letters?
- (3) Did Mr Whittaker write to the Acting Director General on 15 March 1996 and 12 April 1996?
- (4) Did the Acting Director General of the Ministry of Justice reply to any or all of those letters?
- (5) Why were the concerns raised by Mr Whittaker ignored?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) All of the matters to be answered were referred to the Acting Manager, Executive Support, for a draft reply to be prepared for the Acting Director General. Enquiries made early in 1997 in the Ministry of Justice did not disclose who was responsible for the failure to answer the correspondence. The points raised in the 1996 correspondence have since been answered.

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

3606. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to the Report of the Government Working Party on Attention Deficit Disorder and ask, is Western Australia mis-diagnosing and/or over-prescribing ADHD stimulant medication, as the report states, at a disproportionately higher rate than the other States?
- (2) What has the Minister done to implement key actions 1-5 aimed at increasing the accuracy of ADHD diagnoses.

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) This is a question on some controversy within the medical profession and there is some debate internationally over whether the treatment of this condition should focus on preventative and psychosocial approaches and/or stimulant medication.
- (2) As there was very limited psychiatric input to the Government working party on Attention Deficit Disorder I have asked Prof. George Lipton (General Manager, Mental Health Division) to arrange for a panel of Nationally and Internationally recognised psychiatrists to meet in Perth later this year, to consider the reports, and to provide a supplementary report ensuring that the Government takes into account disease prevention and psychosocial management techniques within the overall approach to this condition. At that time a seminar will be held to enable professionals within the field to consider these difficult matters. Currently it is anticipated that the panel and the seminar will take place late August or September.

NATIONAL PARK RANGERS

Issue of Infringement Notices

3608. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Why is there no mechanism for National Park Rangers to issue infringement notices with modified penalties in circumstances where the behaviour of the offender is such that it may not be appropriate to apply the full penalty contained within the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984?
- (2) What is the average length of time required to bring to a conclusion any action taken by National Park Rangers against offences committed under the Act through the Crown Solicitor's Office?
- (3) What was the cost to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) during the 1996-1997 financial year of taking action against offences committed under the Act through the Crown Solicitor's Office?
- (4) How many prosecutions against offences under the Act were abandoned during 1997 due to the Statute of Limitations?
- (5) What assessment has been undertaken to determine the savings in time and money to CALM which could be obtained by allowing National Park Rangers to issue infringement notices with modified penalties?
- (6) If no assessment has been undertaken, why is this the case?
- (7) If such an assessment has been undertaken, why are National Park Rangers yet to be permitted to issue infringement notices with modified penalties?
- (8) Is the Minister aware of the current sense of frustration by National Park Rangers over their inability to effectively enforce the Act in the case of repeat offenders?
- (9) If so, when will a legislative response to the concerns of National Park Rangers be introduced to Parliament?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A major amendment is underway to land management regulations made under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 for all land and waters managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Infringement notices for appropriate offences will be included in the new and comprehensive regulations.
- (2)-(3) No records are kept on the time taken or the cost of action taken through the Crown Solicitor's Office for offences requiring consideration by the courts.
- (4) Five prosecutions were abandoned due to the Statute of Limitations. None of these five cases involved offences on national parks.
- (5)-(7) The advantages of having infringement notices as an enforcement option are accepted and do not need to be quantified.
- (8) I am aware that the Australian Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union has written to me on this issue and I will be shortly responding to the Union.
- (9) Tabling of the comprehensive land management regulations will be pursued in the 1998 Spring session of Parliament.

SWAN RIVER ESTUARINE FOUNDATION'S REPORT

3612. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Swan River Estuarine Foundation submitted its report for the period 1996-1997 as required under its constitution.
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide a copy of the report?
- (3) What reports have been compiled on projects undertaken?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(2) No, there is no Swan River Estuarine Foundation. However, there is a Western Australian Estuarine Research Foundation, which has not yet submitted its report for 1996/97.

- (3) A set of draft projects reports has been received, however, they cannot be finalised until a number of projects are completed.

SUPERMARKET TRADING HOURS DEREGULATION

3619. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Is the Government considering deregulating retail trading hours in Western Australia for supermarkets?
(2) If so, will the Minister advise details?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Not applicable.

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL'S LOW ACTIVITY DAYS

3625. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many low activity days were there at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in -
(a) 1997
(b) so far in 1998?
(2) What is the low activity day policy at this hospital for outpatient clinics and operating theatres?
(3) What are -
(a) the savings; and
(b) the costs,
of low activity days on an annual basis?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital does not have 'low activity days'.
(2)-(3) Not applicable.

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL'S LOW ACTIVITY DAYS

3626. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many low activity days were there at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in -
(a) 1997
(b) so far in 1998?
(2) What is the low activity day policy at this hospital for outpatient clinics and operating theatres?
(3) What are -
(a) the savings; and
(b) the costs,
of low activity days on an annual basis?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(3) Princess Margaret Hospital does not have low activity days.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL'S LOW ACTIVITY DAYS

3627. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many low activity days were there at Royal Perth Hospital in -
(a) 1997

- (b) so far in 1998?
- (2) What is the low activity day policy at this hospital for outpatient clinics and operating theatres?
- (3) What are -
 - (a) the savings; and
 - (b) the costs,of low activity days on an annual basis?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 13.
 - (b) 4.
- (2) Outpatient Clinics are generally closed and the number of operating theatres are reduced.
- (3) (a)-(b) Net savings are \$1,000,000 per year.

FREMANTLE HOSPITAL'S OUTPATIENT CLINICS

3629. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

What is the average waiting time for an appointment for an initial consultation at the following outpatient clinics at Fremantle Hospital -

- (a) orthopaedic clinic;
- (b) psychiatry clinic;
- (c) cardiology clinic;
- (d) urology clinic; and
- (e) ear nose and throat clinic?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) Upper Limb - 14 weeks
Lower limb - 18 weeks
- (b) Psychiatry Clinic:
 - Social Worker - up to one week
 - Occupational Therapist - up to two weeks
 - Medical Staff (Registrar or Consultant) - up to six weeks
 - Psychologist - up to eight weeks.
- (c) 10 weeks.
- (d) 14 weeks.
- (e) 13 weeks.

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL'S OUTPATIENT CLINICS

3630. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

What is the average waiting time for an appointment for an initial consultation at the following outpatient clinics at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital -

- (a) orthopaedic clinic;
- (b) psychiatry clinic;
- (c) ophthalmology clinic;
- (d) cardiology clinic;
- (e) urology clinic; and
- (f) ear nose and throat clinic?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) 3-10 weeks with an average of 6 weeks.
- (b) 2-3 weeks.
- (c) Immediate.
- (d) 19 weeks.
- (e) 2-3 weeks.
- (f) 9 weeks.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL'S OUTPATIENT CLINICS

3631. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

What is the average waiting time for an appointment for an initial consultation at the following outpatient clinics at Royal Perth Hospital -

- (a) orthopaedic clinic;
- (b) psychiatry clinic;
- (c) ophthalmology clinic;
- (d) cardiology clinic;
- (e) urology clinic; and
- (f) ear nose and throat clinic?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
| | Urgent | Routine |
| (a) | 1 week | 12-26 weeks |
| (b) | 1 week | 4 weeks |
| (c) | 1 week | 4-26 weeks |
| (d) | 1 week | 8 weeks |
| (e) | 6-8 weeks | 16 weeks |
| (f) | 1 week | 4-8 weeks |

* Patients whose clinical condition is such that they require treatment sooner than the above times, can receive immediate treatment in the Emergency Department.

HOSPITAL SITE VALUATIONS

3633. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What valuations have been undertaken of the following hospital sites in the past five years -
 - (a) Royal Perth Hospital;
 - (b) King Edward Memorial Hospital;
 - (c) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
 - (d) Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park;
 - (e) Fremantle Hospital; and
 - (f) Osborne Park Hospital?
- (2) When were these valuations completed?
- (3) Who did the valuations?
- (4) What were the valuations?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Land and building valuations have been undertaken for cyclical financial reporting for each of the listed hospital sites in the past five years.
- (2) Land valuations were completed in June 1996 and 1997 and building valuations were completed in June 1997.
- (3) Land valuations were undertaken by the Valuer General for Western Australia using "market value". Building valuations were undertaken by the Health Department of WA, Facilities and Assets Branch, in conjunction with Contract and Management Services and private Quantity Surveying consultants using the Replacement Capital Value methodology.
- (4) The valuations are -

Royal Perth Hospital	
Land	\$ 24,860,000
Buildings	\$282,000,000
King Edward Memorial Hospital	
Land	\$23,345,000
Buildings	\$94,250,000
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	
Land	\$31,500,000
Buildings	\$493,000,000
Rehabilitation Hospital at Shenton Park	
Land	\$20,350,000
Buildings	\$58,800,000
Fremantle Hospital	
Land	\$20,124,000
Buildings	\$199,600,000
Osborne Park Hospital	
Land	\$4,800,000
Buildings	\$44,000,000

FINE DEFAULTERS IN PRISON

3634. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many people are currently in Western Australian prisons because of unpaid fines?
- (2) What is the cost per person per day of incarcerating fine defaulters?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) As at 31 March 1998, 36.
- (2) The average cost per prisoner per day in the WA prison system is \$172, for the 1997/98 financial year on a full accrual basis. It is not possible to single out the cost of incarcerating fine defaulters.

GROUP TRAINING SCHEMES

3636. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) In each of the last five years, how much money has the State contributed in relation to group training schemes?
- (2) Which organisations received the money?
- (3) What amount was received by each organisation?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) 1993/94 \$492,750
1994/95 \$569,375

1995/96	\$642,250
1996/97	\$737,500
1997/98	\$835,000

(2)-(3) State Funds Provided to Group Training Schemes in Western Australia were as follows:

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Area Regional Training Scheme	30,000	31,875	45,000	57,500	74,075
Electrical & Electronic Group Apprenticeship Scheme	33,000	39,000	52,000	62,500	67,725
Esperance Group Training Scheme	37,500	37,500	37,500	47,500	85,500
Goldfields Group Training	31,875	37,500	45,000	47,500	47,725
Great Southern Group Training	26,250	30,000	37,500	47,500	48,775
Group Training - Perth	38,000	36,000	39,000	42,500	45,000
Group Training - North West	30,000	30,000	33,750	42,500	41,875
Group Training - South West	45,000	60,625	77,500	82,500	79,975
Hospitality Group Training WA	49,000	67,000	74,000	82,500	88,700
The Apprenticeship & Traineeship Company - Midwest	33,750	48,750	56,000	62,500	70,650
Motor Industry Training Assoc. of WA	42,000	60,000	70,000	72,500	82,500
Plumbing & Painting Training Company	25,500	34,500	39,000	47,500	52,500
The West Australian Group Training Scheme	31,875	32,625	36,000	42,500	50,000
Metropolitan Industries Training Association	39,000	24,000	-	-	-

GOVERNMENT'S SUPERANNUATION LIABILITY

3637. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) What is the Government's current superannuation liability?
- (2) What percentage of that liability is funded?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

- (1) The latest actuarial valuation was at 30 June 1997 and showed a liability of \$4,969 million.
- (2) Being a liability, none of it was funded.

CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

3642. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What are the criteria governing home visits by Child Health Centre nurses?
- (2) Can any client request a home visit by a Child Health Centre nurse?
- (3) Is there any fee involved in home visits?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) A higher priority is given for newborns, especially first born children; multiple births; parents with disabilities and those with factors impacting on their mobility. The health service, through the Child/Community Health program manager reviews the needs of the target population in the catchment area and the clinic and visiting services are locally designed to best meet the needs.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.

CHILD HEALTH CENTRES

3643. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

In each of the last five years -

- (a) how many Child Health nurses have been employed;
- (b) for how many hours each week were Child Health centres open in each metropolitan area; and
- (c) how many home visits were made by Child Health nurses in each metropolitan area?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) 250.
- (b) 2899 hours per week in the 1998 year. Please refer to tabled paper. [See paper No 1399.]
- (c) Collation of data would take some time. Of the 25,000 births per year in WA, 75% are for metropolitan residents and a home visit is generally made for each newborn. This alone would equate to 18,750 home visits. Added to this are a number of follow up visits for particular clients, such as first time mothers/parents, multiple births and disabled mothers/parents.

HOMESWEST, NEWMAN

3647. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Housing:

Following the September 1997 budget and programme review, can the Minister outline the Homeswest building programme for Newman over the next three years?

Dr HAMES replied:

The Homeswest building program for Newman for 1998/99 is 5 units of accommodation, consisting of 3 units of family housing and 2 units for single people. While Homeswest has broad program parameters for the following 2 years, the detail of each years program is not finalized because this will differ upon a comparison of housing demand for the different towns and areas throughout the State. This detail is assessed in the period leading up to finalizing the annual Homeswest budget.

TITLE DEEDS

3650. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Can the Minister advise how long it takes the Department of Land Administration to issue new title deeds after being notified a property has been subdivided and -
 - (a) retained by the original owners;
 - (b) sold to new owners; and
 - (c) a portion has been sold to new owners?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that some constituents have had to wait 6 to 8 weeks for new title deeds to be provided?
- (3) What action is the Government taking to ensure new title deeds are issued without undue delay?
- (4) Will arrangements be made for new title deeds to be issued within a shorter period than is currently the case?
- (5) If so, when?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) Most new subdivisions are processed under DOLA's Early Issue of Title scheme, which requires the client to identify the dealings with a sticker on lodgement. Properly identified and registrable dealings under this scheme are given priority and new titles issue within five working days from lodgement of documents at DOLA.
- (2) Yes. A system also exists for other titles to be given priority if a client has a genuine urgency.
- (3) DOLA has assigned additional staff to work in the areas where delays are occurring.
- (4) DOLA is currently making adjustments to its work procedures and staff placements in the light of recent legislative changes. Appropriate changes will be made to ensure a satisfactory response time for new title issue.
- (5) Action is currently being undertaken.

DIESEL BUS PURCHASE

3652. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What advice was provided by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in relation to the Government's decision to purchase the new diesel powered buses rather than gas powered buses?

- (2) Will the Minister table a copy of any advice provided by the DEP?
- (3) If not why not?
- (4) Can the Minister confirm that the new buses can be operated on a specially formulated diesel?
- (5) Is this form of diesel referred to as 'Euro 2'?
- (6) If not, by what name is it known?
- (7) Will the Minister detail the availability in Perth of this special diesel now and in the future?
- (8) Why is this form of diesel termed 'environmentally friendly'?
- (9) What are the particular environmental impacts that this environmentally friendly diesel will have on Perth's airshed?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) The advice provided formed part of my briefing to the Cabinet Minute and as such it is not appropriate to table the document. However I can say the Department of Environmental Protection is providing advice to the Department of Transport on the most appropriate fuel for the city's buses in the long term.
- (4)-(9) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Transport.

TOWN PLANNING APPEALS

3658. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Planning:

In the 12-month period for which the most recent statistics are available -

- (a) what number of town planning appeals have been dealt with by the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal;
- (b) what number of town planning appeals have been dealt with by the Minister as Minister for Planning; and
- (c) of those in each category, what numbers have been upheld?

Mr KIERATH replied:

The Town Planning Appeals Tribunal and the Planning Appeals Office have provided the following details, for the 1997 calendar year:

- (a) 23 appeals determined;
- (b) 655 appeals determined;
- (c)

Town Planning Appeals Tribunal	-	20 upheld
Minister for Planning	-	333 upheld/upheld in part

MINIM COVE DEVELOPMENT PROFITS

3665. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What profit did LandCorp expect to make when it commenced development at Minim Cove, Mosman Park?
- (2) What profit does LandCorp now expect to make?
- (3) What profit did LandCorp expect Octennial Holdings would make from the Minim Cove development?
- (4) What profit does LandCorp now expect Octennial Holdings to make?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The Minister has been advised that LandCorp expected to generate a commercial rate of return.
- (2) The Minister has been advised that the project remains commercial as a result of the increase in the environmental clean-up cost being off-set by increases in local values.
- (3)-(4) LandCorp does not have this information.

BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL STAFF

3668. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:

In light of the stunning news that 29 enrolled nurses from St John of God's Hospital will lose their jobs when St John's moves to the new contracted public/private hospital -

- (a) will the Minister reaffirm his Government's past assurances to the enrolled nurses currently employed at Bunbury Regional Hospital that no jobs will be lost in the move; and
- (b) will the Minister also give an assurance to all other staff at the hospital that the current staffing levels will be maintained at the new public hospital?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) St John of God's Hospital is a separate entity to Bunbury Health Service and any plans or actions in relation to this matter remain separate to Bunbury Regional Hospital. There are no plans for Bunbury Regional Hospital to cease employment of Enrolled Nurses.
- (b) Bunbury Health Service and the Health Department of WA through continued implementation of this Government's policy are improving health services for the South West. This includes provision of new services, and expansion of current services. Associated with this, it is expected staffing may increase.

DIALYSIS PATIENTS

3673. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many dialysis patients attending Shenton Park Hospital are in each of the following post code areas 6055, 6056 and 6057?
- (2) How many dialysis patients attending Royal Perth Hospital are in each of the following post code areas 6055, 6056 and 6057?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)

6055	=	1
6056	=	5
6057	=	2
- (2)

6055	=	0
6056	=	2
6057	=	1

BREAST SURGERY

3695. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

How many surgical procedures related to diseases of the breast were performed in each of the following hospitals in each of the last five years -

- (a) Fremantle Hospital;
- (b) Royal Perth Hospital;
- (c) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital; and
- (d) King Edward Memorial Hospital?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) Fremantle Hospital

1994/1995	107
1995/1996	106
1996/1997	119
1997/Feb 1998	54

 No immediate access to morbidity statistics for 1993/94.
- (b) Royal Perth Hospital

1993/1994	162
1994/1995	256
1995/1996	239
1996/1997	217
1997/March 1998	134
- (c) Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

1992/1993	296
1993/1994	390

1994/1995	434
1995/1996	433
1996/1997	429

(d) King Edward Memorial Hospital

1994/1995	32
1995/1996	27
1996/1997	28
1997/1998 YTD	6

No statistics were maintained prior to July 1994.

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS DUTY DOCTOR

3697. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister for Health aware that the Peel Health Campus was unable to attend to patients requiring the services of a doctor on 3 May 1998, diverting three patients to Fremantle Hospital and one to Murray Districts Hospital?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that funds are provided for a duty doctor at the Peel Health Campus at weekends and after hours?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If funds will not be provided for a duty doctor, what measures will be taken to ensure that the limited locum service does actually operate on weekends and after hours?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) No. There was a doctor on-call on in the Emergency Department for all of 3 May 1998. All transfers were due to the complexity of the patient's condition being beyond the clinical capacity of the hospital prior to its upgraded commissioning later this year.
- (2) The contract with Health Solutions fully funds them to provide 24 hour medical practitioner services in the Emergency Department through a combination on site and on call cover.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NURSES' DISPUTE

1157. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

On 7 May, in claiming that the Police budget might need to be topped up to due to the high cost of the Fremantle waterfront dispute, the Premier stated -

In a budget there's always flexibility. I mean the budget is the guideline and within the budget we always have flexibility.

Given that the Government has flexibility in its Budget, why does it not pay the nurses what they deserve and end this dispute now?

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The SPEAKER: Before I give the Premier the call I will address the people in the gallery. Many people in the gallery may not have been to Parliament before. We welcome you here to observe proceedings in this place but on a condition; that is, that the debate is not interfered with in any way. I am sure many of you will be interested in question time and the debate that is to follow. Although I do not want to, if necessary I will take action to make sure that this Parliament operates properly.

Mr COURT replied:

The Leader of the Opposition may have seen that as a laughing matter; I do not.

Dr Gallop: I didn't see it as a laughing matter. The way the Government has treated our public hospital system since it was elected in 1993 isn't a laughing matter.

Mr Barnett: It is typical that the Leader of the Opposition asks a question and then does not allow anyone to answer it.

The SPEAKER: Order, the Leader of the Opposition!

Dr Gallop: What about the Deputy Premier?

The SPEAKER: I remind members that we cannot have levels of interjection like that, particularly from members on my right.

Mr COURT: I regard as very serious our public hospitals not being able to operate properly due to industrial action.

Mr Ripper: Because they cannot get the money.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition has asked the question and I would like to provide an answer. The work done by nursing teams in our hospitals is of a very professional nature and they have the utmost support from this Government in what they do. Two years ago, we negotiated a 10 per cent increase in wages when many areas of the Public Service had not received increases for some time. In the early 1990s, increases were made of 1 or 2 per cent for some categories of nurses. I believe levels four and five nurses received a 3 per cent increase in 1991 but overall there had been very few increases. The policy we have adopted as a Government is to try to provide regular annual increases across the Public Service. We have recently concluded negotiations with the teachers regarding the next two year package. We have been negotiating a 6 per cent package with the nurses. The union wants a 13 per cent increase over a two year period, or a 15 per cent increase over a two and a half year period. We cannot afford that within our current wages policy. It is appropriate to have regular increases but there are limits because, across government, some 70 per cent of our budget is spent on wages, and we must consider all sectors of the Public Service, whether it be teachers, police or other people.

In relation to flexibility within the Budget, because of good financial management over the years, funds were available to provide increases in health above the budgeted amounts. The Government has put an additional \$90m into the Health budget this year. It is common knowledge that we have been, and still are, negotiating for an improved level of funding from the Federal Government. The Opposition's response is, "You have a surplus of \$24m; just put that into health." We are negotiating a five year Medicare agreement for the funding of our public hospitals. When one submits funding propositions, it is not just for one year, it is for five years. The reason that we will not accept the Medicare agreement is that in the second year of that agreement, our funding level would go backwards, and that is unacceptable to us. We will continue to negotiate for a better funding deal from the Commonwealth Government. We have the ability to meet difficult situations when they arise. The Leader of the Opposition is premature in calling on us to use a surplus - and if he wants me to explain what the surplus is used for, I will - ignoring that this is a five year issue, not a one year issue.

NURSES' DISPUTE

1158. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I ask as a supplementary question, is it not true that the Premier is deliberately prolonging this strike in order to save money that he did not provide for our public hospitals in the 1997-98 Budget?

Mr COURT replied:

Nothing could be further from the truth. It has been difficult to negotiate with the nurses union. The executive has left those negotiations on three occasions. It has a fixed position - it is 13 per cent or nothing; it is 13 per cent or industrial action. Outside of the metropolitan area - for example, in the Pilbara and the Kimberley - we have been negotiating agreements that take into account the different circumstances. We have reached an agreement in relation to those matters; that is a good example of being flexible in the negotiations, and being able to take into account the special circumstances in different hospitals. We would like to resolve this matter around a negotiating table. The Government takes very seriously the fact that the operations of our public hospitals are being affected.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRES' FUNDING

1159. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

Can the Minister inform the House of the nature and extent of financial assistance provided by the Western Australian Government to local or regional business enterprise centres?

Mr COWAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

In the 1997-98 financial year, the State Government provided a total of \$2.3m in direct financial assistance to the State's 36 metropolitan and regional business enterprise centres. This figure represents core funding of \$1.96m, being \$53 000 for 30 centres and \$63 000 for six centres operating in the north of the State. A sum of \$49 000 is set aside for professional indemnity and insurance. In addition, \$302 600 has been set aside in the Small Business Development Corporation budget for the provision of the professional development services to business enterprise centre managers. The member knows that that figure will be increased this coming financial year.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**1160. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

In the last sitting week of Parliament, the Premier was unable to tell this place -

- (1) What impact recent increases in taxes and charges will cost the average family per year.
- (2) What is the estimate of the two parcels of government land being considered for the site of the new convention centre?
- (3) How many taxpayer funded reports have been prepared on the convention centre and are those reports available for public scrutiny?
- (4) Why does the Premier's latest Budget contain no details on funding for the Government Media Office?

Has the Premier answers to those questions or was his promise to get back to the member with that information as meaningless as his promises of a social dividend were at the last election?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) The media wanted that information which has been publicly provided. The reports are readily available and I can give them to the Leader of the Opposition after question time. I do not have the land values with me at the moment.

Mrs Roberts: It is more important to the media than the Opposition!

Mr COURT: There was no formal request for the information.

Dr Gallop: You said you would provide it.

Mr COURT: That information is not just something we want to provide; we want the Opposition to read it to see the advantages of that report. I table this report.

[See papers Nos 1400 and 1401.]

Mr COURT: I apologise to members opposite for not giving it to them; I did have it in Parliament the following day.

A number of railway sites have been identified, two in particular, one being the central railway site between the Mitchell Freeway and William Street, which has an assessed value of \$34m. It does not include the Entertainment Centre site, which is privately owned. The busport on the foreshore has an assessed value of \$22m. The original study was done in 1994 by Pannell Kerr Forster and updated in 1997. The values of the land depend on what densities are allowed. They would depend, for example, on what can be built on top of the railway line; if it is in relation to the railway land or the height; if it is in relation to the land in front of the bus station.

The Treasury is having difficulty working out how the Opposition's family figures were put together. The figures that the Opposition published showed an increase for the family of \$335 over two years, while the Treasury's estimate is \$259. However, the Treasury then revised the figures to add some stamp duty to the Opposition's figures that it could not find within the Opposition's calculations, which brought the Opposition's figure to \$357 and Treasury's to \$293 over the two years. The average household model is based on two adults and two children, one in high school and one in primary school. It assumes one adult earning average weekly earnings; it assumes average consumption of electricity, gas and water; it assumes ownership of one car; it assumes purchase of five standard transfer and 10 concession transfer fares per week. Treasury has quite heavily qualified the Opposition's figures and these figures saying that it does have difficulty in determining what an average family is, but to the best of its ability, that is it.

The Opposition wants to know what the Government Media Office is costing. The figures are available in the estimates debate. In round figures, the cost of the GMO in the next financial year will be approximately \$1.1m,

which is about the same as it was in the Opposition's last year in government. In five years of our government, the GMO's operations cost the same, and considering that we are five years down the track, we have been quite reasonable.

The Leader of the Opposition asked about the numbers of personnel and some specific details. When the Liberal Party first came into government, a lot of information was made public in the budget papers; basically what was spent on papers and pencils et cetera. That is all nice to know and all of that information can still be obtained during the Estimates Committee hearings. What was not available were the most important things and that is in all the different agencies: How were they funding their expenditures, and what were their assets and liabilities. We now have a situation in which people can still find out what is spent on the pencils and papers, but for the first time, one now actually knows not only how an agency is funded, but how it will fund its projects three years into the future.

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

1161. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Education:

All members would agree that the status of teaching as a profession needs to be enhanced. The Government is committed to establishing a centre for professional excellence to assist in achieving this. Will the Minister advise the House of progress towards making this centre a reality?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The Centre for Excellence in Teaching was opened in Fremantle last week. It involved the restoration of a heritage building, the surgeon's house, which is adjacent to the Fremantle Gaol. I compliment the Department of Contract and Management Services and also the Heritage Council for the way in which the work was done. The former and recently retired principal of Scotch College, Mr Bill Dickinson, has taken on the inaugural position of chair of the centre and a board will be appointed over the coming weeks. It is a unique opportunity for teachers to take charge of their profession. The Government has honoured its election commitment with funding of \$1.5m over the next four years and I look forward to that centre developing over the coming years. It will be an important adjunct to Fremantle and the member for Fremantle will be pleased with what has gone into his electorate.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL SALE

1162. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that the Health Department is considering the sale of all or part of the King Edward Memorial Hospital site at Subiaco?
- (2) If so, why is this unprecedented step being considered?
- (3) Has the matter been referred to Cabinet? If so, with what result?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1)-(3) To my knowledge there has been -

Dr Gallop: You do not know a lot that is going on, Minister.

Mr PRINCE: There has been no consideration at all - certainly nothing has been discussed in Cabinet - nor have I had anything formal or informal placed before me. It has been said to me informally a number of times that the building and the site have a life which will come to an end in 10 to 15 years. Secondly, some planning must commence in the near future on how, with what and where it is to be replaced. I will be able to tell members at the end of next month whether it will be canvassed as part of the metropolitan strategic plan, when that planning process will be clear.

Dr Gallop: So you do know about it?

Mr PRINCE: No, I am not handling it. It may well be an option that has been canvassed in that planning process but I will not be informed of the result of the planning process until it is complete, which will be the end of June.

BUDGET PROMOTION COSTS

1163. Mr RIPPER to the Premier:

Some notice of this question was given at 10.30 this morning. How much money has been budgeted for the promotion, through glossy brochures and advertising, of the 1998-99 state Budget? Specifically, how much money

was spent producing the glossy brochure on non-recyclable paper which was distributed to households last week, and how many of those brochures were printed?

Mr COURT replied:

I get this question every year so I have the information available. A total of 705 000 brochures were printed and distributed to 690 000 households and businesses. The brochure was printed at a cost of \$80 260. It was not printed on recyclable paper. If it had been, the cost would have almost doubled. The cost of distributing the brochure was \$53 552.34. The writing, editing and print management of the brochure and advertisements cost \$17 125. Other technical work and design was \$2 560. Two invoices have not been received but they should not exceed \$2 500. I do not have the name of the printer; however, I will obtain it for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

SAFETY ISSUES RESOLUTION

1164. Mr SWEETMAN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

What are the legal requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act for the resolution of safety issues?

Mr KIERATH replied:

I thank the member for the question. This issue arose at the hot briquetted iron plant, the project at Port Hedland. A question was asked by a Labor member in the other place and caused a fascinating sequel when a representative of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union criticised the Minister for actually answering the question. Can members believe that? Perhaps the Australian Labor Party would prefer no labour relations questions were asked in case the answers upset certain union officials! The Minister informed the other place that after the crane accident, workers removed their labour without informing their employer or referring the matter to the health and safety representatives to enable the resolution of the issue, which the Act requires. They also did not make themselves available for other duties and left the site without the authorisation of the employer.

These omissions and the refusal to work categorise these employees as disentitled employees under section 28A of the Act. It is an offence to either pay or be paid under those situations. So far WorkSafe Australia has not advised anyone that they may be prosecuted, but it has advised all of their obligations to comply with the Act.

I remind members opposite that all employers are required to have safe workplaces. They are also entitled to redeploy workers from an unsafe area to a safe area. Workers simply cannot wander off the site and expect to be paid. Perhaps all the requirements of the safety matters could be the subject of a publicity campaign. However, I am sure the member for Nollamara would object to that if I attempted to do that. I take this opportunity of reminding members of this House of the rights and responsibilities of workers in relation to unsafe work practices.

MEDIUM SECURITY GAOL

1165. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

Given that the 1998-99 Budget includes no funding for the construction of a new 750 bed medium security gaol at Wooroloo, are we to assume that the Government has already decided that the facility is to be privately built, owned and managed?

Mr COURT replied:

If the proposals from the private sector to build and operate the gaol are more than competitive with the Government, it is certainly our intention to have the private sector build that new facility, just as the private sector built the Dampier to Goldfields gas pipeline, and it is building many other forms of infrastructure these days. If we can get a competitive proposal, it is intended it will be private.

Ms MacTiernan: If they are not, how will you fund it?

Mr COURT: We are confident that there will be -

Dr Gallop: So, there is more flexibility in the Budget!

Mr COURT: These days a lot more flexibility.

DEAN KEMP

1166. Mr TRENORDEN to the Minister for Youth:

Recently a very outstanding young Western Australian called Dean Kemp was in my electorate talking to students at York Senior High School and he was very well received.

- (1) What is his role in that regard?
- (2) How has the program been developed?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) The House will recall that in March of this year I announced that Dean Kemp was taking up a position that the Office of Youth Affairs called "The champion for youth" and he was working with large numbers of young Western Australians. In the past few months Dean Kemp has spoken with 5 000 young people throughout Western Australia, including students from Kent Street Senior High School. He filled a very successful role for us during Joy 98. Since March, he has met with young people in Manjimup, Swanbourne, York, Toodyay and Corrigin Senior High Schools. He has also met with young people at Scotch College and Presbyterian Ladies College. Dean has visited the shires of Manjimup, Toodyay and Corrigin as well as the Midland youth centre, and has made an appearance at Whitford City.

Dean Kemp's role is to promote and support young people in Western Australia, and to bring issues forward on their behalf to the Office of Youth Affairs. He is playing a great role in developing issues that young people are targeting and that government needs to know about. He is promoting leadership and encouraging young people in this State to think about their futures and how they may be able to pursue careers. I recommend that members who have not thought about getting Dean Kemp to visit their areas think about it. He is very well received by young people and it is a program that has already shown outstanding success. I recommend the program to members of Parliament.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

1167. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the Minister confirm his statement made at Cannington Senior High School last night that he is considering new options for the schools slated for closure under local area planning?
- (2) Is this an indication that the Minister is concerned about the strength of parent campaigns to save their schools?
- (3) Will the Minister take the Parliament and the public into his confidence and reveal the nature of these new options?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) Along with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I attended a well attended meeting of parents at Cannington Senior High School last night and I have attended several such meetings in different schools. Through the local area educational planning process, many suggestions have come forward, some of which were articulated at the meeting last night. As I stated last night, we are looking at a range of aspects. I am not yet in a position, nor am I willing, to divulge exactly what those options are -

Dr Gallop: You are keeping it a secret?

Mr BARNETT: For the simple reason that they are not yet fully costed; also some of them require the acquisition of different land sites.

Dr Gallop: That is exactly like the six lane freeway going through Swanbourne. You are not going to divulge what is happening to that either, are you?

Mr BARNETT: The Leader of the Opposition is a fool.

Dr GALLOP: No, I'm not. Why build a six-lane road and bring it to a halt at a railway line?

Mr BARNETT: As I said last night to the parents at Cannington, a number of inner suburban high schools were built in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. The greater student population is now in the outer northern suburbs and rapidly developing areas such as Peel, Mandurah, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury. Out of this process we intend to build some state-of-the-art education facilities with the objective of raising the retention rate from about 65 percent, or as low as 50 per cent in some of the areas we are talking about, to 80 per cent. We intend also to introduce relevant, high quality vocational programs into secondary schools.

This process has been occurring since September last year and it is coming to an end. As I indicated last night the status quo is not an option; changes will be made to secondary education. As I have said consistently, and as I repeated last night, about mid year I will announce proposals for the western suburbs and the south eastern suburbs of the Peel-Mandurah area. I will not do that hurriedly. I will take my time and ensure the student projections are

right and the real estate is available, and that we can fund the proposals. When they are confirmed I will make public all the options and those the Government intends to pursue.

TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

1168. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Local Government:

As it is my home town in which my parents still reside, I was pleased to see on ABC television last night and read in *The West Australian* this morning that Denmark has been awarded the title of Australia's tidiest town. Please elaborate on the national tidy towns competition which has been operating for about 30 years.

Mr OMODEI replied:

This is a very good news story for Western Australia. I am sure the member for Bunbury is proud of his home town. The decision by the judges of the national tidy towns competition to award Denmark the title is a wonderful achievement for the people of Denmark. This achievement is a matter of pride for the people of Denmark and Western Australia.

The tidy towns competition began in Western Australia in 1968. It was taken up on a national basis only about 10 years ago. Although Western Australia has always enjoyed various category winners - Denmark has been the state winner for the past three years - it is the first time Denmark has won the national tidy towns competition. It is a credit to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council and WesTrac Equipment Pty Ltd, the major sponsor of the competition, and a supporter of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

The Chief Executive Officer, Peta Monley, and the President, Jim McGeogh, an ex town clerk of the town of Subiaco, have done an excellent job. We now need the private sector to join the Government which, this year allocated an extra \$300 000 to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. It is a great news story for Western Australia and something we have looked forward to. Due congratulations to the people of Denmark.

ROYAL COMMISSION AND COMMISSION OF INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS

1169. Mr McGOWAN to the Premier:

On page 945 of the Budget Statements tabled in this place the week before last are performance measures for royal and other commissions of inquiry funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Why is the "Extent to which recommendations are implemented" measured as 100 per cent during 1997-98 when many of the key recommendations of the Wanneroo Inc Royal Commission were rejected by his Government?

Mr COURT replied:

I am sorry that I cannot specifically comment on that reference because I do not have the papers in front of me. I will look them up and provide an answer. I provided the name of the printer of that brochure. I do not know what it is now.
