



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
FOURTH SESSION
1996

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15 October 1996

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 15 October 1996

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

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION; DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, CHANGES

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.02 pm]: I announce to the Parliament a change in the position of Leader and Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party. I have been elected the Leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party and my colleague the member for Fremantle has been elected Deputy Leader. In notifying the House of those changes I indicate to you, Mr Speaker, my support in your effort to make sure this Parliament functions as it should, so that the debates that are important to the people are conducted within this Parliament in a proper way.

I indicate to all members in the Parliament, not only those on this side of the House but also those on the other side, that I am looking forward very much to engaging with them to discuss, debate, have dialogue upon, dispute and work through the issues that will affect the people of Western Australia as we go into the twenty-first century. I am delighted that my party has given me the opportunity to do that. I look forward to working with all members in this Chamber to ensure that the reputation and status of our Parliament is as it should be - at the top of the pile in terms of the Legislature, the Executive and the judiciary.

MOTION - CONDOLENCE

Gracetown Tragedy, South West

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.04 pm]: I move, without notice -

That this House records its sincere regret at the tragic loss of life during an accident at Cowaramup Bay on 27 September.

I move this motion to remember the tragic loss of nine lives that occurred on that day. That day will long be remembered as a black day in this State's history. Loss of life is always a tragedy. However, when it involves so many people - school children, teachers and parents - it fills us with profound sadness. I extend my deepest sympathies and those of members of the Government to the families and friends who lost loved ones in this accident.

I also take the opportunity to offer a special thanks to all those people who assisted on that day and in the period since. I thank the State Emergency Services, including Mr Wilmot, manager of regional headquarters in the south west, Frank Yates, the coordinator of the Augusta Margaret River unit, and all their members; all the police in attendance, the officer in charge at Margaret River, Sergeant Gary O'Meara, and the Bunbury assistant district officer, Inspector Bill Rowteliff; and all those involved in the Education Department. I do not want to single out any group; however, members of the Education Department were absolutely terrific in what they did to assist on the day and following, and also this week, which has been particularly difficult with the two schools reopening for the term. I thank the Director General of Education, Cheryl Vardon, and her staff who acted quickly; the 12 school psychologists and the senior psychologist who assisted them; the teachers and teacher aides of both schools and all the schools' support staff who unselfishly gave up their time, particularly over that weekend and in the evenings to assist the families. I thank those local people who provided the machinery and the labour, including the excavators, manual diggers, contractors and backhoe operators who did not worry about their equipment. In one case they had to slide a huge excavator down a steep cliff to get to the bottom to assist. It was a heroic performance. I thank the staff at the Margaret River Hospital - the director of nursing, the acting general manager, and the administration and cooking staff; the St John Ambulance staff at Margaret River and Busselton; the Western Australian Volunteer Fire Brigade at Margaret River; the Department of Conservation and Land Management staff at Margaret River and Busselton; Michelle Westlake, who oversaw the manning of the school telephones and handled the communications; and Ross and Kerry Hastie, who provided much needed coordination and support at critical times.

I will not single out any of the rescue workers, apart from Jim Swarbrick. There was a lot of coverage on what Mr Swarbrick did. Many people found it very moving that when he reached out his hand to rescue young Sarah Otto she took hold of his hand as though it were the hand of God. We thank all the people who gave up their time. A number of people from different church groups were involved. They came from many different parts of the State immediately. They came to help, to counsel and to work with those families.

I am sure I have missed out some people. However, to all those people who assisted I say a very special thank you. Their work and compassion have not gone unrecognised. It is people like them with very strong spirits who will ensure that the community at Margaret River and the surrounding areas will recover from this tragedy. It will take

time. It is a wonderful community, and I know it will continue to grow as a strong community. The manner in which that community came together and cared for one another is an example to us all. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and friends.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.10 pm]: The State Opposition supports this motion and offers its condolences to the families and friends of the nine men, women and children who died in such tragic circumstances at Gracetown last month. It was a tragedy, but it allows us to also focus on the positives which arose from it; namely, the stories of great courage and personal sacrifice that inspire us all in the way we carry out our day-to-day lives. As the Premier indicated, we will never forget the brave little girl Sarah Otto, who survived the cliff collapse that claimed the life of her mother. Her rescue amid the death and devastation at that beach was a story that lifted the spirits of all Western Australians and Australians.

I also pass on special thoughts to the surfing community in the south west, which has contributed enormously to this State by producing great champions whose great skills in the surf we have enjoyed over the years. Not many of us would not have visited the Margaret River Surf Shop to buy the latest gear on our holidays to the south west. In fact, few of us would have no family connection with people in the south west who are part of that great surfing community. Our special thoughts go out to that community, which has contributed so much to our State in many and varied ways.

Like the Premier, I also praise the efforts of the Gracetown residents, the police officers and the volunteers who rallied so bravely and so selflessly when tragedy hit their tiny community. Again, we all draw inspiration from their efforts and congratulate them for their heroism.

It will take a long time for the wounds inflicted upon the communities of Gracetown, Cowaramup and Margaret River on that fateful afternoon to heal; their lives will never be the same. At the same time, what happened that afternoon has made those small communities stronger by bringing people together in shared grief. Let this tragedy serve to remind us all of the importance of a strong sense of community in Western Australia. Let all Western Australians know that whatever hand fate deals them in life, they are not alone; as a community, we can share the burden and overcome any obstacle. For me, that is the real story of Gracetown.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [2.12 pm]: I join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in this condolence motion. It is very fortunate that tragedies of this magnitude are not visited upon this State very often. I recall some 15 years ago a similar tragedy affecting the Merredin community when an horrific bus accident claimed a great number of lives; that accident had a great impact on the community. It also had the consequence, which we have definitely seen at Gracetown, of drawing the community together, gaining support from one another.

On behalf of the National Party, I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in extending my condolences to the families affected by that tragedy at Gracetown. Also, I extend my warmest congratulations to the community for the way in which it assisted the bereaved families in dealing with that tragedy. As the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition said, it was a great signal of the strength of community spirit and how a community can be drawn together in times of such grief.

MR McGINTY (Fremantle - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.14 pm]: I also join this condolence motion and extend my sincere condolences to the families of those people affected by the death of nine Western Australians at Gracetown on 27 September, and to the communities of Gracetown, Cowaramup and Margaret River so deeply touched by this tragedy.

In addition to the various people who have been recognised in the comments of the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier, I particularly pay tribute to the parents and teachers involved. It is all too easy to sit back and think that the safe environment of a classroom is the end of the learning experience for a child. It is tremendous when parents and teachers take students out into the environment to go beyond the formal learning experience of the classroom. The Gracetown tragedy is magnified because people were so interested in the children, be it parents or teachers, that they made an extra special effort for them; the accident has an extra dimension of sadness as that extra effort resulted in a tragedy of this nature.

Of course, nobody is to blame for this accident. It is appropriate to say to the parents who were so vitally interested in giving their children a helping hand as to be with them at the surfing competition at the beach, and to the teachers who took the children there, including the principal who lost his life when the rock fall took place, that they were doing the right thing in extending the learning experience of the children. For that extra effort, we should place on record our appreciation of them.

Along with the Premier, I attended the memorial service held at Gracetown for the people who lost their lives; it was one of the most moving experiences of my life. To be at the scene of the tragedy in a beautiful setting overlooking the bay where the nine people lost their lives, and to see so many young people from the region, particularly from

the schools of the region, attend the service to say goodbye to their friends and relatives was tremendously moving. One knew that it was simply drawing a lot - that any of the young, innocent faces at the service could have been unfortunate enough to be standing under the rock ledge when it collapsed.

I listened to the words of Dave Macaulay, who delivered a straight from the heart speech about all his friends who died. Dave Macaulay has been the second ranked surfing champion of the world for a considerable number of years. There was not a dry eye among the many thousands of people who congregated in the car park above Cowaramup Bay by the time Dave Macaulay finished speaking.

Sitting a few seats up from me was the inspirational young woman to whom the Leader of the Opposition referred; namely, young Sarah Otto. Seeing her in the crowd added a particular poignancy to the occasion. It is sufficient for today's purposes for me to offer my heartfelt condolences to everybody touched by this tragedy.

MR TUBBY (Roleystone - Parliamentary Secretary) [2.18 pm]: On behalf of the Minister for Education, who unfortunately is unable to be here today, I express sincere condolences to all the families affected by this tragedy. As the Deputy Premier mentioned, an accident of a severe nature occurred in 1992, and at that time I was the principal of the North Merredin Primary School. Therefore, I know only too well how these tragedies can affect small communities.

On behalf of the Minister for Education, I commend and thank all the officers of the Department of Education for their work in helping to deal with the situation from the time the tragedy occurred until now.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [2.19 pm]: I join other members who have already spoken on this condolence motion in relation to the accident which occurred at Cowaramup Bay on 27 September. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Education is away on state duties and not here today. My first awareness of the tragedy - I had been in the Margaret River region all day on 27 September - was to see three police cars driving south at high speed towards Cowaramup. I received a telephone call from the Minister for Education indicating that he had received advice on the matter and that he was anxious that someone should attend the site to keep him informed. I was at Gracetown not long after four o'clock on the Friday and was there on subsequent days.

Members have already spoken of the circumstances and expressed their sympathy and condolence to all the families and teachers involved. I support the comments and the genuine messages that have come from all sides of the House. As members will understand, these are very special, independent communities, and they have always been very independent. Although the communities of Cowaramup and Margaret River and, to a different degree Gracetown, are in the same region, they have always had a friendly rivalry and friendly spirit. Such is the essence of country communities.

On 27 September pupils of the primary schools of Cowaramup and Margaret River were involved in an interschool surfing competition as this tragedy overtook them. The parents and teachers who were at the competition were simply helping kids to enjoy their love of surf. In those communities surfing is a very important part of the school curriculum. On that day there was a very serious earth movement and nine people lost their lives. They were Lindsay Thompson; parents Lyndell Otto, Peter McFarlane, Ian Bremner, Madline Wall; a visitor to the area, Nathan Sotiriadis; and three students of the Margaret River Primary School, Rebecca Morgan, Rachel Waller and Gina Iddon. The care and attention that was put into arranging this carnival and the conduct of the teachers and parents were exemplary, as was always the case.

Peter McFarlane was a former shire councillor of the Augusta-Margaret River Shire Council, a man who had a love of the sea and Gracetown. In fact, in Gracetown his nickname was "Peter the Rock" because of the many stone buildings he built. Only a few days earlier my wife and I shared adjoining tables and coffee with Peter and his wife, Ann, while we spoke about the attributes of Gracetown being the centre of the universe. Ian Bremner was the principal of the Cowaramup Primary School, the school I went to. In the eulogies for Ian Bremner many fine things were said. One that sums him up very well was that he was a teacher and all children wanted to be in his class and all parents wanted their children to be in his class.

Lindsay Thompson was an outstanding citizen within the community and recognised as a surfing icon. He gave service not just to the community, but more importantly to the grommets of the community. Before kids can become involved in the joys and pleasures of surfing, they must be grommets first, so I am told. Lindsay played a very important role in that. He was an absolutely responsible person, who showed great care and attention. I want to place on record the outstanding service and dedication that these and the other parents gave to their schools and their students on this school event.

Like the Deputy Premier, I also saw tragic circumstances on a school excursion when students from Busselton High School were in an accident in Hay, which involved fatalities and in which a number of students were injured. My

wife and I were in Melbourne at the time and we were the only parents who were able to go to those students. We have a real sense of personal understanding about the stress that people involved in these sorts of tragedies suffer.

I will not single out by name people who were involved in this tragedy. On that Friday afternoon many people - the Premier and previous speakers have mentioned those who gave outstanding service - each with a sense of desperation, were endeavouring to do whatever was possible, first, to find any bodies and then to comfort people who believed they may have lost members of their family. There were literally hundreds of people involved at the cliff face.

Within all areas of the communities - the school community, the police community, the hospital community, the counselling community; that is, the total community - people who were not at the cliff face were doing a great deal of work as well; people who may not have known anybody, just turned up to do whatever they could to help. This continues to be the case in the three communities.

The week in which we attended the funeral services to pay our respects to the immediate and extended families of those who lost their lives was very difficult. Other speakers have mentioned the memorial service. It was a very difficult day yesterday when the schools resumed after the holiday break. Other speakers have also commented on how out of this tragedy in a very small community, which has affected a large number of people, an extraordinary community spirit has brought people together, and continues to do so.

This is one of the more difficult times I have spoken in this House. I thank members for their support and I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to all the teachers, the people in the classrooms who were affected by this tragedy, but more importantly to all the families who have suffered a tragic loss.

MR OMODEI (Warren - Minister for Local Government) [2.28 pm]: I am one of the members who represent the area of Augusta-Margaret River. I join with other members who have offered their condolences to the families of those who met their untimely end at Gracetown. In my lifetime I do not think there has been a more moving occasion than the memorial service that was held at Gracetown. The eulogies of those in attendance who were very close to those families were a tribute to those who lost their lives.

The effort that went into the rescue and, subsequently, the support from the broader communities have been outstanding. I, too, attended some of the funeral services at Saint Thomas More church, and the funeral of Lindsay Thompson, who epitomised everything that is Margaret River, Cowaramup, Augusta and the other small communities in the area. Those communities are much the poorer for the passing of all the people who died as a result of this tragic accident.

If I must single out one person, Lindsay Thompson is the one who comes to mind. He used to do the surf report every morning, and right across the south west corner of Western Australia everybody who was tuned to the radio would know what the weather would be like in their district, and he always presented the report in a way that everybody enjoyed and commented on. He also was instrumental in gaining the Surf Masters for Margaret River and Surf Point.

Over the past eight years that I have been the member for Warren, I have met many people from that area and have grown to respect them greatly. That area is similar to my home area, where the background of the people is settlement stock. More recently, there has been an influx of different people into Margaret River, but there is no doubt that as a result of this tragedy, the people have banded together as one community. The community spirit that has evolved out of this tragedy has been very positive.

The member for Vasse, who has had a lifetime association with that area, has covered most of the aspects that I had intended to cover. I join with other members in expressing my condolences to those people who lost members of their family and in paying tribute to those people who died as a result of this accident.

Question passed, members standing.

MOTION - CONDOLENCE

Wild, Hon Gerald Percy

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.33 pm]: I move, without notice -

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Hon Gerald Percy Wild.

When I first became a member of this House some 14 years ago, Gerry Wild was a regular visitor as a former member, and he often used to stop and discuss what was happening on the political front and outside the Parliament. When we look at his record, where he came from and what he achieved, we see he was quite a remarkable person.

He was born in 1907 in England and emigrated to South Australia in 1923. He worked as a farm apprentice for three years until he moved to Broken Hill, where he worked in the mining industry at Central Mine. In 1936 he moved

to Western Australia, where he worked at the Central Norseman gold mine and the Lake View and Star mine at Kalgoorlie. In 1939 he enlisted with the Northam 2/11 Battalion in the Australian Imperial Force, and served with distinction, fighting in Greece, Crete and New Guinea. He was wounded in action in May 1941 and was posted as missing in July 1941. He was awarded the MBE (Military) in 1941 and finished the war as a major.

When he was discharged in 1945, he bought a home and a four acre property at Kenwick and subsequently 200 acres at Forrestdale. In 1946 he established the Perth Refrigeration and Radio Co, and later he became the director of many companies. He joined the Liberal Party on its formation in 1946, and his parliamentary career began in 1947 when he was elected MLA for Swan. From 1950 until his retirement in 1965, he was MLA for Dale.

At times like this, it is often of interest to turn to the member's inaugural speech to see what sorts of issues he raised. According to *Hansard*, Gerald Wild first spoke in this place in August 1947, when he spoke about his major concerns for his electorate: The Plant Diseases Act and its impact on orchards, and the desperate need for a regular water supply to Kalamunda. He also urged the Government to tackle the problem of providing electric power to all parts of the State. Between 1950 and 1965, Gerry Wild served the State with distinction as a Minister for, among other areas, Mines, Forests, Housing, Labour, Works and Water Supplies. Members who knew him would recall his great love for the Ord River scheme and the north west.

Gerry Wild retired from State Parliament in 1965 and accepted the post of Western Australia's Agent General in London from March 1965 until March 1971. He was made a freeman of the City of London in 1969. After his return from London, he became heavily involved in property development and in a number of other companies. He was an active member of the Western Australian Club Inc and the Pinjarra Race Club and was well known in the North Yunderup area until he sold his home there last year.

Gerry Wild served the State with distinction as a soldier, a businessman, a Minister and a representative of the people. In discussing Gerry Wild with my father today, he made the observation that he was a member of Parliament who had a good nose for politics and a good nose for keeping out of trouble. That is the sort of Minister that all of us would like to have around us.

On behalf of the people of the State, I express my condolences to Mr Wild's widow, Jean, his son, Keith, and his daughter, Heather, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.37 pm]: The Opposition joins with the Premier in acknowledging the contribution made by Hon Gerald Wild, and it certainly supports the motion.

Gerald Wild's 18 years of service in the Parliament were distinguished by 15 years as a Minister. His portfolios included Housing, Mines, Forests, Works and Labour. He was one of those Australians who migrated to Australia as a farm apprentice under the Barwell Boys scheme in 1923. He worked in the mining industry, and eventually, like many sensible people, headed west to Kalgoorlie.

His war service was extremely distinguished, and we note that he was awarded the MBE (Military) as a result of that service. After he was discharged, he went into the poultry farming industry and eventually into the wholesale retail-electrical business, before being elected MLA for Swan for three years, after which he represented the electorate of Dale. The Premier has indicated the breadth of his commitment not only to Parliament but later to the position of Agent General.

It is with some pleasure that I note that within only three months of being elected to Parliament, Gerald Wild revealed himself as a forward thinking man who highly valued education and health. In Parliament on 7 August 1947, he prompted his conservative colleagues not to delay the Kalamunda water scheme, arguing that the area was no longer a summer holiday destination but an ever growing suburb of Perth. In fact, as he pointed out to the Parliament, it was cheap housing that drew so many people to settle there - the same drawcard that takes so many families to our city's outskirts today. I note also that in the same speech, Gerry Wild was not shy in warning his colleagues not to fall prey to shortsightedness, telling them to plan properly for the electricity needs of the future. He even predicted that every household would, one day, have its own electric powered refrigerator and water heater.

Two further points which mark the good character of Gerry Wild were his committed stand on education and health. Despite anticipating strong resistance from his colleagues, he urged the Parliament to consider raising the school leaving age from 14 to 16. He also urged the Government to take better care of families whose members were suffering from tuberculosis. He used the example of one man who had been in the Army but had not served outside Australia and was, therefore, ineligible for repatriation benefits, and his wife and three children were expected to survive on just 25 shillings a week while he was hospitalised.

Gerry Wild had great commitment to the State and a great sense of public service. He endured the hard years of the war, served his country with great distinction, and continued that service in his parliamentary career and in his career as Agent General for Western Australia. I join with members in passing my respects and condolences to his family.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [2.40 pm]: After hearing the comments of Sir Charles Court assessing the character of the late Gerry Wild and the admission by the Premier regarding the type of Ministers he would like to be surrounded by, it is with great trepidation I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in this condolence motion. Not one serving member of Parliament would be able to stand in his or her place and indicate that he or she had served in this House at the same time as the late Gerry Wild, therefore we are not able to paint a direct picture from personal experience. However, the comments of the Premier - relayed to him by his father - the extracts from Mr Wild's maiden speech and other issues that Mr Wild took as being of importance to him, indicate that without doubt he was a very dedicated member of Parliament and made a significant contribution to this place. The National Party joins the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in this condolence motion.

Question passed, members standing.

PETITION - ALINTAGAS, REBATES

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.42 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned, call on AlintaGas to establish a scheme of rebates or discounts for senior citizens, pensioners and other low income earners.

AlintaGas is alone among the public utilities in not providing some form of assistance for low income earners and the elderly and we call on it to display social responsibility in conducting its business affairs.

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

The petition bears 64 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 156.]

A similar petition was presented by Mr Thomas (71 signatures).

[See petition No 158.]

PETITION - BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

MRS PARKER (Helena - Parliamentary Secretary) [2.43 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

The following signatures call upon the Western Australian State Government to increase its contribution to Breast Cancer Research from \$0 to \$2 million per year for 10 years to fight against this disease. There are so many families already suffering from the effects of breast cancer, it is imperative that the issue of research into the causes, prevention and cure be addressed with urgency.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration.

The petition bears 23 109 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 157.]

PETITION - ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES OPPOSITION

MR MARSHALL (Murray) [2.45 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to the use of animals in circuses.

Your petitioners request that the Legislative Assembly urge the cabinet to accept the recommendations of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which state:

It shall be an offense to import exotic animals into Western Australia as part of a circus troop, whether or not for the purpose of using animals in the circus.

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

The petition bears 53 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 159.]

**PETITION - DEED OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND COMMISSIONERS,
VARIATION REQUEST**

DR CONSTABLE (Floreath) [2.46 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the "Deed of Agreement" made between the Government and its appointed Commissioners, two days before the election of the Council of the Town of Cambridge, be varied as requested by the said elected Council in May, 1995. The return of the freehold lands at Alderbury and Perry Lakes Reserves and the freehold urban lands at Mt Claremont will enable them to be used as determined by the community and its representatives for the future benefit of all residents and other citizens. The variation of the said Deed as requested will permit the formation of Bold Regional Park to proceed as recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority on June 30, 1994.

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

The petition bears 1 108 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 160.]

PETITION - ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE, CARNARVON BASE

MR LEAHY (Northern Rivers) [2.47 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

We the undersigned, call on the Parliament and the State Government to intervene to ensure that the Royal Flying Doctor Service base remains in Carnarvon fully staffed and equipped.

If the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Western Australia wish to provide a 24 hour service in the region then such a service can be adequately provided by sharing resources between the Meekatharra and Carnarvon bases.

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

The petition bears 59 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 161.]

BILLS (8) - ASSENT

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

1. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.
2. Curtin University of Technology Amendment Bill.
3. Road Traffic Amendment (Measuring Equipment) Bill.
4. Medical Amendment Bill.

5. Chattel Securities Amendment Bill.
6. Criminal Law Amendment Bill.
7. Censorship Bill.
8. Statutory Corporations (Liability of Directors) Bill.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR PLANNING

Darling Range Regional Park Amendment; South-East Corridor Omnibus No 2 Amendment, Tabling

MR LEWIS (Applecross - Minister for Planning) [2.52 pm]: In June 1993 the coalition Government launched a program of major amendments to the metropolitan region scheme. The aim of the program was to maintain the affordable supply of housing land in Perth and to ensure that the city's environment was preserved for the enjoyment of Western Australians and visitors to our State. Last year the Government exceeded the program's initial targets, set at 10 000 hectares for urban land and 5 500 hectares for parks and recreational areas. Today marks another significant milestone in the program, as I am able to present finalised plans for the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth major amendments to the metropolitan region scheme prepared during this Government's term of office.

The Darling Range Regional Park amendment and the south-east corridor omnibus No 2 amendment reflect great foresight and thoughtful forward planning for the benefit of the wider community. The Darling Range Regional Park amendment outlines the boundaries for the biggest regional park in Western Australia and again highlights the Government's strong commitment to the preservation of Perth's natural environment.

The amendment adds another 11 910 ha to Perth's parks and recreation reserves, which will supplement the existing reserves in the hills to create a regional park of some 35 000 ha. Reserving the additional land and creating the park will protect the outstanding environmental and landscape values of the Darling Range and is a triumph in planning for conservation.

The creation of the regional park further enhances the coalition's excellent record on the preservation of Perth's natural environment. Since the coalition's election to office in 1993 more than 31 700 ha of land have been reserved for parks and recreational use, compared with 17 540 ha of urban land, which equates to 80 per cent more land for open space than land zoned for urban use. I am proud that since becoming the Minister for Planning the total amount of land reserved for parks and recreation in the metropolitan region scheme has increased from 36 523 ha in 1993 to 68 307 ha, which is an increase of 90 per cent.

Dr Watson interjected.

Mr LEWIS: The Opposition does not have this record. These achievements cannot continue to be ignored by the conservation movement or the Opposition. I was pleased to receive the congratulations of the Conservation Council of Western Australia for the creation of the Darling Range Regional Park.

As a reflection of the sound balance this Government has struck for urban development and environmental preservation, the second document I will table, the south-east corridor omnibus No 2 amendment, provides for future urban development in Perth. The zoning and reservation changes outlined in the amendment will create housing land to accommodate more than 30 000 people in Perth's southern suburbs. Rural land in Canning Vale will be zoned urban and an urban deferred zone will be placed over a large area of rural land in the Wungong-South Armadale area. A public comment period revealed significant support for the proposals which reflect the objectives of a specially prepared structure plan for the corridor. It gives me pleasure to table the amendments.

[See papers Nos 603A-F, 604A-F.]

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire and Rescue Service, Scania Medium Pumper Vehicle

MR WIESE (Wagin - Minister for Emergency Services) [2.56 pm]: Today marks an important event, for not only the progress and development of the Fire and Rescue Service of Western Australia, but also the economic growth and future of this State.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat, or you will have to leave.

[Interruption from the gallery.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat. An attendant will try to locate it for you and pass it to you. It is not your place to interject here. Be silent.

Mr WIESE: For the first time a Western Australian built Scania medium pumper has been put into service by the Fire and Rescue Service of WA. As Minister for Emergency Services I had the pleasure of commissioning the new vehicle today at the Bedford fire station. It is the first of two vehicles that will be built by WA Fire Appliances, a Narrogin based company that competed successfully against national competition for the tender. After watching the new \$375 000 pumper during a demonstration this morning I can indicate that it is a credit to the designers and staff of that company.

All Western Australians will benefit from this achievement - not only from the capabilities of this high quality machine, but from the cash injection it will bring to the Western Australian economy. The fact that this new fire fighting and rescue vehicle has been built in rural Western Australia is positive proof that it is possible to successfully establish a manufacturing industry outside the metropolitan area. This new fire appliance is a significant bonus for the State and Narrogin. A partnership between WA Fire Appliances and Fire Fighting Enterprises/Quell Fire Safety Equipment has overcome significant odds to achieve this milestone today.

For many years the attitude of the fire service was to rely on products, machinery and appliances that were imported from the Eastern States and overseas. It was an attitude that I was keen to change as Minister for Emergency Services as soon as I took on this ministerial responsibility. I admit that at times it was not easy trying to convince those responsible that Western Australia had the skills, the capability and the ingenuity to take on these major projects and to see them through successfully. It was a struggle, but the end result today is proof that it was worth it. This new Scania medium pumper is the product of 21 weeks of commitment and dedication by those involved to create a vehicle of world class capability and standards. It has been built through teamwork between firefighters from the Fire and Rescue Service, the local suppliers and industries, and the manufacturers. The new appliance will help our firefighters to arrive at an emergency safely and to provide their standard of service with the best available equipment.

Today's achievement has been a winner all round, and I publicly congratulate all those who have been involved in the project on its successful completion. I am sure this will be the first of many locally manufactured firefighting vehicles that will come into service with the Fire and Rescue Service in coming years.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - DEPUTY PREMIER

Infrastructure Support Package for Joe White Maltings Ltd; Forrestfield Site

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [3.01 pm] - by leave: I advise Parliament of an infrastructure support package of approximately \$2.9m. The package has been offered to Joe White Maltings Limited, an Australian owned public company headquartered in Victoria that plans to establish a new malting facility at Forrestfield. Although the incentive was approved by Cabinet in late May this year, it has taken some time to put in place a commercial agreement, because of delays in resolving planning issues. An agreement between the company and Treasury has been finalised, and I am now in a position to detail the incentive package.

The package has been offered to fast track the development of infrastructure on the site and to put Western Australia on a more competitive footing with the alternative location for the plant in Victoria. The company plans to establish an 80 000 tonne per annum, state of the art malting facility at Forrestfield, adjoining the proposed new Co-operative Bulk Handling grain receival facility to be known as the Metro Grain Centre. The investment by Joe White Maltings is valued at in excess of \$34m, and more than 75 per cent of the plant's production will be destined for export markets. The facility will employ approximately 13 people. Provision has also been made for a possible doubling of capacity within five years.

The Forrestfield site forms part of the redevelopment of Westrail's marshalling yard complex. The timing of the Joe White Maltings and CBH proposals pre-empts the ability of a developer to provide fully serviced land ready for development, and both Joe White Maltings and CBH require their new facilities to be operational prior to December 1997. The combined investment in these facilities approaches \$100m. The area immediately surrounding the proposed CBH facility at Forrestfield is being proposed as an agri-business park. Grain processing companies will be able to use CBH and the rail system for the storage, handling and transport of grain, taking advantage of CBH's efficiencies in this regard. The provision of infrastructure totalling an estimated \$2.9m will comprise works undertaken by Western Power and the Water Corporation. No funds will be provided directly to the company.

The package includes contributory support of \$680 000 towards the cost of a substation and connection of power to the site. The Government will also fund the interest cost for the provision of a permanent water supply to the estate for a period of two years until Water Corporation funding is available, estimated at \$48 000 a year. Headwork costs associated with the connection of water to the site will be provided at an estimated cost of \$109 000. A sewer line connecting the malthouse to the Maida Vale main sewer will be provided by the Government at an estimated cost

of \$1m. A further \$1m will be provided to assist with headwork costs associated with connecting the facility to the sewer system. The Water Corporation has agreed to reallocate funding priorities and bring forward the installation of the Maida Vale main sewer to the completion of stage 5 by the end of next year.

The company will soon close its Northbridge facility, which produces up to 40 000 tonnes of malt per annum and requires approximately 4 000 truck movements a year. The Northbridge site in Stuart Street will become available for more appropriate development. The new malthouse will absorb some 100 000 tonnes of Western Australian grown barley, and will increase exports by more than \$20m a year. The increased presence of this internationally recognised maltster will assist the development of new barley varieties in this State. Local content in the construction of the facility is estimated to be around \$20m. The Government is aware that Joe White Maltings is subject to takeover action by the Ridley Corporation, but has been advised that the corporate activity should have no bearing on the Forrestfield development. The infrastructure incentive has not only encouraged a commitment to invest \$34m - possibly doubling within five years - in new industry at Forrestfield, but also has played a pivotal role in the development of the Forrestfield industrial estate.

For the information of members, I table three documents: The primary terms and conditions of assistance; a chronological summary of events relating to the infrastructure support package; and further details on the Joe White Maltings Limited proposal.

[See papers Nos 605A-C.]

[Questions without notice taken.]

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST - SMOG LEVELS, PERTH; PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

THE SPEAKER (Mr Clarko): Today I received within the prescribed time a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms -

Pursuant to Standing Order 82A I propose that the following matter of public interest be submitted to the House for discussion today.

That this House notes the alarming increase in recorded smog levels in Perth and the dramatic decline in the community's rating of the quality of the State's public transport system and calls on the State Government to reverse its socially regressive and environmentally damaging transport policies and to commit itself to expanding the public transport system.

The matter appears to be in order. If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[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 in total to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.37 pm]: I move the motion.

I will ask members a very simple question: What is it about Western Australia, Perth in particular, that makes it such an attractive place to live? Of course, it is the cleanliness of the environment, in particular the cleanliness of the air and, as a result of that, the clarity of light and colour in our city. It is that quality that lies behind the attractiveness of Perth, not only as a place to live, but also as a place in which to invest.

I will make a very brief reference to some of the developments which are occurring in other places of the world and ask: Where is investment capital going in the world today? It is the quality of urban life which now attracts capital investment throughout the world. Cities such as Hamburg, Copenhagen, Zurich and Freiburg - cities which have taken control of their cars and developed substantial and comprehensive public transport systems - are the cities which are attracting investment in Europe. With those comments on what it is that makes Perth an attractive city, and cities successful in attracting capital investment, I would like the Parliament to consider the following facts about the priority which is being set by the Western Australian Government.

It is very interesting to note that in the last Budget projected expenditure on buses went down by 15 per cent in real terms, expenditure on trains went down by 6 per cent and expenditure on roads went up by 34 per cent. Members should keep those facts in the back of their mind and ponder what they indicate about the Government's priorities. They should then add two other elements: First, the Government's privatisation policy in respect of our bus system. About 42 per cent of our traditional public sector bus services are provided by private operators.

Mr Court: Do you support privatisation?

Dr GALLOP: I do not support privatisation of our public transport system; it is against the interests of our State and future generations of Western Australians.

Mr Court: Do you support privatisation of our power system?

Dr GALLOP: No, I do not. The Opposition has a very detailed view on these subjects and will be developing it throughout the course of the forthcoming election campaign.

Mr Court: So you are opposed to privatisation?

Dr GALLOP: The Opposition has a complex and detailed approach to privatisation. We are debating the public transport system today, and we are totally and absolutely opposed to the privatisation of our bus system. As a result of its public transport policies, this Government is building up a legacy of neglect that will be a burden for future generations of taxpayers.

The Government's transport policy indicates two things of interest to the Opposition. First, the Government plans to introduce a user-pays system for the delivery of transport services and, secondly, it will maintain the cost of the system at or below current net per capita funding. Therefore, more money will be spent on roads and less on buses and trains. We will also have a privatised system of delivery of public transport services in the Perth metropolitan area.

Let us project those policies into the twenty-first century and ask ourselves where we will be left. We will be left with a disaster, and future Governments and Parliaments will be required to patch it up. It will be similar to the situation in the 1980s when Labor Governments had to patch up the environmental disasters that they inherited from the previous conservative Governments - the most obvious being in Bunbury.

Several members interjected.

Dr GALLOP: Establishing industry in Bunbury and not concerning themselves about where the waste would go. Future taxpayers had to foot the Bill.

Several members interjected.

Dr GALLOP: It is not a broad statement; it is absolutely true. The potential disaster is exacerbated by the fact that the big growth in our population will be concentrated in the outer suburbs. It is interesting to note that government figures indicate that in the year 2029, the 553 000 people currently living in the outer suburbs will become 1.343 million. Historically, public transport is slow to develop in these suburbs and, of course, car use is at its peak in these areas. On current trends, it is predicted that the total number of people using public transport will drop 30 per cent, from 6.4 per cent to 4.8 per cent, and car use will be up from 63 per cent to 70.5 per cent. That is the mix that this Government is leaving future generations: A road based strategy, a privatised bus system and increasing population in the outer suburbs exacerbating the increased car use in the metropolitan area. They are the ingredients which this Government has put together and which future generations will be required to address. That is what members opposite think is good politics and good policy.

Let us consider that policy alongside the facts as they have now been revealed to the people of Western Australia in the Perth photochemical smog study, which I seek leave to place on the Table.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Dr GALLOP: This study, which was a joint project of Western Power and the Department of Environmental Protection, condemns the Government's public transport policies. It is very interesting that this report has yet to be released to the public of Western Australia. They have it now - courtesy of the Opposition. We can now reflect upon what it contains and ask ourselves what it reveals given the Government's stated policy position.

According to the report, from July 1992 to June 1995 there were on average 10 days a year on which the peak hourly ozone concentration exceeded 80 parts per billion somewhere in the Perth region. Of course, the reference to parts per billion is the level beyond which ozone concentration becomes unacceptable according to international standards and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. The report states -

The number of times that the new NHMRC goals may be exceeded is set to grow rapidly if emissions and the consequent smog concentrations increase by modest amounts. From the perspective of public health, control of photochemical smog should be considered now.

The report reveals that the entire metropolitan region is affected by smog. During the study all 11 monitoring sites recorded levels exceeding the NHMRC four-hourly average of 80 parts per billion. This is the Government's policy

and they are the facts about photochemical smog. There is only one projection we can make on the basis of that study; that is, the situation will get worse unless there is a radical change in policy direction.

What will that mean for Western Australian citizens? Of course, it will mean that health problems will emerge in our State, and they will need to be dealt with in the public and community health and hospital systems. Smog causes tissue damage deep in the lungs and is particularly harmful for asthmatics, and it causes ear, nose and throat irritations. It also discolours and fragments buildings and damages crops, waterways and vegetation generally. It is not just a case of health being affected, the environment is also damaged as a result of increased smog levels.

In the twenty-first century the City of Perth will start looking and feeling like Los Angeles. It will develop a reputation similar to that of Los Angeles and the great attractiveness we have enjoyed in this city over the years will be lost to the people of Western Australia. As a Parliament we cannot afford to allow this to happen. It is most important that as legislators we consider the scenario that faces our State. The Labor Party has the answers.

I remember you, Mr Deputy Speaker, were in the Parliament when the then Minister for Transport Bob Pearce said, "We will build a railway line into the northern suburbs before the 1993 State election." The Minister for Planning will remember that occasion well. The then Opposition said the proposal was a waste of money as that sort of system was not needed, and it continually criticised the attitude and commitment of the then Government. However, the Labor Party delivered the goods. When visitors come to Perth, I bet all members opposite point to the public transport system with pride and tell visitors that we have a wonderful system. This system resulted from the foresight of the previous Government in establishing an electrified rail system in the northern suburbs.

The problems revealed by the Perth photochemical smog study indicate that the situation will only get worse. Interestingly, only Sydney and Melbourne have more smog than Perth, a city with one-third of the population of both those cities. How can we reverse that direction? We cannot do so under the policies, prejudices and proposals of the coalition Government. The Government's policy will intensify the problem currently faced in Western Australia. We must develop a comprehensive and integrated public transport system if we are to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. We must reverse the direction pursued by this Government if we are to ensure that our city maintains its attractiveness and cleanliness and does not jeopardise the health and way of life of its citizens.

We must extend our railway system to the north to Merriwa, and south to Rockingham and ultimately to the Mandurah area. It must be possible for public transport to deliver a service in the newer suburbs, and for local area clipper services to be developed so that people are linked into the major arterial bus and rail system. We need an innovative tariff policy to encourage people to use the public transport system, along with creative engineering solutions to ensure that the public system develops.

Privatisation will make all those objectives impossible to achieve. One cannot have a comprehensive and integrated public transport system if one breaks up the system through privatisation. One small example indicates that point: The firm that wins the contract to deliver bus transport services in an area has a responsibility to its shareholders to keep control over that area. The private firm is in direct competition with the rail system, and has no incentive to encourage people to move on to the rail system. It does not want a local area clipper service linking people in the suburbs to the arterial systems. The firm wants people to use its buses.

The Government has short-sighted policies bred in prejudices against the public transport system. The policies will not deliver a Western Australia in which it is worth living in the twenty-first century. These policies will leave an enormous financial legacy for future taxpayers. The Opposition knows the situation. We must take action to reverse the direction this Government has taken before it is too late to do so. Action must be taken before the people of Western Australia find the smog levels insufferable not only for everyday life but also for health and the ability to attract capital to Western Australia to develop the State.

The Government has no vision for the future of the transport system. Its policies are taking us down the path of increased smog and increased inequality. The Labor Party has a solution, as was shown in its experience in government - it will show it again when it wins back the Treasury benches.

MRS ROBERTS (Glendalough) [3.55 pm]: We are at the crossroads of public transport in this State. Plans must be put in place now to achieve a quality of life for Australia into the next century. The challenges that we face include a growing population, an expanding metropolitan area, minimising the effects of transport on the environment, our declining air quality, and providing urban amenity and equity for all people to access goods, services, and opportunities.

Over the past four years this Government has proved itself incapable of dealing with these challenges. Why is it incapable? The Government is locked into the thinking of the 1960s and 1970s. Members opposite are like little boys with big toys: They want to build freeways and a tunnel through Northbridge; they think bigger is better; and they want development at any cost. They are following the failed Thatcherite policy of government selling off assets

to the private sector, but with the sale of public facilities, members opposite are selling out on government responsibility. Government has a responsibility to provide equity and access to all goods and services for all members of our community - the poor as well the rich, the disabled as well as the able, the children as well as the elderly, and the disadvantaged as well as the advantaged. Government has a responsibility to the many struggling families trying to make ends meet. People rely on government to provide the basic services that Australians have expected generation after generation, such as in education, health and public transport.

The Government's views on public transport are completely outdated. Nothing has been done in four years to reduce car use, and big reforms in public transport are desperately needed. Perth is currently underserved by its public transport system, which is one of the reasons for insufficient public patronisation of our public transport services. Traditionally, the transport service has moved in a direct line to and from the city with no interconnecting suburb to suburb service, but such service would provide a fully integrated public transport system.

In four years of the Liberal-National coalition Government we have seen the cost of public transport increase in each of the first three Budgets, particularly the purchase price of bus and train tickets for school children and the elderly - that is where the Government hits the community.

I note that in the 1994-95 Budget the Government reduced costs at MetroBus by \$17 million in a year before any contracts were let to private bus companies. Those savings were achieved without the need to privatise. Therefore, the Government cannot claim to be achieving any savings by contracting out - it is not. A big part of that \$17m saving resulted from a reduction of 55 in the number of buses, from 906 to 851. Now the Minister for Transport has the audacity to say, "Look at the great things we are doing; we are purchasing 93 buses this year and five new double carriage train sets for the northern suburban line." These were the first vehicle purchases in four years. The Government has not made the normal annual vehicle purchase, which has been in the order of 30 to 100 buses a year over the past 10 years. Those 93 buses are the only buses purchased during this Government's term in office. The Government has played catch-up with public transport. That is what the five new train sets were about. This does not represent forward thinking. The Government is way behind the game. One need only stand at Leederville or Glendalough stations any morning of the week to discover one cannot get a seat during peak hours because the trains are already full by the time they reach either station. The purchase of the train sets is long overdue. Public safety has been at risk because a train driver may have needed to brake suddenly with large numbers of people standing in the carriages.

Privatisation of buses has become a debacle with inexperienced drivers having little or no knowledge of routes. They have failed to recognise bus stops and have made wrong turnings, and they have had to call on advice from passengers; they have taken out buses with empty fuel tanks; and they have not been able to find their way into or out of bus stations. This puts the public at risk, and causes stress for drivers. A number of complaints have been made about dirty buses, bus stations and toilets at the bus stations. This is all happening as a result of privatisation moves by this Government. I have received calls from people at two depots regarding a directive that buses are no longer to be fitted with good tyres, and that no major engineering work is to be done on the buses. The bare minimum of mechanical work is to be done to keep the buses on the road. Dirty buses are symptomatic of privatisation across the board. Dirty buses are one thing, but the mechanics of the buses also are in jeopardy.

I have received reports of private companies begging MetroBus for spare bus parts, including brakes and brake drums, because the companies do not have sufficient spare parts to service the buses on the routes they have taken over. This privatisation experiment has been a debacle. The public are sick of being guinea pigs. This privatisation program is not some bold, visionary experiment; it is not an initiative to improve and expand the bus service. As the Minister said, it is all about keeping the status quo - that is, having the same buses, the same routes and the same frequency. This is not a move towards expansion. The only savings made have been passed on to private contractors. The savings have been made at the expense of drivers' wages.

The Northbridge tunnel is a symbol of the Government's wrong priorities. At a time when Perth is experiencing a pollution problem the Government is building a major tunnel through the heart of Northbridge which will increase vehicle use and smog. The budget papers this year indicate that expenditure on roads has increased dramatically, and that public transport spending is down, both on MetroBus and the metropolitan train service. The budget papers indicate that patronage at Westrail is down. This is the kind of public transport system that this Government is providing.

The correct priorities are air quality, community service obligations, equity and access to public transport, and quality of life in our city and suburbs for those who live there and for those who visit. I do not want to hand to my children and future generations a polluted urban environment or a society where only the privileged can have easy access to transport.

MR MINSON (Greenough - Minister for Mines) [4.03 pm]: On this matter I speak as the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment, which begs the question: This is the first debate that the new Leader of the Opposition has precipitated in this House, so why has he chosen a subject handled by two Ministers not in this place?

Dr Gallop: Because the matter is so important!

Mr MINSON: If the Leader of the Opposition wanted an issue to run on, he should have picked a matter handled by a Minister in this House. He could have asked the new Leader of the Opposition in the upper House to raise these questions with the relevant Ministers. The Leader of the Opposition does not want to confront the Minister for the Environment, nor does he want to confront the Minister for Transport, because he knows very well that the Minister for Transport knows what he is talking about.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glendalough, you have made your speech, but you are now interjecting excessively. Although we tolerate interjections which add to the debate from time to time, we cannot have a barrage of interjections across the Chamber.

Mr MINSON: In a former life I was a dental surgeon. Occasionally anaesthetic does not work and when the surgeon drills he may hit a nerve and get a similar reaction to that displayed by the Opposition. I think I may have hit a tender spot. I have listened to members' remarks about this matter. It was a very simplistic response by the Opposition. It missed the main point; that is, air pollution, smog and associated transport policies are very complex issues.

Mrs Hallahan: Hear, hear!

Mr MINSON: I am pleased that the member agrees with me. Anyone reading this motion would think that smog occurs simply as a result of motor car emissions. Vehicles are the main problem -

Mrs Hallahan: They are the main problem!

Mr MINSON: Yes. Concentrations of vehicles are the problem -

Mrs Hallahan: What are you doing about it?

Mr MINSON: I will get to that in a moment. A range of matters contribute to the smog problem. Concentrations of cars in particular areas can create a smog problem, and the problem is exacerbated if certain topography and weather patterns coincide. It is tempting to react quickly and say that we have smog problems on certain days of the year, and then rush off to do certain things. However, that is not an appropriate response. We must assemble all available information.

I assume that the tabled report is the same as the one in the possession of the Minister for the Environment. I have not checked that it is. I have had a quick look through it but I cannot say that it is the same report. The report was commissioned before we came to government. It was a good move. It needed to be commissioned. It has taken until May this year to assemble the information and put it in a logical sequence. When I was Minister for the Environment I asked for the report to be expedited as much as possible, but I was told that it would take a long time to assemble the information. The situation was exacerbated by my asking that the Perth haze study be attached to the report because, unfortunately, many people in Western Australia confuse smog and haze. They are completely different.

This is not an easy issue, and it must be dealt with in a very measured way. It is a matter of transport and planning, and the Minister for Planning will address some of those issues. It is also a matter of changing perceptions. Governments respond to communities, and, in the main, Parliaments tend to be a mirror of society. Without doubt, Western Australians are in love with their cars, not as a result of the public transport system but because cars are convenient. Until recently, traffic conditions in Western Australia have been easy. We must consider all these aspects. We have undertaken scientific work. We have very carefully assembled the available information, and considered it in depth. The Opposition, various people in the conservation movement, and some sections of the media have been critical that the Minister for the Environment received this report in May. I relate that to a report I received on the inquiry into Camp Kurli Murri. I do not like to simply drop reports into the public arena. Responsible Governments commission a report and receive the report, and then formulate a response. They table the report and the response at the same time so that the Parliament and the people know what is going on. It took me six weeks to two months to consult people and assemble a range of information on something as simple as Camp Kurli Murri. In some cities in the world people have been working for 30 years on the matter of smog. Members opposite should visit America to see the effort to which people there have gone in this area. Those people do not have all the answers. It is trite of the Opposition to say that the Government should just throw a report out into the open and not respond to it; or worse - have a silly knee jerk reaction that will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars and will not solve the problem.

I know that opposition members do not like to confront the Minister for the Environment in the other place because he makes mincemeat of them every time they do so. However, if he were in this Chamber, he would say that he did not apologise for working through that report carefully and assembling a measured response. The Minister for the Environment is unfortunately on compassionate leave because his mother passed away a few days ago. However, I have some notes from him and I am responding in the best way I can. He will be back at work on Thursday and he and the Minister for Transport will release the Government's considered response to a difficult problem, the first part of which -

Mr McGinty: It's flushed out at last. You've been sitting on it for too long.

Mr MINSON: No, the silly part about this is that the member opposite thinks the Government read the newspaper last week and thought that we would get together a response.

Mr McGinty: I don't think you ever intended to make a response.

Mr MINSON: Of course we did. It took four or five years for that report to be put together, and the Opposition tells us that it wants the Government to respond in a couple of days. The Minister for the Environment has very much consulted others on this report. He gave the report to sections of the conservation movement and asked for its input into how the problem should be approached. I am a little disappointed that once the conservation movement gave its response to the Minister for the Environment it said that the Minister should suddenly release it all. I do not think that was right. The conservation group that released the report should have been a little more ethical than that.

I repeat that on Thursday the Ministers for Transport and the Environment will release the Government's response. Details will be given of what can be expected in public transport expansion in the future. Plans will be made for transport. There is already emission control for service stations. It is interesting to consider the amount of material that escapes from service stations in a vapour form and contributes to smog.

The Government has a good record on this matter. The lead reduction program this Government undertook is a good example. Ros Kelly saw her popularity flagging and decided to call a round table conference. However, the Government had already sat down with BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty Ltd to work out a program to get as near as possible to zero lead levels. The Government has put in place the smoky vehicle program to try to overcome the problem of smoke emissions from cars. It is a most uncomfortable experience to travel behind such vehicles. The Government has moved in the industrial area to best practice licensing - something that is way overdue in this State. I suggest that we are about to lead the world in that initiative. School education and air monitoring have also been undertaken.

Mr Graham interjected.

Mr MINSON: Then why did the Opposition not do it?

Mr Graham: A federal Labor Government set that up.

Mr MINSON: No, it did not. When I became Minister for the Environment, environmental control was totally impact assessment driven. We must move away from relying totally on impact assessment driven environmental controls and move to best practice licensing. That is not something the Labor Government even thought about. In fact, from within the department the old guard opposed that move. I know that for a fact.

A range of issues must be addressed in this area. It is far too simplistic to talk in terms of a public transport problem and haze and smog. Factors such as the size of cars, sources of energy, and what part telecommuting will play in the future must also be considered. Many people who simply operate a computer during the day could do that at home with a terminal; therefore, they would not require transport during the day. A range of other matters, including engineering advances, must be addressed. In response to the needs in Europe we have seen the design of diesel engines that far exceeds the efficiency of formerly clean engines which were regarded as the peak of technology. I refer in particular to gas.

On Thursday members will have not only the report, but also the Government's response to it. It will be a far more measured response than the one we have heard today. The response the Government heard from the Opposition today sounded remarkably like the one that came out in New South Wales a little while ago: It could not think of its own.

MR LEWIS (Applecross - Minister for Planning) [4.16 pm]: The Government has plans for tackling the problem that is called, glibly, smog. Those plans have been put in place over the past couple of years. As the Minister for Works said, a comprehensive statement will be made on Thursday by both the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment. Those plans have been in place for some time. One suspects that the Opposition has acted on a leak from somewhere to bring on this motion today. I think that is the truth of it; it wanted to be seen to be a little proactive.

Mr Graham interjected.

Mr LEWIS: It is true, is it not? Members opposite got a leak that we were doing it Thursday, so they had to try to gazump us. Be that as it may. I will take what the Minister for Works said a little further. The opposition front bench is weak. Because they are not game to take their debate into the House where the two Ministers who are responsible for this issue sit, they have come into a House where Ministers represent the principal Ministers in this debate. I give the Leader of the Opposition four out of 10, and I give the shadow Minister for Transport - God help us if she ever gets to be Minister for Transport - two out of 10. I do not know whether the new Leader of the Opposition is heckle or Jekyll because members opposite have changed positions in recent weeks. The heckler is now Jekyll, and the other is the heckler - so who knows what is happening? It shows a dearth of competence in the Opposition when it cannot find someone who has not admitted that he cannot lead the Labor Party to the next election or is competent to be the leader of the Labor Party in this House. It had to shuffle him in as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Be that as it may, the thrust of this debate has been like a wet tram ticket. It has been so limp it has not even hit the mark. How simplistic for the Leader of the Opposition, despite his academic achievements and professed intellect, to almost suggest that, by just turning on a light switch, those problems can be solved overnight.

Mr Ripper: Perhaps even over a term of government?

Mr LEWIS: They cannot be solved over even two or three terms. They are generational problems. It is similar to the septic tank problem in Perth. The problems of effluent affecting our waterways and river systems in Perth were not foreseen 40 years ago when people said that we had deep sandy soil and therefore did not need a comprehensive deep sewerage system. However, as a result of advanced technology, algal blooms etc, septic systems do not work. They worked as a short term measure but underground plumes take generations to manifest themselves as environmental problems.

The bottom line is that the problem associated with photochemical smog cannot be solved by turning off a switch and getting rid of it overnight. It is about the way we live as Western Australians. Everyone knows that much of the photochemical smog problem is caused by automobiles. The Opposition is suggesting that we should restrict the use of motor vehicles. To say that that will solve the problem is nonsense. The motor vehicle is part of our urban fabric and Western Australian culture and reflects the way we live. We love our independence and the ability to move around unrestricted. That is the way we, in Western Australia, and, indeed, all Australians live. Despite what the academics at Murdoch University may like to think, one cannot drop a European culture into Western Australia. We do not live in five-storey walk-ups in high density living environments that make public transport more attractive.

As I have said before, the electrified rail system of Perth is subsidised by 82¢ in every dollar that is spent. Only 18¢ in the dollar goes through the fare box. In the public bus system only something like 23¢ or 24¢ in the dollar comes through the fare box. It is subsidised by up to 77¢ in the dollar. The Opposition may say that, in improving the performance of our public transport systems, we have not made savings. That is wrong. Fares were increased because we charged the lowest fares in Australia. We are still ranked second from the bottom in charging the lowest fares in Australia. The Opposition says that we are not allowed to try to make improvements on the public transport system or consider work practices or contracting out; we should have continued as we were: Getting worse and worse, spending more and more money. Over the three and a half years of this Government's term, \$39m has been saved. In one breath the member for Glendalough says no savings have been made and in the next breath she says that last year we saved \$17m. She cannot have it both ways.

Improvements have been made in services. We in Western Australia have installed probably the most innovative and mobile inner city transit system in Australia, known as the central area transit system.

Mr Graham: It was a great Labor initiative.

Mr LEWIS: It was not a Labor initiative; the idea came from me when I was in Opposition.

Mr Graham: It was funded by Laurie Brereton and you know it.

Mr LEWIS: The member for Pilbara is very loud with his comments, but he should find out the facts. He is wrong.

Mr Graham: Did the funding come from the Federal Government?

Mr LEWIS: No; \$3m came from the Federal Government and \$6m came from the State Government and the Perth City Council. It was an initiative of this Government and this Minister. This Government has greatly improved public transport. In the Midland area the services of Swan Transit have increased by 25 per cent with only a 5 per cent cost increase. MetroBus Mandurah express service has attracted increased patronage and as a result plans to purchase more buses. MetroBus has increased patronage to the Ballajura to city services by 25 per cent. Swan Transit has already added extra buses to the South Street park and ride facility which services the city. I understand that three more vehicles will go onto that run.

Great strides have been made to allow people with disabilities to access our public transport system. I suggest that the CAT vehicles are the most advanced vehicles in the world. The Opposition talks about emissions, but it fails to understand that the engines which drive the CAT vehicles are Euro 2 engines which are up to world standards in minimising poisonous emissions.

The Opposition has a throwaway line about what we should do about smog in this city. In the next breath it criticises the city northern bypass. Most people with some intellect understand and accept the situation. The queues of vehicles in peak periods are getting longer and longer. Members opposite should ask the member for Victoria Park, who comes into the city every day across the Causeway, what he and his constituents want. The motor of a vehicle that is idling while jammed in traffic deals most inefficiently with emissions. If a vehicle that takes 20 minutes to get through a city could be channelled through a bypass in six or seven minutes, its emissions would be reduced by four or five times. It is an absolute nonsense for the Opposition to suggest that the city northern bypass will not, over time, reduce the amount of smog that is generated by vehicles trying to get through a city without a bypass. The Opposition should reflect on that.

I know that privately most members opposite agree with me. Certainly the member for Belmont does. His constituency agrees with me and other members opposite privately agree that that city bypass is a necessity if we are to tackle the traffic and pollution problems in this city in any shape or form.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [4.30 pm]: The facts are these: No less a person than the Minister for the Environment has said that 75 people a year die an early death in Western Australia as a result of particulate pollution, which is haze pollution. The problem is directly linked to motor vehicles. We know that a detailed report on haze pollution has been sent for peer review and has come back to the department, yet that report has not been released. The Leader of the Opposition has released in this Parliament today the photochemical smog study. Anyone looking at that study can see that Perth does have a photochemical smog problem.

Mr Lewis: Perth has had it for years.

Dr EDWARDS: It is getting worse.

Mr Lewis: It occurred under your Administration.

Dr EDWARDS: That is why we started the study in 1992. The Minister has seen fit to give it to only a few select groups. We have released it to the public arena. An interesting aspect of that report is the comment of the public health reviewer who looked at the report in detail. He urged action because we must protect public health. He went further and said that not only do we have a problem but also that it will get worse. We already know that it has become worse. The report covered only the period from 1992 to 1995. It refers to episodes of smog being over the limit 10 times a year. However, last summer the level went over the limit 17 times, so it has jumped from 10 to 17 times. The Government is sitting on the report and not doing anything about this problem.

One fairly straightforward way of tackling this very serious problem of air pollution is to improve and provide better public transport, but this is not happening. One has only to look at my electorate. We urged MetroBus to give us a pilot project to try to link to the trains an area not serviced by public transport. We have had the trial. The result is that the buses started at the wrong end. One could see people who were waiting for buses standing on one side of the road watching buses whiz by in the opposite direction. People wanted to go to Beaufort Street, Inglewood, but ended up over the river in Belmont, because the drivers became confused. They did not know the route and went down Garratt Road instead of going to Beaufort Street. The public is crying out for more public transport services, which would be a straightforward way of tackling the air pollution problem. That need is not being addressed. Instead we have huge schemes with hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on such projects as the northern bypass and the tunnel. I was fascinated last night at a meeting of the Inglewood ratepayers association - I know that the member for Perth will be intrigued by this - to hear that, according to the latest Main Roads projections, traffic on East Parade will increase by 100 per cent. People who travel north-east on East Parade end up in either Whatley Crescent or Guildford Road, but the projections indicate that the traffic will have evaporated by the time it reaches those roads in my electorate. God knows where the increase, comprising thousands of vehicles, will go to. Maybe they will go up into the air and that is where we will get our smog problem!

Both Ministers have made many comments that have not added to the debate. It is obvious that the Minister for Planning has not read the air pollution studies that have been commissioned as part of the study into the Northbridge tunnel. The Minister's studies indicate that carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen will rise around the portals of the tunnel. The Government was so concerned about air pollution that it did not even look at particulates that are killing Western Australians.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.35 pm]: I have listened with interest to this debate. The Leader of the Opposition has taken a typical subject for him. It is very easy to identify the problem and very difficult to provide

a solution acceptable to the public at large. That has been the history of the Leader of the Opposition during the time he has been in this place. I guess it emanates from his background as someone who has always been privileged to the extent that he has been sheltered by the rather cloistered life of an academic. He has never had to go out and do anything other than identify the problem; he has never had to provide a solution. We are involved in politics. In that business it became known that the State Government had received a report on photochemical smog and on haze and that the Department of Environmental Protection, through the office of the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Transport and other associated ministries, was seeking to present the public with a solution. Rather than just identifying the problem and having the few self-congratulatory moments of the Opposition attempting to pre-empt anything the Government might want to do, and by so doing attaching itself to the bandwagon, the Government has taken the responsible course of action of considering the report in Cabinet and taking on board a recommendation that has been put to Cabinet by the responsible Ministers. The Ministers have agreed that we must provide a lasting solution. That is what will be done on Thursday. There will be a report, which will contain the recommended course of action that the Government will take. I do not think that course of action will be different from much of the preliminary work that has already been undertaken by the Government.

When we took office a responsibility upon us was to deal with the issue of transport in general. I refer to land and sea transport and airports, which I will not deal with in the short time I have left. However, there was a whole range of transport matters, not the least of which was the issue of public transport. There were two main problems. The first we had to address was the cost of our public transport system upon the state purse. We have done that. The Opposition will never walk up to and address that issue, not in government and certainly not in opposition because it does not have to. When the Opposition was in government I never saw any attempt by it to deal with the cost to the public purse of the provision of public transport in the metropolitan area of Western Australia. We had to deal with it and we have dealt with it. Admittedly the Minister for Planning, who represents the Minister for Transport in this House, has indicated that the level of cost recovery is still very low for the rail system and only somewhat higher for the bus system. The services return very little but we accept that.

Mrs Roberts: What about the cost to people's health?

Mr COWAN: The member for Glendalough would have some credibility in this place if she were prepared to stand and publicly dissociate herself from the actions taken by those MetroBus people who have been strongly supported by her. Those people loosened wheel nuts on the buses, put fish heads in the air conditioning systems and urinated all over the bus depots. If the member were to dissociate herself from those people, I can assure her that she would have some credibility in this place.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (20)

Ms Anwyl
Mr M. Barnett
Mr Brown
Mr Catania
Mr Cunningham
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop

Mr Graham
Mrs Hallahan
Mrs Henderson
Mr Kobelke
Mr Leahy
Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty

Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Dr Watson
Ms Warnock (*Teller*)

Noes (29)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Blaikie
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Dr Constable
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames

Mr House
Mr Kierath
Mr Lewis
Mr Marshall
Mr McNee
Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mr Osborne
Mrs Parker
Mr Pandal

Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr W. Smith
Mr Strickland
Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Bloffwitch (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Grill
Mr Bridge
Mr D.L. Smith

Mr C.J. Barnett
Mr Trenorden
Mr Minson

Question thus negatived.

MOTION - TIME MANAGEMENT SESSIONAL ORDER (GUILLOTINE)

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.44 pm]: I move -

That the following items of business be completed up to and including the stages specified at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 17 October -

1. Acts Amendment (ICWA) Bill - all remaining stages;
2. Stamp Amendment Bill - all remaining stages;
3. Railway Discontinuance Bill - all remaining stages;
4. Government Railways Amendment Bill - all remaining stages;
5. Skeleton Weed and Resistant Grain Insects (Eradication Funds) Amendment Bill - all remaining stages.

I advise members that for the balance of today and for as much of Thursday as possible time will be set aside for debate on the Firearms Amendment Bill. That legislation is not subject to the time management sessional order. The five Bills in the motion will be listed for debate on Wednesday. They are minor pieces of legislation. Three of them have already been passed in the other place, and I do not imagine there will be any difficulty or length of time consumed in dealing with those Bills. The Insurance Council of Western Australia legislation was initially introduced into this House by the now Leader of the Opposition as far back as 1992. Unfortunately, it did not proceed beyond the second reading stage. We are not too sure why, because it received bipartisan support.

The Stamp Amendment Bill addresses deficiencies in the Act in the way company takeovers are effected, specifically addressing cancellation of share issues. The Railway Discontinuance Bill addresses some surplus land issues in Bunbury. The Government Railways Amendment Bill allows third parties to operate trains and crews on the government railway network, specifically the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway.

Both of those Bills have received bipartisan support in the other House. Of course, there is some urgency in the skeleton weed amendments so they can be put in place to provide certainty to producers for assistance to the Grain Pool for its repayment of reserves under the current temporary arrangement.

MR RIPPER (Belmont) [4.46 pm]: The Opposition opposes this motion because we oppose the principle of a guillotine being applied on a weekly basis in this House. The Deputy Premier may be correct when he says that those pieces of legislation subject to the guillotine are not major pieces of legislation that are likely to unduly delay the House. However, they may still be subject to guillotining on Thursday because that will depend on how much time is allocated to dealing with those pieces of legislation.

Most of the week will be devoted to dealing with the firearms legislation. The Leader of the House originally advised the Opposition that the firearms legislation would be subject to the guillotine. It is pleasing that the Government has taken that Bill off the list of Bills to be guillotined, because that would have been quite inappropriate.

Mr Cowan: If you like, I will take it right off the Notice Paper. I will be happy to do that.

Mr RIPPER: The Opposition would not support that. However, we are pleased that it will be taken off the list of Bills for the guillotine, because this important matter should be treated with the proper degree of scrutiny and there should not be some artificial shortening of that debate. We do not intend to filibuster on the legislation. Were these other Bills not to be debated this week, the Opposition would be confident that the firearms legislation could be dealt with by the close of business on Thursday. However, now that these other pieces of legislation must be debated tomorrow we cannot give an assurance that debate will be finished by Thursday. We cannot make any definite prediction, but we think we need a little more time than is presently indicated by the Deputy Premier.

I have to make these remarks every week. It is only under this Government that we have seen a weekly use of the guillotine. Under all previous Governments the guillotine was a device which was used only infrequently. I recall its being used on only one or two occasions under previous Governments since I was elected in 1988. We have seen unprecedented use of the guillotine, first on an ad hoc basis by this Government, and then in the latter half of its term on a regular weekly basis.

Mr House: Will you give a guarantee that you will not use it after the next election?

Mr RIPPER: That will be a matter of debate in our Caucus. The Minister for Primary Industry should expect there will be people who will argue that as it was applied to us in opposition, we should return the favour. The rights of members of Parliament and the traditions of this place should be considered. I think that the spirit of parliamentary reform embodied in the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters and the Commission on Government should be considered. The Deputy Premier knows how things work: Once a Government applies a discipline to an Opposition, it can usually expect that same discipline will be applied to the Government when it goes into opposition. That is a regrettable feature of the way in which tit for tat seems to apply in our parliamentary system.

Mr House: You have an opportunity to show some leadership, to stand out from the crowd.

Mr RIPPER: I have, but I know there will be a debate in our Caucus and some people will be opposed to the guillotine, in principle, and some will want to do to the coalition what it is doing to us.

Mr House: It is a good eight years away yet.

Mr RIPPER: I will not predict the outcome of that debate, although I may be able to do so at a later stage.

On every occasion this guillotine motion has been moved by the Government, we have voted against it. Today we will vote against it again, not because we think it will have a terrible practical effect this week - the Deputy Premier is probably right; the legislation will not require extensive debate - but because we are opposed in principle to restrictions like this on the rights of members of Parliament to do what they are elected to do - to debate the laws that should apply in this State.

DR WATSON (Kenwick) [4.51 pm]: I, too, oppose this motion. The member for Belmont has indicated our pleasure that the firearms legislation will not be subject to the guillotine, but it seems that we should be exercising better management in this House than is apparent. It is not necessary to impose a guillotine on the firearms legislation. We are responsible. It will probably get through the second reading stage today; however, I am concerned that it contains 50 complex clauses about which there will be a lot of debate in Committee, and then there will be a third reading debate. That is predictable. It seems unlikely that the Firearms Amendment Bill will be completed this week.

I was intrigued to read in the newspaper this morning that a decision was made by Cabinet not to impose a guillotine motion this week. However, the Leader of the House, speaking from the Kimberley, has threatened the House by saying that this Bill will be completed this week. In so doing, he is imposing his own form of guillotine on this legislation. With appropriate management and negotiation, the five Bills that are under the guillotine would be through very quickly. As the Deputy Premier said, most of those Bills have already been debated in the other place.

My concern relates to pre-election commitments that have been made. It is important that this legislation is passed before any election, irrespective of whether it is to be held in late November or early February. Three other Bills must be through the Parliament before any election can be called. They relate to mental health. Today in question time I raised an issue relating to a crisis in mental health. Queues of people are waiting to get onto the methadone program. Young people are so desperate that they are holding up pharmacies and restaurants to get money from tills. One hundred and fifty of those people want to get onto the methadone program. No funding is provided in the Budget; no policy is embodied in a legislative framework for those needs. These people will not get anywhere near the methadone program until June next year. In many ways, one can see a relationship between this legislation and some of the problems that ensue from drug addiction. Until we deal with the mental health legislation, we will not round out aspects of this firearms legislation either. I would really like some commitment from the acting Leader of the House that the mental health legislation will also be debated before -

Mr Bradshaw: What has this got to do with the motion? This has nothing at all to do with it.

Dr WATSON: Yes, it does. I would like some assurance that this legislation will be debated in this place before an election. The only reason the firearms legislation has been brought on now is because a half-hearted agreement, but nevertheless a commitment, has been made to put this legislation through before any state election is held. In effect, a de facto guillotine will be operating on this legislation if the threats of the Leader of the House, reported in this morning's newspaper, are carried out and this legislation is passed this week. The member for Cottesloe is reported in this morning's newspaper as saying that he does not care; the firearms legislation will be through this week in the Legislative Assembly. He is imposing a de facto guillotine on the House by saying that.

Mr Cowan: You really do talk nonsense.

Dr WATSON: He is just shifting it from 5.30 pm on Thursday, to perhaps 5.30 am on Friday.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (28)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Blaikie
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames
Mr House

Mr Kierath
Mr Lewis
Mr Marshall
Mr McNee
Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mr Osborne
Mrs Parker
Mr Pental

Mr Prince
Mr Shave
Mr W. Smith
Mr Strickland
Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Bloffwitch (*Teller*)

Noes (21)

Ms Anwyl
Mr M. Barnett
Mr Brown
Mr Catania
Dr Constable
Mr Cunningham
Dr Edwards

Dr Gallop
Mr Graham
Mrs Hallahan
Mrs Henderson
Mr Kobelke
Mr Leahy
Mr Marlborough

Mr McGinty
Mr Riebeling
Mr Ripper
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Dr Watson
Ms Warnock (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr C.J. Barnett
Mr Trenorden
Mr Minson

Mr Bridge
Mr D.L. Smith
Mr Grill

Question thus passed.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Health) [5.00 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The intent of this Bill is to amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act to, first, enable the appointment of additional assessors to clear the backlog of applications for criminal injuries compensation and reduce delays in the processing of applications; and, second, clarify the intent of the Act in respect of claims for compensation where an applicant's claim for reimbursement of costs would otherwise be recoverable from a health insurance fund, or where the application has arisen from a motor vehicle accident. I will comment on each of these matters in turn.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1985 establishes a necessary mechanism for the provision of compensation to victims of crime. The Act provides for the appointment of an assessor of criminal injuries compensation for the purpose of determining applications for compensation and for carrying out other necessary functions under the Act. It does not contemplate the appointment of more than one assessor to determine applications.

In recent years a very significant growth has occurred in the number of applications for compensation for criminal injuries. In his 1995 annual report, the acting assessor stated that, during 1995, over 1 400 new applications for compensation were received - a 16 per cent increase on the preceding year. In the order of 750 applications were determined or discontinued during the year. At year's end, over 2 500 applications were outstanding. As the Act does not permit the appointment of additional assessors to help clear the backlog, applicants are faced with lengthy and unacceptable delays.

The Government is not prepared to allow this situation to continue. To clear the backlog and reduce delays, amendments to the Act are proposed in this Bill that will enable the appointment of a person as chief assessor and additional persons as assessors.

The Bill uses the terms "chief assessor" and "assessor" rather than "assessor" and "assistant assessor" because this nomenclature is consistent with that used in other jurisdictions. In determining matters of compensation, assessors will have the same powers as the chief assessor. However, as is the case with the assessor under the present legislation, the chief assessor will have additional administrative functions relevant to the operations of the office and the allocation of applications.

Clarification of the responsibilities of health funds: This Bill also seeks to amend the Act to clarify the responsibilities of health funds in respect of meeting medical costs of applicants.

The intent of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is to enable the payment of compensation only after all other avenues of compensation, damages or payment have been pursued. The Act, in section 22, provides for the assessor to require an applicant to take alternative proceedings, where they exist, and to defer determination of an application until the outcome of those proceedings is known. Provision is also made, in section 26, for the assessor to deduct from any award any amount the assessor is satisfied will be paid to the applicant independently of the Act by way of compensation or damages or under a contract of insurance. Exercise of this provision compels the applicant to pursue from the other source or insurer, recovery of the amount so deducted.

Following a change to its regulations, the Hospital Benefit Fund of Western Australia Inc now requires that an application for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act be satisfied before HBF considers its obligation to meet any outstanding medical costs. Alternatively, HBF requires a member of HBF to repay medical expenses once an award has been finalised by the assessor. The matter of the responsibilities of health funds in meeting the medical costs of applicants for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act has been of concern for some time. If the matter were to be referred to the District Court for resolution, and if the court were to determine that an applicant was entitled under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act to be reimbursed for all medical expenses, the financial implications could be very significant.

To remove any doubt regarding the intent of the Act, it is proposed to amend the Act so that when in the opinion of the chief assessor an applicant is entitled to criminal injuries compensation and would have been entitled but for the existence of the Act to payment of an amount under a contract of insurance with a health insurance fund, the chief assessor shall exclude the amount payable by the insurer from the amount of the award.

Claims arising from motor vehicle accidents: A second area where there is an urgent need for clarification of the Act relates to claims for compensation for injury or loss arising from motor vehicle accidents.

Amendments to the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act place a threshold, currently \$10 000, below which no claim may be made under that Act. A number of claimants in this category and their legal representatives now see an application to the Assessor of Criminal Injuries Compensation as an alternative means of gaining access to compensation. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was never intended to accommodate this category of claim, yet there is no legislative impediment at present to such claims being made.

An indication of the potential impact of this category of claims on the funds available for the payment of awards made under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is that in 1992-93 claims of less than \$10 000 under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act amounted to more than \$24m. Payment of even a small fraction of this total to applicants injured as a result of motor vehicle accidents would place a severe strain on the availability of funds intended to compensate victims of those offences for which the Act was intended.

To address this problem, the Bill will amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act to remove any rights to compensation under the Act for injuries arising from motor vehicle accidents except where the motor vehicle was used for the commission of the crime that caused the injury or loss. The term "crime" as defined in section 3 of the Criminal Code is used to define the gravity of the offence to which the relevant provision - section 24B(1) - does not apply.

An added complication arises if the entitlement under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is substituted for an action in negligence arising from an ordinary motor vehicle accident. Not only would this bring everyday accidents within an Act that is directed to compensation for criminal activities, but also it would impose an obligation on people involved in accidents to pay that compensation. When an award is made under the Act the offender becomes liable to pay it. However, a driver would not be entitled to be indemnified by the State Government Insurance Commission because the statutory liability to pay compensation does not fall within the liability that is indemnified under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act. Therefore, ordinary people involved in motor vehicle accidents resulting in personal injury, who although at fault are not criminals, could incur a liability with no right of indemnity. This device is contrary to the intent of both this legislation and the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act.

In order to remove any rights to compensation that might arise from motor vehicle accidents that occurred between the proclamation of the amendments to the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act and the proclamation of this amendment, it is further proposed that this amendment be made retrospective to 1 July 1993 to coincide with the amendments to the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act.

Review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act: The amendments contained in the Bill address only those areas of the criminal injuries compensation legislation that are in most pressing need of attention. Numerous other areas of the Act are in need of reform. For this reason, the Attorney General has directed the Ministry of Justice to

undertake a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Act with a view to making it more responsive to the needs of victims of crime.

In conclusion, this Bill will assist in ensuring a more timely response to victims of crime seeking access to criminal injuries compensation. It will also ensure that funds allocated to the compensation of persons for injury or loss suffered in consequence of the commission of a criminal offence are not diverted to purposes for which they were not intended. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Ms Warnock.

FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 26 September.

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.09 pm]: The tragedy at Port Arthur in April of this year shocked the Australian community. It also had the effect of galvanising the political leaders in this country to do something that had only been spoken about previously; that is, move towards national uniform gun laws. That galvanising of political action resulted in Prime Minister John Howard listing a number of significant changes that he proposed to require each State to agree to and to implement via the existing firearms laws in each of the States and Territories of Australia. People in the community have for a long time been calling out for national uniform firearms laws, for the simple reason that a State such as Western Australia, which has traditionally enjoyed the strongest firearms laws in the country, can have those laws significantly undermined by other States that are very much dragging the chain when it comes to firearms laws. The absence of any effective form of registration in States such as Tasmania and Queensland, and the ability to order firearms through the mail from States with weaker firearms laws than those in Western Australia, were significant factors which tended to undermine the effectiveness of the firearms laws in Western Australia.

Mr Cowan: There is a simple solution.

Mr MCGINTY: National uniform gun laws.

Mr Cowan: Implementation of customs prohibition on the importation of certain types of firearms.

Mr MCGINTY: The Prime Minister had a number of options before him and perhaps the suggestion of the Leader of the National Party that the Commonwealth should have totally prohibited the importation of certain forms of firearms may have achieved a particular result. However, that was not the course of action the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, chose.

Mr Cowan: He did. That is the first thing he did.

Mr MCGINTY: It was not the final package about which he spoke. John Howard put a package of reforms to the States and in a series of meetings with the Police Ministers in May, June and July they were successful in arriving at an agreement that all States and Territories would implement amendments to their firearms laws in order to give effect to the package that he and the federal Attorney General, Daryl Williams, had spoken about. My impression is one of overwhelming support in the community for the notion of national uniform gun laws, and for the particular package about which the Prime Minister spoke - especially the notion that it be nationally uniform. Having said that, it was quite clear that the magnitude of the Port Arthur tragedy provided a unique opportunity to move and it was accompanied by strong action by the Prime Minister. The view expressed by the Labor Opposition, both federally and in Western Australia, was support on a bipartisan basis for the implementation of national uniform gun laws as outlined by the Prime Minister. A number of people have written to me expressing their concerns about the gun laws, and I have replied saying that although everyone in this place may have a particular view about what constitutes reasonable firearms law amendments - those views will differ among individuals occupying seats in this place - nonetheless this is an opportunity, if we put to one side our personal disagreements about the extent of the firearms law reform, to give support to the national package enunciated by the Prime Minister. That is the extent of the reform the Opposition is prepared to follow now. That maximises the opportunity to bring the other States to the standard of that in Western Australia. Each State and Territory would then have similar, in major respects identical, gun laws and that would achieve the prime objective of national uniformity.

Three very important principles will guide the Labor Opposition during the course of its reaction to the legislation before the House and the approach it adopts to it. Those three principles are: Firstly, the Opposition will support the full implementation of the national agreement arrived at between all State and Territory Governments and the Federal Government, in order to achieve national uniformity in gun laws. The support for what has been documented as the national package is fundamental to the approach the Labor Party will adopt in the debate on the amendments

to the Western Australian firearms laws. The second principle, which is most important, is that the purpose of changes to Western Australia's gun laws is to effect a reduction in the total number of guns in circulation. It is my belief, and this has been backed up by significant research, that the number of people who will be injured, killed and threatened by the inappropriate and illegal use of firearms is proportionate to the number of guns in circulation. Certainly, studies done by the Liberal Government have shown that the availability of a firearm influences the number of young people who commit suicide using a gun. In the view of the Opposition, if the total number of guns in circulation in the community is reduced - I am speaking particularly of unwanted and unused guns - it will reduce the misuse of those firearms in the community. The third and very important principle that also touches us in this debate, is that members on this side of the House want to offer support for, and not otherwise impact adversely on, the legitimate right of gun users, subject to the implementation of the national agreement. It is appropriate to approach this matter on the basis of those three principles of support for the national package, a reduction in the total number of guns in circulation, and no impact on the legitimate right of gun users.

I will deal briefly with the second of those principles - reduction in the number of guns in circulation. The Minister for Police has indicated in public statements over several months that approximately 40 000 semiautomatic firearms are in circulation in Western Australia. I hope that as a result of the legislation we are now debating, particularly in light of the significant banning - with exemptions for primary producers and others - there will be a significant reduction in the number of semiautomatic firearms in circulation in Western Australia. That is one yardstick by which the success of this legislation will be measured and if at the end of the day there are still tens of thousands of semiautomatic firearms in circulation in Western Australia, this legislation will be judged a failure.

I now deal with the important question of implementation of the national agreement. I have had the opportunity to give detailed consideration to the legislation before us and I have had the advantage of reading a number of documents over the past 18 months dealing with firearms. The first was a paper put out for discussion by the Labor Party shadow Minister for Police and me 18 months ago. In that discussion paper we put forward a number of recommendations for changes to the State's gun laws. The discipline of going through that process and giving consideration to what should happen, discussion with a range of interest groups, and receiving feedback from hundreds of people who commented on and criticised various elements of the document was a most useful exercise. It focused attention on the issues in this area, particularly as we are now dealing with the extremely complex legislation before the Parliament today. The second set of documents are the agreements arrived at by the Police Ministers, particularly that of 10 May when they gave consideration to, and substantially endorsed, most of the components recommended by the Prime Minister and the Attorney General, Daryl Williams. It dealt in great detail with what the content of state laws should be. The Western Australian Government signed that agreement. During my contribution to this debate, in relation to the first principle to which I referred, I will draw attention to a number of areas in which the Opposition believes the Minister for Police has backed away from that agreement of 10 May. Express commitments were made that are not reflected in this legislation.

Mr Wiese: You accept that changes and modifications were made to that agreement subsequent to the Police Ministers' conference?

Mr McGINTY: Yes, I do, but in my view an analysis of this legislation will show that in significant areas the Government has stopped a long way short of implementing the national agreement. I have looked at some of the legislation in other States which have fully implemented the national agreement. If this legislation is passed in an unamended form, Western Australia will no longer be the State that has the strongest gun laws in the country. Other States have, in the legislation they have passed, fully implemented the national agreement, as best I have read their legislation. This proposal, in significant respects, stops a long way short of that.

Mr Cowan: There is a big difference between passing legislation and implementing it!

Mr McGINTY: My view is that we should be considering what the Minister agreed to implement.

Mr Cowan: You drew the inference that the moment you pass legislation you have implemented it. You haven't and you know that. You should find out from your colleagues in those States how much inaction there has been in respect of those laws. They have passed laws and done nothing.

Mr McGINTY: That might be the case. I appreciate that Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales were a long way behind WA with their firearms laws. They had an enormous distance to go to catch up. I am disappointed that, in the legislation the Minister has introduced, he has walked away from his commitments.

Mr Cowan: That is not true.

Mr McGINTY: I would appreciate it if the Minister would correct me.

Mr Cowan: He will not have to. I will do it for him.

Mr McGINTY: I will allow the Deputy Premier to do that. Let us have a look at the way in which the legislation has been implemented in other States. I have particular regard for the New South Wales legislation which I think is arguably the purest form of implementation of the national agreement that I have seen. I will use that major State as a yardstick by which this legislation should be considered.

Mr Wiese: Have you asked them how they are getting on with the implementation of that purest form of legislation?

Mr McGINTY: That was the point just made by the Deputy Premier. We are talking about the legislation. One hopes that once the legislation is passed it is implemented. If the Deputy Premier wants to explain to us how the new laws are being broken in each of those States, so be it. That does not justify -

Mr Cowan: I did not say they were broken. I used your word "implementation". Go back and see whether they are being implemented before you start claiming the value of all that legislation. Go back and see how much has been implemented.

Mr McGINTY: I will go through the sections of the agreement that the Police Minister agreed to and remind him of what he said he would do in state legislation. This legislation is not what he agreed to. I have said already that I would appreciate the Minister's correcting me if I am wrong. I want to compare that which was agreed to with that which is in the legislation and to deal with those issues of contention, because I hope that in considering the points I raise the Government is still committed to the national agreement. However, in each of these areas that I will detail, the Minister has departed from them in a way that constitutes a breach of that agreement.

During the Committee stage, the Opposition will move amendments to seven areas of the legislation. I will move amendments to six of those areas, which amendments are designed to give fuller effect to the national agreement.

Mr Wiese: Are you in a position to give me a copy of those amendments?

Mr McGINTY: I will today. We discussed them in the party room this morning and adjustments have been made to them. I will be moving amendments to six areas of the legislation. Each amendment relates to specific commitments given at the Police Ministers' conference, which commitments are not being fully implemented in this legislation. Some other areas are regarded as being of an inconsequential nature but about which the legislation does not come up to standard. However, they may in time, with the proper drafting of the regulations. Some provisions of the legislation should be mandatory, but the legislation refers to them as discretionary. We are not concerned too much about those matters which might be regarded as minor departures. However, we have tried to pick up the areas about which an express undertaking was given but which have not been reflected in the legislation. I will address those in the next three-quarters of an hour.

As I said, I will move amendments to six areas of the legislation in an attempt to give greater effect to the agreement. Amendments to a seventh area which the Labor shadow Police Minister will move are designed to look after the interests of the legitimate gun owners in the community in areas where I think their interests have been overlooked. The first amendment will attempt to close the loophole in the Bill whereby primary producers will be allowed to nominate people for licences for semiautomatic rifles and shotguns, contrary to the spirit and letter of the July agreement. The Australian Police Ministers' Council did not allow for this delegation of licensing to nominees of primary producers. It is important therefore for the House to consider the way in which the Minister has handled this matter. That issue was referred to by the Minister in his second reading speech when he said -

Additionally, the regulations will prescribe specific restrictions on the eligibility of persons able to license category C and category D type firearms. . . .

Primary producers may, subject to satisfying the genuine reason test, license category C type firearms for the purpose of destroying vermin or stock.

That is unobjectionable so far. However, the Minister continued -

Where a primary producer would qualify to have a category C type firearm and is not licensed in respect of a firearm of that category, he may nominate to the commissioner another person in his place.

In instances where the primary producer may either operate a very large property or operate properties which are widely separated, the primary producer may in addition nominate to the commissioner further persons to license category C type firearms to destroy vermin or diseased stock on his property or nearby.

It seems to me that that goes a lot further than that which was agreed to at the Police Ministers' conference and it is also causing concern in the community.

The Minister would have received yesterday or today a letter stating the concerns of the Coalition for Gun Control. The first issue it raised is that issue. That letter starts by congratulating the Minister and all involved in the process

of developing the legislation. However, it then says there are shortcomings in the legislation, which is the point I am making. Its first concern appears under the heading "Number of people able to be authorised by a Primary Producer". It states -

While we understand the concerns of the Minister to allow appropriate use of firearms in a primary production settings, the provision 8(i)(ii) places no limits on the number or duration of exemptions able to be given by primary producers to another party to use category c firearms. We wish to see this provision tightened significantly to ensure that primary producers did not become de facto licensing agents.

In essence that is the Opposition's concern. The agreement reached by the Australian Police Ministers' Council on 10 May is quite clear. Item 3 of the agreement, under the heading, "Genuine Reason for Owning, Possessing or Using a Firearm", states that an application for a category C type firearm will be limited to primary producers. It also states that the applicant must satisfy the licensing authority that there is a genuine need for the use of the firearm that pertains to the applicant's occupation and cannot be achieved by some other means, and the need cannot be satisfied by a firearm under category A or B. It is quite clear that it is only the farmer or the pastoralist who is intended to be the beneficiary of that exemption. In this Bill the Minister has extended that exemption in such a way that it does not impose the appropriate limits on those people who can qualify for access to a semiautomatic weapon as a nominee of either the farmer or the pastoralist. Unless the Minister can point to a subsequent agreement or something in the legislation of which I am not aware, I believe this Bill considerably extends the exemption proposed for primary producers. In the terms that it was articulated to the APMC, the Opposition has no objection. However, in the terms in which the Minister has included it in this legislation it appears to go significantly further. The way in which it is expressed in the Western Australian legislation is rather peculiar.

I will now refer to the blue Bill, which is the consolidated Act incorporating the amendments. Section 8 of the Act will be amended by this Bill in such a way that there will be no limit on the number of firearm licences granted to a person nominated by the primary producer.

Mr Wiese: Reference to the primary producer is in the regulations. The part you are dealing with deals with the existing primary producer exemption. The legislation extends that to the employees and members of the primary producer's family. That is a totally different area of the legislation. The part you are referring to is the exemption for category C type firearms.

Mr McGINTY: Which is the regulation in question. Is there a limit on the number of people who can be licensed under the regulations?

Mr Wiese: A limit is not specified, but the licensing authority will be the Commissioner of Police. This exemption can be given only by the Commissioner of Police. Clearly, you have to deal with the varying circumstances - from pastoral properties to farming properties in the south west. The problem in the south west is that some of the properties are separated by 100 or 200 kilometres. There are very different circumstances. In each case, the person will have to get the approval of the commissioner. The commissioner is the only licensing authority.

Mr McGINTY: The Minister has watered down the national agreement in two areas. In the first instance he has allowed for an exemption that was not envisaged by the national agreement with reference to a primary producer having access to a semiautomatic firearm. The Minister has extended the exemption beyond the primary producer to others nominated by the primary producer. He has not imposed any limit on the number of people who can be nominated by the primary producer. I accept that it will be at the discretion of the Commissioner of Police. However, it is an issue that should not be subject to the Commissioner of Police's discretion because it offends the national agreement and opens a significant loophole that will allow a number of people who are not primary producers to obtain a licence for a semiautomatic weapon. That was not envisaged by the APMC.

Mr Wiese: Would you accept that I am trying to deal with the practical implementation of the resolutions, which quite clearly did not contemplate the situation where properties could be 100, 200 or 250 kilometres apart or, in the case of pastoral properties, where the distance from one end of the property to the other could be hundreds of kilometres?

Mr McGINTY: No, I do not, for the very simple reason that if it were a far more tightly constrained exemption relating to peculiar Western Australian circumstances, it could be argued that it is not something that is part of the national agreement. If the Minister were to say that the Government has stopped short of the national agreement because of peculiar circumstances and it wants a limited exemption in a particular area, which will be at the discretion of the Commissioner of Police, it would be too broad. It is not an appropriate response to say that it relates to the practical implementation of the legislation. The Opposition would be mindful of particular circumstances if a case could be put forward. However, this is too open-ended.

Dr Turnbull: In other words, you are prepared to ensure that any young man in a country town who has not got a property will never be able to use a category C type firearm?

Mr McGINTY: A number of exemptions are proposed by this legislation to give people access to category C type firearms. To strictly answer the member's question, the other people who are exempted would have access. However, if I happened to be living in Collie and wanted an exemption, the answer would be no.

The second area in which the legislation departs from the national agreement and to which the Opposition will be moving amendments relates in no way to legitimate gun owners; it relates to people who should not be given a gun licence. The national agreement included an issue that was the subject of considerable debate in the immediate aftermath of the Port Arthur tragedy and I refer to the question of giving people who are mentally unfit access to a gun by granting them a licence. It also relates to people who are inappropriate to possess a gun because of their violent predisposition, particularly if they have been convicted of offences against a person relating to violence. The Opposition proposes to amend the legislation by inserting provisions that will make sure that both applicants and current holders of gun licences who have criminal convictions for offences of violence or firearms, or have restraining orders and domestic violence orders against them, cannot be granted a licence or will have their current licence cancelled, whichever is appropriate.

I refer members to recommendation 6 of the 10 May APMC agreement, which is quite clear. Under the heading, "Grounds for Licence Refusal or Cancellation and Seizure of Firearms", the Police Ministers, including the Minister opposite, agreed that the circumstances under which licence applications are refused or cancelled must be set out, and the minimum conditions or standards that should be implemented in legislation were outlined. They fit into three categories. Firstly, the general reasons; that is, someone is not of good character or has a conviction for an offence involving violence within the last five years. The Minister has not included that in this legislation. The recommendation goes on to talk about contravening firearms laws and unsafe storage, among other things. The criticism I have of this legislation is that the Minister was a signatory to an agreement to deny a person who has been arrested and convicted of a violent offence against another person in the last five years the right to a licence to use firearms. The APMC agreement said, under the heading, "specific reasons" that where the applicant or licence holder has been the subject of an apprehended violence order, domestic violence order, restraining order, conviction for assault with a weapon or aggravated assault within the past five years, he should be barred from holding a licence to own a firearm. Again, that has not been implemented in this legislation.

The agreement included a requirement that where there is reliable reference to a mental or physical condition the applicant must be rendered unsuitable for owning, possessing or using a firearm. Again, that has not been implemented.

I appreciate that it was intended that the details of these matters would be progressively worked out by a joint commonwealth-state working party that would include health officials and police. That working party would be established to examine possible criteria and systems for determining mental and physical fitness to own, possess and use a firearm. However, the Minister also agreed that, in terms of putting the power into the legislation, we should not await the details that might ultimately be incorporated in regulations but move immediately to introduce the necessary legislative changes.

It is quite clear that the Government should have spelt out specifically the circumstances in which a criminal conviction for violence, mental health problems and being the subject of a domestic violence or restraining order or a conviction for assault with a weapon or aggravated assault would prevent someone obtaining a licence. If the Government's amendments were accepted, section 20 of the new Firearms Act would provide considerably less than that. The Government has simply put it back to the Commissioner of Police to exercise his discretion. The legislation provides that where the person is unfit they should not be granted a licence.

I refer the Minister to the earlier definition in section 11(2), which is the relevant restriction on the commissioner's discretion. Members should bear in mind that what the Government has already agreed to implement was quite specific; that is, if a person is the subject of a domestic violence restraining order or has had a conviction in the past five years for a violent offence, or if they are not able to produce sufficient medical evidence as to their mental state, they cannot have a gun. This legislation provides that where the commissioner is satisfied that a person has a history of or a tendency towards violent behaviour, he may take that into account in deciding whether that person is a fit and proper person to hold an approval, permit or licence. That is walking away from the very tight prescription that the Minister agreed to on 10 May, and to the best of my knowledge no subsequent meeting of Police Ministers has taken that approach. It is disappointing to see this watering down of the restrictions that John Howard laid out with great particularity. The restrictions would impact on those people who should not have a gun but not on those who are legitimate gun owners and users. Introducing such a watered down version of what was agreed to will expose legitimate gun owners. If the Government had fully implemented the agreement - as other States have - everyone in this State would be better off.

In case it is thought that what I am saying is a little unreasonable, let me refer members to the New South Wales legislation, which is extensive in its scope. Section 23 of that new Act deals with the revocation of a licence and provides that a licence authorising a person to possess or use a firearm is automatically revoked if the licensee becomes the subject of a firearms prohibition order or an apprehended violence order. In other words, in each of those circumstances, if a person has used violence, has a conviction for a violent offence against a person, or is the subject of a domestic violence restraining order, they lose their licence. That is quite clear in the New South Wales legislation.

One can further examine the way in which the national agreement has been implemented in New South Wales by looking at later sections of the legislation dealing with people applying for a firearms licence. Section 35 of the legislation, under the heading "Cancellation of registration", gives the Police Commissioner the power to cancel the registration of a firearm. It specifies a number of circumstances and includes reference to a person in whose name the firearm is registered being convicted of an offence under the Act or the regulations or an offence prescribed by the regulations. In other words, where a person is convicted of a violent offence against another person or is the subject of a domestic violence restraining order, that person loses his licence. That was agreed nationally and it is a long way from what is proposed in this legislation.

Mr Wiese: Does it say "can" or "shall"?

Mr McGINTY: In the first case a licence is automatically revoked if the licensee is the subject of one of the conditions. It is mandatory, not discretionary.

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: The commissioner "may" cancel the registration of the firearm if the person is convicted of an offence under the Act or regulations or an offence prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of the section. I do not have the New South Wales regulations with me.

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: It is certainly not what is proposed in the new legislation.

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: And domestic violence?

Mr Wiese: We are referring to the second part. A domestic violence restraining order is the subject of different legislation.

Mr McGINTY: But the Government is not proposing -

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: Let us work through each example.

Mr Wiese: The appropriate place to do that is in Committee.

Mr McGINTY: It is important because of the three principles I raised. The first is to look at whether the Government has implemented the national agreement. To the best of my knowledge, in no legislation or regulations is reference made to domestic violence restraining orders.

Mr Wiese: The forthcoming amendments to the Justices Act deal adequately with that.

Mr McGINTY: They are not before the House and this is the firearms legislation package. The Government is proposing further legislation that would impact on a person's ability to obtain a firearms licence.

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: Would it be dealt with in a way that would remove the right of someone to have a gun if they were the subject of a domestic violence restraining order?

Mr Wiese: Yes.

Mr McGINTY: When will we see that?

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr McGINTY: Many people expected the comprehensive response to the national uniform gun laws to be in this legislation. This is the first I have heard that there is to be further legislation affecting people's rights to own a gun. I was dealing with this as though it were comprehensive.

Mr Wiese: I am just providing information.

Mr McGINTY: There is no reference to that apart from clause 11, which deals with someone who has a history of or a tendency towards violent behaviour. No reference is made to convictions prohibiting someone from owning a firearm during the five years after the conviction. Why did the Government depart from what it agreed to on 10 May? It is not a practical application question, because legislation in the other States implements what was agreed, particularly the New South Wales legislation to which I have already referred.

Third, further amendment is necessary to insert a provision requiring safety training for a licence applicant within 12 months of the Act's coming into operation. That intention is clear from the Australian Police Ministers' Council agreement. I refer the Minister to items 4 and 5 of that agreement which the Ministers signed. Item 4 covers the basic licence requirement. The Australian Police Ministers' Council resolved that one could not make an application or obtain a firearms licence unless one had undertaken adequate safety training. I think we all agree that such training should be undertaken. It is a prerequisite of the police council agreement. Item 5, to which the Minister was a signatory, reads -

Council resolved:

- (a) that all jurisdictions require the completion of an accredited course in safety training for firearms for all first time licence applicants.

The course should be:

- comprehensive and standardised across Australia for all licence categories;
 - subject to accreditation of the course syllabus, by an appropriate authority, and a system of accredited instructors to bring prospective licensees to the required standard with a focus on firearms law, firearms safety and firearms competency;
 - outlined in a Firearms Safety Code which emphasises both safety and storage issues . . .
 - monitored as to content of courses and the skills of instructors by firearms regulatory authorities;
- (b) that a specialised course should be established for training of persons employed in the security industry.

We all agree with those points. Safety training should be a prerequisite for obtaining a firearms licence, and the system has been remiss in that regard in the past. Training will be undertaken by sporting shooting associations, gun clubs and the like in the time ahead. Unfortunately, the legislation falls a long way short in that regard.

Mr Wiese: Can I explain the situation? I thought you would be well aware of it - if you're not, you should be.

Mr McGINTY: I think the Minister will find that I am aware of the situation, but I invite him to carry on.

Mr Wiese: The working party put together by APMC is currently identifying what that training regime shall be so we can achieve commonality across Australia. That working party will be reporting to the APMC conference in November, and the regime will then be adopted, depending on exactly what it produces. If it is satisfactory, it will be put in place in Western Australia. I have made provision in the legislation to be able to adopt that agreed APMC standard of training in Western Australia. However, if in my judgment that training is not of a high enough standard for Western Australia, I will not adopt it; I will adopt a higher standard in Western Australia.

Mr McGINTY: That is fine; I have no argument with that. However, the Minister's legislation does not require that the training course be undertaken.

Mr Wiese: If I were to put that into the legislation, we would adopt the training without knowing what the agreed standard will be.

Mr McGINTY: We know that it should be an absolute and agreed prerequisite that a person should undertake a safety course of an appropriate standard when obtaining a firearms licence.

Mr Wiese: That will be the case; I have indicated that repeatedly.

Mr McGINTY: Unfortunately, the Minister's legislation uses the words - I presume it is deliberate - that regulations made under this provision "may require" a person to undertake a course. If the words "shall require" were used, I would have no problem.

Mr Wiese: If you move an amendment to change the word to "shall", I will be happy to support it.

Mr McGINTY: Good. That is my point.

Mr Wiese: No arguments - no dispute.

Mr McGINTY: I am pleased about that. In each of these areas, it seems that the least definite possible option has been included in the legislation rather than stating the requirements in a crystal clear manner, as found in the New South Wales legislation in many respects. In the light of what the Minister has said, the Opposition will be proposing an amendment to make training a requirement rather than leaving it to the discretion of the Police Minister of the day.

Mr Wiese: It will be an absolute requirement.

Mr McGINTY: I am pleased with the Minister's response.

The fourth item in which the Minister has departed from the national standard, and about which we will move an amendment, is the formal requirement for police to check both police and health records of applicants for licences prior to licences being issued. It should be the case that a person with a mental illness - not all mental illness - which renders that person unfit to obtain a gun licence not be granted a licence.

I would appreciate the Minister indicating where that provision already exists in the legislation. Undoubtedly, it was agreed to by the Minister and other Police Ministers when they met on 10 May. Item 6 of the APMC agreement was clear in referring to "reliable evidence of a physical or mental condition which render a person unsuitable for owning a firearm". The legislation makes no mention of mental capacity. Many people see the mental capacity issue as a real problem in relation to Port Arthur.

Mr Wiese: How do you suggest that the compulsory health checks be implemented?

Mr McGINTY: The Minister agreed to do it.

Mr Wiese: The APMC has established a working group to see how, and if, it can practically be done. I have included in the legislation that the medical profession make that information available to the licensing authority and have sought to protect them from any liability which may arise from that. As yet, I understand that the AMA Australia-wide has not agreed that it should be compelled to disclose what is privileged information. It is the same as you as a lawyer being compelled to disclose confidential information privileged to you as a lawyer.

Mr McGINTY: These are matters of great sensitivity.

Mr Wiese: If the health people can come up with a way of overcoming that problem, I am sure it will be recommended to us in the conference in November. Indications to date are that it is not possible.

Mr McGINTY: The legislation is silent; that is the issue.

Mr Wiese: The legislation has gone as far as it possibly can under the existing format.

Mr McGINTY: The Minister is not right. He should have regard for how the agreement entered into at the council meeting has been implemented in other States, where at least that aspect is referred to. I appreciate that the question of confidentiality of patient records arises. We seek to balance the protection of the community and the rights of the individual. However, the legislation is silent on giving police the power to require an applicant for a licence, if because of past behaviour or for whatever reason it is suspected that his mental condition renders him unfit to hold a licence, to produce a report on mental capacity at the granting of a licence.

Mr Wiese: They already have that power; it is in the legislation. The commissioner has the power.

Mr McGINTY: With respect, it is nothing more than a broad discretionary matter by which he can take many things into account.

Mr Wiese: The commissioner has the power already to require the applicant to produce any information he deems necessary. If he has any indication that the person has a potential medical condition which renders him unsuitable for a licence, he may require that person to bring the information forward. If that person does not do so, the commissioner may refuse the application.

Mr McGINTY: The Minister's legislation is silent -

Mr Wiese: I am telling you what is in legislation.

Mr McGINTY: I know what is in the legislation, and it is silent regarding mental illness as an issue to be taken into account. The Minister should not have signed the agreement to take it into account if he did not intend to do so. At least in some permissive way, the legislation should contain a signpost for the Police Commissioner - if the Minister wants it to be a discretionary matter - to take mental capacity into account.

Mr Wiese: Are you saying that Mr Howard got it wrong?

Mr McGINTY: I might have approached the matter a little differently in a number of areas of detail; however, the Opposition is prepared to take up the package in its endeavour to remove politics from the issue and ensure that the system applies in the national interest. On many occasions since Port Arthur we have offered bipartisan support for this agreement. However, in doing so, the Opposition expects the Minister to implement the agreement he signed. He has not applied his mind to an issue which causes much concern in the broader community; that is, that a person with a mental illness that renders him unfit to be a licensed firearm owner is not covered by the legislation at all. The legislation could include more reference to this area, even if it is not completely foolproof, to give effect to the national agreement and to protect the public.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Mr McGINTY: I turn now to the restrictions on category C weapons - semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. The agreement reached at the special Australian Police Ministers' Council meeting was to restrict the number of category C weapons that could be issued to any one person. I draw attention to the third resolution at that conference on 10 May, which states that category C firearms exemptions would be limited to primary producers and, more importantly, provides that a category C licence holder will be limited to a maximum of one rifle and one shotgun of the types covered by category C. As I read this legislation, that restriction has not been embraced -

Mr Wiese: I refer you to agenda item 1.12 of the special APMC meeting on 17 July which reads -

Requirement for more than one firearm of each type in Category C for very large properties

Council resolved:

- (a) that, in the case of very large properties, or where one primary producer owned a number of separate properties, more than one licence for a Category C firearm be permitted for use on that property or those properties; and
- (b) that the licence enable employees of licence holders to use the employer's firearms only while working on the property.

That is open-ended. There is no restriction. That was the final resolution of the conference on 17 July, which superseded the one to which you refer.

Mr McGINTY: It is interesting that the Minister takes that view, because the resolution to limit it to two firearms for any person, although further developed to the exception of large properties, in the New South Wales legislation -

Mr Wiese: I have pointed out the resolution of the APMC.

Mr McGINTY: The Minister has not sought to confine his legislation to the terms of the subsequent APMC meeting, which related to particular circumstances. He has left it open-ended regarding the number of firearms that can be obtained.

Mr Wiese: I will provide a copy of the agenda item 1.12. This resolution supersedes the previous date.

Mr McGINTY: I have seen it. It would be interesting to hear the Minister explain why the New South Wales legislation expressly implements the restriction on the total number of firearms that can be made available.

Mr Wiese: That legislation was passed before 17 July.

Mr McGINTY: Why does the Minister not cast his legislation in the terms of the resolution of the 17 July meeting, which relates only to particular circumstances and is not of general application? This legislation will make no restriction on the number of semiautomatic weapons that can be permitted pursuant to the exemption. The intention was to limit the number, but that there be a further extension of a particular circumstance of extremely large or separate properties. The Minister has not cast his amendment in the terms of the resolution that was adopted on 17 July. To that extent, the Minister has opened up the legislation to something far broader than initially envisaged.

I draw attention to section 8 of the New South Wales Firearms Act 1996, which relates to category C licences and reads -

The licensee is authorised to possess or use:

- (a) no more than one registered self-loading rimfire rifle with a magazine capacity of no more than 10 rounds that is specified on the licence, and
- (b) no more than one registered shotgun to which the licence applies that is specified in the licence, but only for the purpose established by the licensee as being the genuine reason for possessing or using the firearm.

It appears that the Government again is opening up an unlimited number of firearms in the restricted category for people who would qualify for a licence in that area. That was never envisaged by this Minister or other Ministers when considering this matter.

The final issue that warrants consideration is that these restrictions, particularly the designation of categories of firearms, should not be in the regulations but in the Act. That has been done in the New South Wales legislation, which lists the guns which fit into each category and the general restrictions applying to their use. That is the approach that should have been adopted here but was not. It is very dangerous for shooters, the Government and the community to give to the Minister of the day a discretion to make regulations covering such a fundamental issue. The need for clarity is such that these matters should be contained in the Act, not in the regulations. That has been done in New South Wales. Accountability requires that either the provision be contained in the Act or alternatively the Minister for Police be required to report on the implementation of the Australian Police Ministers' Council resolutions and their implementation in Western Australia. Rather than try to recast the legislation to delete these important matters from the regulations and place them in the Act, which is our preferred option - if we were in government we would deal with the matter in that way, as has the New South Wales Government - we will seek to insert a requirement in the legislation for the Minister to report within 12 months of the commencement of the Act on the implementation of the resolutions of the APMC meeting. In that way the Parliament will retain a measure of scrutiny over what goes on. It will hold the Government more accountable than simply the regulation making power and power of the Parliament to disallow, if in fact it is aware of the changes the Government might implement from time to time.

Mr Wiese: You don't have to wait 12 months; the regulations will be tabled in this Parliament.

Mr McGINTY: We think it is wrong for the Minister to put it in the regulations. This is where the public debate is taking place. Something as fundamental as this should not be left to the regulation making power; it should be in the legislation. That has been done elsewhere.

Mr Wiese: It's a pity the other States didn't put it in regulations back in 1968-69 when Western Australia did.

Mr McGINTY: New South Wales has included it in its legislation. That is exactly what this Government should be doing now. It has broken a fundamental proposition that the substantive provision of the law should be in legislation, not regulation. The Government has not honoured in this legislation the agreement it entered into. The Opposition will seek to bring it up to scratch.

DR WATSON (Kenwick) [7.40 pm]: I am pleased to participate in this debate. Like the member for Fremantle, I call on the Government to implement fully the national agreement. It is fundamental to our position. The member for Fremantle outlined a number of amendments that are proposed in six major areas to express the concern of the Opposition and, indeed, a large number in the community, that many of those agreed positions will be left to regulation. It is an important principle that the total number of guns in circulation in our community be reduced. There is no doubt that we should aim for the lowest possible number of guns in households throughout Western Australia. I regard this as a public health issue and I will explain the reasons why.

Of course I recognise, as everybody does, that there are legitimate users of and uses for firearms. They are spelt out carefully in the national agreement. My contribution is made on the basis of research, much of which has been done in Australia, and some of which is based on comparative studies with recent research from the United States of America. It is interesting to draw those comparisons.

I am pleased that in the end the State has taken decisive action that has been based on facts as well as the impetus from, of course, the dreadful massacre at Port Arthur. We have taken an open moment that has been presented before. After the national committee on violence reported in 1990 a call for uniform national gun laws met with strong resistance. I am sorry about that; I was sorry then that we lost the impetus of that open moment. In Western Australia there was another open moment when between August 1994 and February 1995 a young woman was

murdered by her spouse, and six months previously a man shot and killed his two infant children and shot and disabled their mother, after which he killed himself. We lost that moment as well. Now it is up to all legislators to act with a whole heart and a gracious embrace of that national position. That has been the position I have put to people, some of whom may be here this evening, who have canvassed the views of parliamentarians as individuals or as members of parties.

My position on gun control comes from the time I was a student nurse in 1960 and doing my eight weeks in the casualty department at Royal Perth Hospital. On successive days two patients were brought to us who had survived gunshots. One of those was a man who had attempted suicide. Because of the experience and wisdom of the charge nurse in casualty none of the student nurses was allowed to see this man's injuries. He had tried to shoot himself through his head. The other, a woman, whom I nursed and followed through to a ward where she eventually died from infection, was shot by her husband. He killed their children and then killed himself. One patient was from Osborne Park and the other from the middle of Perth. I thought: Why does anyone in the metropolitan area need a gun that can do that awful damage?

It is well known that I have developed a political commitment to a non-violent community. One component of that commitment is to reduce the number of guns, because that has been shown to reduce the overall level of violence in our community. The presence of a gun in a house makes the likelihood of death by violence much greater. People most at risk from death or injury from gunshot are the owners of guns and the families of those owners. The risks of suicide, homicide and disabling injury, whether it be accidental or purposive, are increased greatly.

The Western Australian Health Department conducted a telephone survey of the community in February this year. That was long before the Port Arthur incident on that afternoon in April. It surveyed 818 people on their beliefs, attitudes and knowledge about firearms and firearms control. It was found then that 92 per cent of Western Australians supported restrictions on ownership; 91 per cent supported restrictions on the number of guns to be owned; 98 per cent supported mandatory training for owners; 98 per cent thought that certain people should be prohibited from owning or using firearms; and 90 per cent thought that 16 years of age was too young to have a licence for a gun. In Australia 600 people on average die each year from gunshot wounds and another 600 receive serious injuries. In Western Australia, in 1993, for instance, 45 people were killed by gunshot and 33 people died from AIDS. That is a good contrast to consider. In 1991 in Australia 634 people were killed by gunshot, whereas 588 died from AIDS. That position is reversing Australia-wide. In Western Australia in 1993 there were 780 hold-ups and threats to thousands of people from gun owners.

Mr Wiese: How many of those hold-ups involved firearms?

Dr WATSON: Not all of them. I will speak in Committee about replica firearms as well. Thousands of Australians suffer from the effects of what has become recognised as post-traumatic stress syndrome after these sorts of threats and that kind of violence. A woman in my electorate in Queens Park worked in a bank. It has been her misfortune to be held up three times by an armed bandit. That woman cannot work now and she will never work again, such has been the impact on her.

The risks of keeping a firearm at home are many. With a gun at home it is 43 times more likely that it will be used for a murder or suicide of a family member than for protection. In any case, it will be outlawed to have a gun for personal protection. Eighty per cent of deaths from firearms happen to the owners or their families. A firearm increases the individual risk of violent death by a factor of 10. One must ask whether the protection offered by a gun is worth the risk to family and friends.

I will touch only briefly on the issue of suicides because my colleague the member for Maylands will talk about that. We must be concerned about the escalation of Australian suicide rates. We have spoken of it often in this place. Eighty per cent of gun deaths are attributed to suicide. In 1992, of 610 Australian gun deaths, 490 were suicides. The rates, as we know, too tragically are very high among young men aged between 15 and 24. I was interested to read again this afternoon that the rates for men over 80 are also very high. Perhaps we can discuss that in the debate on suicide. Since 1991 deaths by suicide have exceeded deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents. It is the leading cause of death in younger men. I hope this legislation will go some way to reducing those awful rates.

The rates are higher for men living in rural and remote areas. In Western Australia between 1990 and 1994, 18 per cent of all suicides were by firearms. It is always higher in rural areas where 45 per cent of suicides were due to firearms compared with 18 per cent in the city.

Mr Omodei: Forty-five per cent of what?

Dr WATSON: Forty-five per cent of suicides in the country resulted from firearms.

Mr Omodei: Of 10 or 1 000?

Dr WATSON: I have just read the numbers to members. The relationship between new firearms availability and firearms homicide and suicide in the United States was plotted between 1946 and 1982. I can point the Minister to research and a graph which indicates that the rates of homicide and suicide followed the introduction and purchase of firearms. This survey covered licensed firearms. I appreciate that this legislation may not solve many of the huge problems caused by unlicensed firearms.

I turn to issues related to homicide or murder. In 1993, 20 per cent of firearms deaths in Australia were homicides, and in 1994 the rate was 16 per cent. In Western Australia the rate was 7 per cent in 1993 and in 1994 it was 12 per cent. This number is bound to fluctuate. However, over a period the trend is fairly constant. In numerous studies of firearms deaths it has been estimated that generally the ratio of suicides to homicides is 4:1.

A Brisbane study of coronial autopsy data between 1980 and 1989 identified a number of criteria concerning homicides, particularly related to familial and spousal homicide. Of the number of people studied, 100 were women, 89 per cent of whom had been killed by family members at home. Ten of the perpetrators had suicided after killing the woman. I am concerned particularly that this legislation does not attempt to redress violence against women. I was quite shocked to hear the Minister's response to the member for Fremantle that amendments in that regard are yet to be introduced. That is a deviation from the national agreement. As the Minister will know, spousal murders are the largest single category of gun murders. Threats are made to kill, maim or intimidate women by spouses or partners who own or have access to firearms. It is not unusual for a separated man to send a bullet in the post - there is quite a pattern to that kind of intimidation - or to shoot a pet animal to demonstrate to a woman that she could be next.

Nada Faggetter, who was murdered on 1 February last year, had her case publicised through *The West Australian*. That day, and for three days afterwards, women phoned me to tell me about similar threats of death that had been made to them. I organised a phone-in over eight hours during which time 165 women phoned. Forty-seven of their partners had firearms or access to firearms; that is, 29 per cent of women who phoned about domestic violence were with men who had licensed firearms. Some of them had three, six or 10 firearms. The women were, figuratively speaking, always looking down the barrel of a gun. A woman knows that if she leaves a violent relationship where firearms are in the house and her partner says he will find her; he probably will. We know that one of the most vulnerable times for women is in the first three months of leaving a violent relationship.

Women told us in that survey of the violence and threats from partners with firearms that escalated following separation and of their fear being considerably enhanced when men owned or had ready access to firearms and other weapons. One woman had been stabbed and another had been shot during this time. Many had been hospitalised with injuries. One caller, who had been married for 30 years, said she would be endangered by leaving as her own mother had been shot by her violent father some time before. Women in relationships with violent men who have firearms and other weapons know full well that any escalation of violence when a gun is handy could result in tragedy.

We were phoned by the mother of a woman who had been shot dead, the sister of another woman who had been shot dead, a woman whose children had been shot dead and a woman in a violent relationship whose friend had been shot by her husband after she had unsuccessfully applied for a restraining order.

Earlier this year, I invited people to contribute to a memorial quilt for women and children who had been killed by husbands and fathers. One woman made a patch for this quilt saying,

Dear Dr Watson

Please find enclosed a patch. I would like to be included in your quilt.

It is in memory of my sister-in-law . . . who was killed in July 1986 by her former boy friend. She was shot in the chest and died instantly. Her youngest daughter was present. Chrissy left behind four young adult daughters and two grand children. She was 45 yo.

I take this opportunity of putting this quilt where members can see it to remind the Minister for Police that we need amendments to this legislation that will incorporate the provisions of the national agreement to prevent people who have a history of violence from owning a firearm.

The SPEAKER: You may table it for the balance of today's sitting.

[The material was tabled for the information of members.]

Mr Wiese: You talk to the Australian Medical Association.

Dr WATSON: I talked to the AMA. It sees firearms control as a public health issue.

Mr Wiese: Absolutely. You persuade the AMA to allow the committee to make information available to the licensing authorities when doctors come across a person who they believe is not fit and proper to have a firearm. Until it does that, we will struggle to have access to that information. Everybody wants to do it but until the doctors and the AMA agree to make that privileged information available to the licensing authorities, the licensing authorities will not be in a position to deal with it. We all want it.

Dr WATSON: There are two issues about fitness with which I have tried to acquaint myself. One is mental health and capacity. I am concerned that many people in the community and perhaps in the media see a florid mental illness and a kind of overt madness as being a condition of someone who should not receive a licence. I am much more concerned about people who are depressed. Parents, spouses and other people who are close to the depressed know about that. Certainly their medical advisers might know. As the member for Fremantle said, there are ethical considerations, but many doctors would be concerned to advise. As a constituency politician, if someone told me he was depressed and he was applying for a firearm, I would tell him that I would contact the Commissioner of Police. It is a public health issue; it is not about individual rights.

Mr Wiese interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, Minister!

Dr WATSON: I have not got the actual words of the agreement but this is circulated information that the community would expect. One of the conditions should be that the person had been the subject of an apprehended violence order, or been the subject of a domestic violence order or restraining order - which covers every State - or convicted for assault with a weapon or aggravated assault within the last five years. Those issues come to the notice of the police. In a statement the Minister made to the Parliament earlier this year, he said that the Government had already introduced important changes to the Firearms Act by giving police more powers to confiscate firearms from people if it was believed that harm might be caused. The Minister also said that it is crucial in domestic violence situations where innocent lives could be put at risk. Those are the Minister's words, and he said them here.

Mr Wiese: Absolutely, and this legislation makes sure the police have the power to go into houses and remove firearms.

Dr WATSON: I am concerned about this legislation because the Minister has not fully implemented the national agreement. He has been advised by the police and by lawyers on the basis of some of the doubts that he has himself. I can appreciate that.

Mr Wiese: I have no doubts.

Dr WATSON: An assistant commissioner wrote to me only a year ago after I had written to the commissioner to ask if the police could cross-match a list of licensed firearm owners with a list of men with restraining orders against them for violence. I suggested that those against whom restraining orders were currently in force and who were gun owners should be required to surrender their guns or steps should be taken to confiscate them. That is the gist of what I asked the Commissioner of Police to consider. I received an answer saying that "unless there were indications that firearms might be used by any party involved in domestic disputes, police could be accused of infringing the civil rights of the person licensed to possess firearms should they automatically seize firearms from licence holders who were issued with a restraining order".

One of the things that we are up against is the culture that accepts that somehow people have the civil and open right to own a firearm. It is a qualified privilege. That is made very clear through the national agreement, when one considers the restrictions that are put on gun use and gun users. I am concerned that now the legislation brought in by the Minister has begun to be debated he has acknowledged that clause 11, which restricts the commissioner's discretion, does not address the necessary issues.

Mr Wiese: I do not recognise that at all.

Dr WATSON: Spousal murders are the largest single category of gun murders. Those women live with threats to kill or maim and with intimidation by men, particularly when they are separated or talking of separation. The prevalence of firearms increases the level of violence. One can track that. The Western Australian Health Department research data is contained in a discussion paper to review policy and management issues on firearms control. That discussion paper was supposed to create a common policy position and practices between the Health Department and the Police Service. It was advocated and argued very well that it was a public health issue and a public health perspective was taken. Clear links between the availability of firearms and murder and suicide rates have been demonstrated by research and argument.

Port Arthur has been the catalyst for this healthy debate. We have heard a range of views expressed in the community. I am confident that my position is representative of the majority of Australians. The debate today in

Britain, following the Dunblane inquiry, is focusing on the right to have hand guns in homes. It will be interesting to follow that argument and see how it is resolved. Despite the fact that I see no reason why anybody should hold a gun in the metropolitan area, I acknowledge that people use guns for sport and some people have guns as working tools. Farmers have to use firearms, as do the police and some government workers. The local community newspaper estimated that in the Shire of Armadale there were 3 800 licensed firearms and in the Shire of Gosnells 2 900. That would mean that additionally about 1 700 unlicensed firearms are in my electorate of Gosnells and Armadale. Sure as hell there are not 8 000 farmers in Gosnells and Armadale and I am sure there are not 8 000 sporting shooters. I hope that people will be persuaded by the processes and procedures established by the Government to turn in their guns through an amnesty or the buy back scheme.

The debate during Committee will be vigorous. A number of the Opposition's concerns in those areas were outlined by the member for Fremantle. My particular concerns go to the regulations as well as the legislation. We need a number of interlinked strategies to advance the principle of dealing with this issue as a public health issue. One strategy is the legislation and structure for control, licensing and appropriate penalties. Another strategy is public education campaigns and the information that is provided by television campaigns, pamphlets and school education. Another strategy is training in the use and storage of firearms. Storage is most important. I would see appropriate storage of firearms in houses as reducing the impulsive use of guns for homicide or suicide and to reduce theft. Amnesty and buyback schemes are an integral part of the strategy, as is a coordinated effort across Government.

MR W. SMITH (Wanneroo) [8.11 pm]: To do justice to the democratic processes of Australia I will give a slightly different perspective on behalf of my constituents and other members in the community who want to look at the issue in a different way. There is no doubt in my mind and probably in the minds of all Australians that what happened in Tasmania was an absolute tragedy. Perhaps if Tasmania had decent firearm laws at the time - laws similar to those already in existence in Western Australia - that tragedy would not have happened.

I agree with the issues raised by the member for Kenwick concerning domestic violence. It is a serious crime against society, because it adversely affects the lives of all who are exposed to it. During a recent tour of the United States I looked specifically at how that country handles domestic violence. I have raised that issue previously when I have addressed this House. A special section for domestic violence should be set up within the Police Service just as special units exist to deal with abuse and sexual assaults against children. Domestic violence goes to the very heart of domestic relationships. Having said that I agree with some aspects raised by the previous speaker, I will raise other issues and give a different perspective on behalf of people in the community who feel they have been left out of the democratic process in the firearms issue. They feel that the media has taken a fairly sensational view of what has happened in different incidents involving firearms and presented the picture that all people who own firearms are irresponsible. I do not agree with that.

As a member of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Police Service for 13 years, of all members in this House I probably have had the closest association with firearms. I congratulate the Government on a pamphlet that I picked up today titled "Western Australian State Crime Prevention Strategy". What caught my eye and what my address to the Parliament today is all about is the heading "Working Together". I am sure the Minister for Police is aware of this pamphlet. It states that crime prevention is everybody's business. If the firearms legislation is meant to cure the ills of society the debate should be everyone's business. It also states that police alone cannot successfully combat crime; that the solution to crime prevention in our State involves the Western Australian community accepting the responsibility of working together towards a safer future. The important catch phrase is "working together". There are people in the community, not only in my electorate and in Western Australia but also Australia-wide, who feel they have been left out of the democratic processes, because the matter has been dealt with too quickly in an emotional state by the Prime Minister of Australia. Of all the States Western Australia has said that it does not believe in centralised government, in being pushed into things without a fair debate and a reasonable time to consider appropriate legislation. We have tried to solve some serious and intimate problems within Australia at breakneck speed rather than all Australians debating the issues at a slower pace and finding solutions. Being very much aware of the Western Australian firearms legislation, I believe that this State has a very sensible Act. Some people who own firearms and who are active gun club members feel the Act is a little severe. However, I feel it sets a good example for the rest of Australia. I have commented on a centralised government forcing issues upon the States.

The Western Australian Minister for Police tried to persuade the Prime Minister that he should change some of his rhetoric after the very serious episode in Tasmania. I wish we could respond as quickly to other issues like drunk drivers and youth crime in our State. Almost every day we read about attacks on taxi drivers. I am aware of the problems of law abiding citizens who suffer the consequences of home burglaries. A minority of people are forcing us to turn our homes into fortresses. I only wish this House responded as quickly and severely to prevent that sort of crime as it did to the firearms debate. The breaking into and entering of people's homes and the theft of motor vehicles adversely affects more citizens in Western Australia than do offences committed against the Firearms Act. Why are we not responding to those problems as quickly and with as much severity as we have responded to the

firearms legislation? I understand the feelings of the people in the other States of Australia because they do not have adequate firearms laws. They want to do something about it and we are one of the States that must follow.

I have a lot of information with me that I will read out. I do not claim ownership of these comments and I signal that I will not be involved in plagiarism. I will read from correspondence from a number of people in my electorate and in other communities.

The difficulty I have is that I am a member of the Government and I am a team player. I have argued about this issue with the appropriate people. Members on both sides of the House will vote in line with party policy; however, at times like this, I wish we could slow down. I would like to be more like an Independent and suggest that we look at this issue from a different perspective. The other important words in the pamphlet, on which so much money was spent for the benefit of Western Australians, is that to have the best effect in solving the problems arising from the breach of laws and to see justice is done, we should aim at building a community in partnership. Some people, who do not believe the legislation has been drafted in partnership with Western Australia, might respond negatively to it, saying that more time should be given in which to look at it.

In reading some of the comments that have been made in correspondence to me, the federal legislation about the identification card came to my mind. It was to be forced upon Australian citizens, including those in Western Australia; however, we fought vigorously against it because we believed in privacy and in the democratic processes and that, therefore, it should not go ahead. We, as the Liberal Party, had strong voices against the ID card, and the people won out. I will also touch on antique firearms; someone in my electorate has a museum for them. To begin, Lyndon B. Johnson said -

You do not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harm it would cause if improperly administered.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member to resume his seat. I remind him that members are not allowed to read lengthy quotations into *Hansard*. Members may make reference to large quotes, and small quotes are acceptable; otherwise the member should paraphrase the quotations he has with him. Some limitations are placed on members about what they can read into the *Hansard* record.

Mr W. SMITH: Mr Speaker, I thank you for that direction, and I will certainly adhere to it. However, on this occasion I put on the record that as a matter of democracy I wish the people could have this opportunity, through me, to voice directly what they wish to say. I believe that is in the best interests of democracy in Western Australia, but I will adhere to your ruling, Mr Speaker.

It seems to me that this is a highly relevant quotation and it applies to the Firearms Amendment Bill. It is claimed by the Minister's department that the Bill will tighten loopholes in the Firearms Act. Some people have commented to me that it does no such thing; it probably harasses, denigrates and hounds out of existence all legitimate, law abiding firearm owners.

Other people have commented to me that the legislation is draconian in the extreme. They say, for example, that it allows a doctor to declare a person unfit to own a firearm, without any onus of proof and without any comeback that a doctor can be proved to be wrong. Some in the community believe it completely removes the fundamental right of a citizen to be presumed innocent until proved guilty - something that is enshrined in our Constitution and something in which we should not only wholeheartedly believe, but also be seen to actively support. Of all who should be seen to be doing that, it should principally be the legislators of this land; that is, the members in this Parliament.

It has also been said that the provisions of the Bill allow any person to defame and denigrate another without any danger of legal consequences. This literally invites abuse. The role being given to doctors - that is, the Australian Medical Association - and to the Health Department is most interesting. It draws into question the powers of information gathering that the Health Department is given through the administration of Medicare. That information base is growing all the time. It was even suggested that the names and addresses given on Census forms should be kept. The reason given was that it would be useful to have a databank to record information about genetic diseases. I am aware that these issues have been debated on previous occasions. On the face of it, it seems a noxious reason, until we remember that the Health Department has taken an unusual interest in the affairs of private citizens.

The Health Department has also been given the power to collect money in the guise of the Medicare levy, which money will be applied to the confiscation of firearms. Some members of my constituency and other areas of the community are putting to me that the money to be raised for the buyback - I will stand corrected if I am wrong - has been raised through a Medicare levy.

Mr Wiese: That has nothing to do with the Bill. You are giving it credibility by making those sorts of statements. Do you believe that is the case?

Mr W. SMITH: I believe those people who do not appear to have the opportunity to put a reasonable case through the media should be given the opportunity to do so in Parliament. I am sure the Minister will have the opportunity of disagreeing, or agreeing, with some of the issues raised. I raise these issues here so that the Minister can stand and deny these things to the people, some of whom are here this evening. I am sure that if what I say is incorrect, the Minister will correct me. I am sure those people who are in the gallery will know that no-one can mislead Parliament, and I am sure the Minister will have the facts to correct anything I say that might not be accurate.

As members of the community have said to me regarding firearm ownership, it is ironic that the Health Department and/or the AMA is taking such a moralistic stand on the demise of gun ownership in the interests of public safety. The figures I have been given indicate that every year 13 000 people die unnecessarily due to what is euphemistically termed "medical accidents". I do not want to get involved in discussion about that figure because I am not sure whether it is correct. I raise it because people in my constituency have brought it to my attention. I have been told that half a billion dollars is being collected and spent on the confiscation of firearms. Those firearms will then be destroyed. Therefore, virtually half a billion dollars worth of firearms will be thrown into the furnace.

I have no doubt there is no place for military or semimilitary rifles and assault rifles. I am sure the Minister would agree that our Firearms Act is probably the strongest firearms Act in Australia. In some ways, our Firearms Act is superior to the Victorian Act, particularly with regard to antique firearms. Antique and curio firearms must be licensed in this State, but that is not the case in Victoria. That situation will remain under its legislation, so our firearms legislation will still be stronger.

Many sections of my constituency believe this money would be better directed to the public health system and to crime prevention education programs. One program that was raised was domestic violence. The idea generated by the media is that there is a firearms problem in Western Australia. Members of my constituency believe that is a myth. I have heard the Minister say that our legislation is the strongest in Australia and we do not have a great firearms problem in this State. The document "Firearm Violence and Ownership: A Public Health Perspective", written by Ms Jan Marshall and funded and distributed by the Health Department, bears that out. For instance, Ms Marshall quotes American figures rather than Australian figures. That gives rise to the question: Why? The answer given by sections in the community is that it is simply because the Australian figures do not add up to a problem; therefore, she is forced to use United States figures.

The Australian figures amount to about 600 firearm related deaths each year, and I am told that most of these deaths are suicides. Ms Marshall neglected to look at the reasons for suicide and reached the naive conclusion that the ownership or possession of a firearm was the cause of suicide. That is like saying that the ownership of a motor vehicle is the cause of road accidents, when the cause is the people who drive those motor vehicles. People in my constituency have argued that if drinking and driving causes more deaths than do firearms, perhaps we should regulate to take away the weapon - in this case, the motor vehicle - so that people who drink and drive cannot own a motor vehicle. If we wanted to tackle the drink driving issue, perhaps we should not have large parking areas around hotels. Perhaps we should not even have hotels if we were serious about trying to reduce deaths on our roads caused by drink driving.

Ms Marshall also neglected to do any research into the countries that have removed a means of suicide to see whether that removal has made any difference to the suicide rate. In Britain, for example, death by gassing was a common means of suicide. In the 1970s, Britain changed over to natural gas and put an additive in the gas so that leaks could be detected easily. That additive had a bad smell, and overnight the rate of suicide by gassing dropped right off, yet the overall suicide level remained constant; people simply found another way to die.

One of my constituents made the following comment about part of this Bill -

SECTION 6 - Extension of Powers. Regulations should not be left to bureaucratic construction, interpretation and processing. Without due parliamentary assent, Police will be handed more powers which could unfairly change the face of the Act from time to time without any consultation or debate with interested parties.

The Minister might like to comment on that.

One person in my electorate who has a museum for antique firearms and is a very learned doctor pointed out that antique firearms will also have to fall into line with the overall legislation, and that will deplete the genuine antiqueness of firearms, as would be the case if one tried to interfere with an antique piece of furniture or an antique painting. In other parts of Australia, antique firearms are being treated differently. He states in his letter with regard to prohibited firearms and ammunitions that almost all the militaria collectors have different types of ammunition,

which is exchanged between antique collectors, and that it is very difficult to keep track of that ammunition; in fact, it is difficult to know what type of ammunition it is because some of it is 400 or 500 years old. He also mentions the categories of firearms and states that because of age, at times the make of firearm cannot be categorised, yet the owners will be forced to put that information, which could be quite incorrect, on the forms.

Members of my constituency believe a number of matters have not been addressed adequately. They have raised a number of issues about clauses of the Bill, and I am sure the Minister is aware of that because the documentation that I have is addressed to the Minister so that he can have a close look at it, and he may like to comment on some of the difficulties with which they have to grapple. I will not comment further on the conversations that people have had with me, but I am as concerned as any other member of Parliament and any other citizen of Western Australia to ensure the protection of our citizens, and as legislators we are at the forefront of that. The concern raised by my constituency, which I represent in the democratic process, is whether the legislation is workable.

Mr Wiese: What is your assessment, as a legislator?

Mr W. SMITH: I believe, and I think the Minister would agree, we have not allowed sufficient partnership with sections in our community who have very strong feelings about this legislation. It is not for me to decide right now whether it is right or wrong. However, we should allow these people to further debate these issues in the community. The Minister will be aware that the Prime Minister has emphatically stated exactly how it will be and has determined that Western Australia will toe the line. The Minister has acknowledged that this State has the strongest firearms legislation in Australia, and for months before the tragic events in Tasmania he was considering how to improve that legislation. That event was a catalyst. I have no doubt that firearms legislation in other States was weak and I had no doubt about that when I was a serving police officer. Firearms were coming across the border through those loose links. I have no doubt that there should be uniform legislation in a number of areas, because all sorts of things can be transported very quickly across the borders. If other States had followed the legislation in Western Australia, that would have been reflected in a reduction in the number of offences in those States involving firearms.

A number of people in my electorate feel that these changes should be made in partnership with the community. However, the partnership is more or less between the Ministers, led by the Prime Minister. As I stand here I am concerned not about deciding who is right or wrong, but about the democratic process and our partnership with the community. We should put it into practice and not just talk about it. I would like to hear the Minister's views on whether this legislation has been driven by this State or by Canberra.

MR BROWN (Morley) [8.42 pm]: This Bill, like many other Bills debated in this place, seeks to establish the rights and entitlements of competing interests in our community. These competing interests are, on the one hand, those people who wish for tighter gun control - some want firearms removed altogether - and, on the other hand, those who maintain that the vast majority of gun owners are responsible citizens and, therefore, there should be no additional curtailment of their right or opportunity to own a firearm. In assessing legislation that comes before this place, particularly this type of legislation, one must consider the relative rights, responsibilities and value of the arguments put by those on opposing sides. Equally, it is a very emotive issue for those in the community. People have contacted me who have been gun owners for many years and who maintain, correctly, that they have an impeccable record of compliance with the law and that they have been, and always will be, law abiding citizens. Equally, people have contacted me who are extremely concerned about incidents that occur from time to time involving firearms. Women constituents particularly are very concerned about the level of violence, and therefore the level of firearm use, in the community. It is a matter of trying to test and weigh these competing views.

It is not only a matter of considering competing views, because one should not be persuaded to a point of view by a simplistic argument that the majority of people temporarily support one thing or the other. Democracy teaches us that people sometimes have one view, and the same people at a different time have a different view. Therefore, the responsibility lies with this place to establish the right policy prescription, irrespective of the way the political wind is blowing at any particular time. That is not easy. Indeed, it is a difficult task to provide an appropriate balance when dealing with an issue as complex as this. I am reminded somewhat of the emotion that surrounded a couple of other events, unrelated to firearms, that people perceived dealt with their personal freedom and choice. Many people will recall the significant debate that took place in the community at the time seat belts were introduced in motor vehicles. Many people objected to the introduction of the law requiring seat belts to be worn, on the basis that people involved in car accidents had allegedly been saved from serious injury or death by being thrown from their vehicle before it exploded. Many views were put forward at the time that, although there was some evidence to support the notion that seat belts should be compulsory, that evidence was by no means overwhelming. Of course, since that time Governments around Australia and overseas have adopted legislation for the compulsory wearing of seat belts, and no-one thinks about it today. It is simply applied.

Members will also recall the significant debate about the requirement to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Members will recall the petitions presented in this House signed by thousands of people who opposed the law that

would compel people to wear helmets when riding bicycles. Those petitions stated that it was an infringement of people's civil liberties and they should be permitted to ride a bicycle without wearing a helmet. Many of those who signed the petitions said they had ridden their bikes responsibly and had never had an accident. That was true. In all the arguments that come and go in this place, we must find the right policy prescription. I recall a speech by the member for Bunbury some time ago who said that when he became a member of this place he was a fierce opponent of the legislation requiring cyclists to wear helmets. However, after participating in the Select Committee on Road Safety, he had changed his view because he had examined the matter in far greater detail. Whenever this place touches upon an issue that seeks to alter behaviour substantially and to alter rights, or perceived rights, it hits a raw nerve in the community. Of course, it is always opportune if the Government can deal with these matters gradually and with great sensitivity. However, when a tragic event such as that at Port Arthur occurs, Governments do not have the luxury of dealing with such matters incrementally and as sensitively as one might like.

Equally we are all aware of the United States' influence. In Australia we watch television programs that emanate from the United States. Most members of this Parliament will have visited the United States and most of those who have examined the criminal justice system in the United States - I had a snapshot look last year when I went there - quickly realise they have nothing to learn from that criminal justice system. It is an unmitigated disaster. Under the American Constitution, everybody has the right to bear arms. We all know what that leads to in the United States in comparison with Australia. Four hundred in a hundred thousand people in the US are imprisoned, a rate five times that in Australia. However, it would be simplistic to say that that is a feature of gun ownership; it would not be correct. The United States' situation comes from a variety of differences in that community compared with ours. While there is great wealth among its citizens, there is also great poverty. That massive poverty that we do not see in Australia contributes to the violence in that society and a manifestation of that violence is the use of weapons and firearms. One cannot make comparisons and say that, because that is the situation in the United States, it is also the situation here, because a variety of factors are different. In the same way it is simplistic to say that if certain laws in Singapore were applied here, they would have the same effect in Western Australia. They would not have the same effect because the environment here is quite different from the environment in that country.

Therefore, there must be some balance in dealing with this legislation and in trying to find the right prescription. I, like every other member of this Parliament, have been lobbied on this matter. Therefore, it is important to put on the record the juxtaposition of the different submissions that have been made. A submission that was faxed to me by a considerable number of people states -

In Australia there are about 600 deaths per year from firearms. On average:

- 80% are suicides (most of these are males, with highest rates in rural areas)
- 16% are homicides (a high proportion of these occur within the family, in homes where there is a ready access to a gun); and
- 4% are unintentional ('gun accidents').

The most common form of firearm-related death is suicide. Parents who keep guns for reasons of family protection should realise that the most probable victim would be their young adult son.

A high proportion of firearm-related homicides also occur within the family. Most incidents of gun misuse result from impulsive actions and involve people with no criminal record or history of mental illness. Those most at risk from firearm injuries are gun owners and their families. Eighty-nine percent of females firearm victims are killed by family members and/or friends in their homes.

Later the submission, of which I received many copies, states -

Uniform gun legislation will bring all Australian States up to the same standard of gun control. Without uniform legislation those States with the least control will set the standard for the whole nation. At present there is no uniform legislation regarding registration, license of guns for self-defence, or restrictions on who qualifies for a licence. Gun control has been shown to reduce the level of violence in communities. The presence of a gun also makes the likelihood of a death much greater. The people most at risk of gun violence are families of gun owners, their families, and their relatives and they will be the real and immediate beneficiaries of national uniform firearm legislation. The legislation is a positive step to reducing violence in our community.

That reflects a number of submissions that were made to me. In the same vein - I will not go through all of them because there are many - I received a letter from another constituent, which states -

I wish to lodge my support for the new gun control legislation proposed. I lost a friend on Friday night in a gun accident at Borden and his precious life is now gone and so should all guns be. Being a farmers

daughter and always having a gun at my disposal I can assure you I see no need as to why any persons would need a gun.

If farmers wish to cull vermin they can employ a registered culler like they do in the north. And if farmers tell you they need them to shoot injured livestock they are full of it. Most of them consider the cost of a bullet too much.

I'm sure you are being inundated from objectors to the legislation, so please register my support and I know there are the other 16 million Australians who feel the same way but haven't taken the time to write, understanding the legislation to be unnegotiable. I truly hope this is the case.

That was the nature of some submissions that I received and those submissions were persuasive. However, on other side of the coin, I also received other submissions and these were equally persuasive. Another constituent of mine wrote in part -

To give you a bit of background I'm 38 years of age, married, have two children, run a small plumbing business and my wife is a teacher at the local primary school. We are a law abiding family with absolutely no criminal records and no person in this house has any affiliation with a gun club or a gun lobby group. Just an average Australian family.

In W.A. we have already had very strict gun laws, to which I have adhered to and quite honestly have agreed with. The automatic weapons, like the ones used in the Port Arthur massacre, have always been banned in this state and so they should be. But to ban my little 0.22 rabbiting rifle, just because its a self loader or semi automatic as the media have so often named them lately, is in my way of thinking nothing more than a major over-reaction. . . .

The fact that I'm going to lose my little rifle and the very next day I could go down to the gun shop and buy a 30.06 or 222 or even a 22.250 legally, just doesn't make sense to me. The small, low powered rifles are not the problems, the military, high powered are. The media screened stories this week about guys having these types of weapons in there back sheds. I don't want to give up my gun, but I will just to stay law abiding.

Clearly the sentiment of that letter was reflected in others I received. I will not bore the House by reading them all. However, another one which came from another constituent of mine states -

I am a licenced gun owner and user for nearly 50 years, being taught the correct usage of firearms while still at primary school, and later acquiring my own .22 calibre "rabbit gun" while still a teenager.

I consider myself a responsible firearms owner and have spent considerable money on security for my firearms and property.

It is of great concern to me, therefore, that my "rabbit gun", plus another that has been in our family for over 60 years, has suddenly become illegal and is to be confiscated.

I am opposed to the confiscation of property which was purchased legally under laws current at the time of acquisition.

I agree with the concept of uniform gun laws throughout the country, I do not agree with what appears to be the granting of unlimited powers to our police force, and I foresee the real possibility of civil rights violations.

Those few extracts that I have read indicate the views that emanate from constituents of mine. The question which must be asked is: What will be the result of this legislation, regardless of whether it is amended, and will fewer tragedies and deaths occur from firearm ownership or use in Australia? I have said to many people that we will probably know the answer to that question in about 10 years when the figures are available. The evidence which is available indicates that the lower the gun ownership, the less the propensity for that small percentage of people to use guns illegally or wrongfully. I know some very responsible people who would be mortified if their firearms were unintentionally used to maim or kill someone.

I have agonised over this Bill for some time because one must be on one side or the other. At the end of the day one must be able to ask whether there is enough evidence to indicate that there should be a change and determine what further changes should be made. It comes down to a balance of rights argument and one must ask whether the arguments are, on balance, correct. One must also determine what is the most important consideration. With this legislation there are two sets of values. One set of values is that gun ownership is a right and the other is that legislators have the responsibility to protect the innocent. Sometimes, legislators have to trample the rights of people

who own something in order to protect the rights of the innocent, and that is the nature of this debate. If it were dealing with something other than firearms, this legislation would, in this State and elsewhere, trample on a number of people's rights. Consideration must be given to the common good which will come out of the legislation. On the evidence which has been presented to me, the common good will be served. Ultimately, that is where one must rest one's position. It means that, in any orderly society, certain sacrifices must be made. People think that the law should be changed either to give some groups more freedom or to restrict the freedom of other groups.

Some time ago there was a public debate about whether laws should be introduced to compel young people to stay at home after a certain hour. A suggestion was made that those 16 years of age and under should not be allowed out after 10.00 pm. Such a law would impinge on the rights of young people. One must consider whether it is appropriate to take away their right to associate with their colleagues after 10.00 pm and whether young people cannot be trusted so a curfew should be imposed simply because 0.01 per cent of young people are offenders.

Mr Cowan: In this case you might be able to say that 0.0001 per cent are offenders. How can you justify it with firearms owners but not others? It is a weak argument.

Mr BROWN: As the Deputy Premier would know from his long experience in this place, it is a question of balancing rights. The Deputy Premier agrees with this legislation and he obviously accepts the balance of rights argument in this instance. I have not heard him oppose this Bill. Perhaps he has supported it for some other reason and the House would be interested to hear it. Obviously he has looked at the legislation quite closely. Notwithstanding the views he expressed when this debate started in the public arena, after he was outvoted he supported this Bill either openly and forcefully in the Cabinet or by acquiescence. At the end of the day, he will vote for it. It could very well be a political consideration, but a person of principle - I put the Deputy Premier in this category - would consider the balance of rights argument.

Mr Cowan: I do not see it as a balance of rights argument. There is no doubt, as stated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, that there are a lot of outside forces, but more particularly there is the Australian Police Ministers' Council. The Minister for Police has done a very good job in getting to this position. He was criticised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for going soft. Effectively, he has done a very good job in giving people who have the right to own a firearm the opportunity to retain that right. It will be modified, but they will have something they weren't going to have before.

Mr BROWN: I have studied this legislation and I am most concerned about the way it will apply to people who have certain medical problems. I am not talking about the general question of banning weapons, but about people who are unsuitable to own them. Notwithstanding the debate which has taken place between those people who oppose the legislation and those who do not, of the very few issues on which there has been agreement, the one unanimous aspect is that, because of their disposition, certain individuals should not be licensed to hold a firearm and action should be taken to remove any firearms from them. This legislation is deficient in that area.

Mr Cowan: I don't agree.

Mr Wiese: You weren't here when we had some cross-Chamber interjections. At the present moment the AMA will not agree to confidential information being made available. A committee which has been set up by the Police Ministers, which comprises representatives from each State, will address that matter and make suggestions to the November meeting of Ministers. No-one in this Chamber or anywhere else has been able to indicate how to deal with this issue. The legislation provides members of the medical profession with the ability to make the information available to the licensing authority and they will be protected from the consequences of doing that. Nobody can tell me how to go further than that; can you?

Mr BROWN: I do not have the perfect solution to it, and I will draw an analogy which does not have anything to do with firearms. When emergency services officers - police officers, prison officers and others - are required to deal with volatile situations they must do so in a way that assumes that there are certain prerequisites.

There is a real concern in the prison service about supervising prisoners who have hepatitis B or AIDS. Prison staff are not told that prisoner X has hepatitis B or AIDS. They are told that to protect themselves they must deal with a person as though they have such a disease. It is a difficult onus and it is not a perfect solution, but it is designed for their protection.

Mr Wiese: Now translate that back to this legislation. Are you suggesting that every person be treated as mentally incapable of possessing a firearm?

Mr BROWN: No, I am not suggesting that. I am using an analogy from another area.

Mr Wiese: It is not valid.

Mr BROWN: It may not be. I do not profess to be an expert in this highly sensitive area. However, I am very aware that members of the medical profession are loath to provide details of their position. Quite frankly, I find this quite unusual.

Mr Wiese: You and I both. I must try to deal with that.

Mr BROWN: There are plenty of medical specialists around the town who are more than happy to provide medical opinions to insurance companies to prove that people are malingerers and bludgers and should not be compensated, but in dealing with this issue they quote the Hippocratic oath stating that they cannot disclose this information. I do not understand the difference between the two. This matter should be addressed and pressed because it can and should be.

MR GRAHAM (Pilbara) [9.15 pm]: Like many members in this place I have received my fair share of correspondence - a stack about an inch high on the anti-gun side and the same on the pro-gun side.

Mr Cowan: Is that all?

Mr GRAHAM: That is without circular letters, because I do not deal with letters that are not addressed specifically to me. The least I expect from people who want me to read their views is that they include either my name or my title, then I will deal with their correspondence properly.

I have had hundreds of telephone calls about the gun issue. Most of the telephone calls and letters have supported gun control and most were quite constructive. However, some correspondence was disgraceful. I will deal with one such letter, and in this case the writer unfortunately found out my name. The letter was signed by Tony Pitt, the national chairman of an organisation called The Australians, based in Maryborough, Queensland.

Mr Cowan: I thought you didn't keep circular letters.

Mr GRAHAM: It was addressed to me.

Mr Cowan: So you have a circular letter addressed to you.

Mr GRAHAM: I will deal with this one. The letter states -

I served in the RAAF for twenty years and retired with the rank of Warrant Officer (Tech). In 1962 I spent time in Thailand protecting the locals from insurgents. I feel some comment is warranted on the anti-gun issue that has grown from the Port Arthur tragedy.

From the mind boggling flow of anti-gun bull dust I can see that most polties can readily grasp the apparent significance of the gun issue. How could one explain to these polties, who have never been under threat, that private and national defence also warrants consideration. A few hundred miles north, there are a million soldiers who would gang rape a girl, cut off her breasts, and chatter and laugh like monkeys as she ran blindly in terror, pain and shock, past oppressed locals who were too scared to help or even look at her, out of fear that they would suffer similarly if they were to intervene. This is a sanitised version of a report on life in West New Guinea, a country subjugated by our most serious potential threat, Indonesia. The writer said that soldiers lit a grass skirt under the girl before they released her.

That and the follow up letters sent to me by Mr Pitt represent the lunatic fringe of the gun debate. They are disgusting and I suspect that there is not a person in this Parliament who would give currency or credence to the argument; it is devoid of support.

It is a great shame that people like Mr Pitt involve themselves in the gun debate because they belittle it. Their arguments are disgraceful and I know that many shooters do not support them. I know that because they have told me and I have many friends who own guns. Many of the people who have spoken to me about guns have received that circular under various guises and are disgusted by it.

I accept that sporting shooting is a legitimate activity. I also accept that people organising themselves into sporting shooting clubs and conducting sporting shooting events are involved in a legitimate activity in our community. I respect and understand their desire to continue with their sport. There is no doubt about that and that is not the argument.

Many sporting shooters in my electorate have contacted me with some real concerns about the legislation, and I will deal with some of those concerns. I will also deal with the broad questions that have been raised in relation to gun ownership. About five minutes of my speech dealing with balancing conflicting rights was addressed by the member for Morley, so I will not repeat what he has covered. However, the issue is about balancing conflicting rights in our society. The Port Arthur massacre has clearly focused the nation's attention. There is no doubt that Governments

across Australia, of whatever political persuasion, have firmly grasped the question of gun control and registration. There is equally no doubt in my mind that this is the course the public wants us to follow.

This legislation is designed to achieve a number of things. First, it will achieve uniform gun control and universal registration of firearms and ban all automatic and semiautomatic weapons. Clearly, State Governments and the Federal Government have the respective powers to take the actions they are taking. We have heard a lot of rhetoric about bills of rights and so on and whether Parliaments have the power to pass laws of this kind. The Government does have the power to do what is set out in this legislation provided the Parliament approves.

In terms of what the public wants and expects, for most of my time spent in this Parliament people have written letters to me or to the newspapers saying, "The trouble with you damned politicians is that you don't listen to the public." Undoubtedly, even if that were true, the reverse is true on this issue. Politicians around Australia are listening to the public, and the public want gun control. People can play with statistics but undoubtedly the public want gun control.

Many of the arguments proposed by the gun lobby are effectively United States or Eastern States based arguments; principally, the right to bear arms is a National Rifle Association argument imported from the United States of America into Australia, ignoring the fundamental difference in our Constitution and the fundamentally different role which the National Rifle Association plays in America when compared with that of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia. They are fundamentally different organisations with different laws and constitutions. I will deal a little later with the right to bear arms argument.

The United States argument about the right to bear arms does not transpose to Australia in any way, shape or form. Also, a lot of Eastern States arguments about gun control and reform have no relevance in Western Australia for one reason; namely, that Western Australia has never allowed unrestricted and unfettered gun ownership. From day one of the colony some form of governmental control has been in place and laws restricting ownership of weapons have applied. In no period of history has unrestricted gun ownership been permitted in Western Australia, and I suspect that that will always be the case. For 150 years Western Australians have said that they do not want unfettered gun ownership in this State.

Interestingly, when widespread debate ensued about the need for gun control, the reason the Minister for Police gave for Western Australia not needing gun registration was that we had the most comprehensive gun laws in the nation already. I do not necessarily agree with where the Minister took his argument, but I agree that we have comprehensive gun laws in Western Australia which have significantly restricted gun ownership and imposed obligations and restrictions upon owners and those who use guns.

Six broad issues have been put to me by the gun lobby as reasons for not restricting gun ownership further. The first argument thrown up by the group I had previously described as the lunatic fringe of the gun lobby is the Bill of Rights argument; that is, that citizens have the right to bear arms under the Bill of Rights and Parliaments have no right to amend that right. A somewhat convoluted argument suggests that the powers of Parliament and its law making ability are somehow diminished by the Bill of Rights. I have spoken to clerks about the matter, and none of them could suggest any substance to that argument. I do not profess to be a constitutional expert, although I have dipped my toe on matters Bill of Rights recently. Undoubtedly, there is a Bill of Rights, but Parliament reserves the power to make and amend legislation. Successive Acts of Parliament have transferred that right to Parliament. We clearly have it, and no sensible and clear argument could be mounted or countenanced that the Parliament of Western Australia has no sovereign power to make laws in relation to firearms in Western Australia.

The second broad issue raised by opponents to any form of gun control is that in effect the legislation is introducing a police state in Western Australia. Clearly, that is nonsense. However, some shooters have raised with me legitimate concerns about the powers being passed on to the police and the processes and procedures the police will be required to follow when dealing with the right of entry and right to seize people's property. I share some of their concerns, and I will raise those matters with the Minister during Committee. However, I come from the position that it is not unreasonable that when no threat exists to life and limb - a matter assessed daily, if not hourly, by the police - they should not have unrestricted right to enter property or premises.

As a justice of the peace, police come to me regularly for search warrants. I find some of their arguments "interesting". It always surprises me how quickly they can find more evidence to substantiate their case when one initially says to police, "No, I do not think you have enough evidence to search the premises." Either that, or they find another JP. They can always do whatever is needed to gain the warrant to search premises. I do not accept the premise that we are all in danger and that the police need the right of entry in an unrestricted and unfettered manner. The history of the world indicates that where authority is given unrestricted powers, those powers are used to the detriment of the general public. Our system depends for its very existence on checks and balances; that occurs throughout all our processes. Therefore, I see no reason for this area to be any different. People have raised those concern with me, some of which I share and I will raise during Committee.

The third broad issue raised by the opponents of gun laws is that people will not comply with the legislation and, by not complying with the legislation, the legislators will be making criminals out of effectively innocent people. It is an interesting argument. It is unlike me to quote Malcolm Fraser, a luminary and guru on whom I do not usually rely. However, he wrote an excellent piece in *The Australian* of 23 May titled "Gun controls guard freedom of the many", in which he made the following point regarding the argument that people would not comply with the legislation -

Now we find the gun lobby speaking out against uniform, nationwide regulations. Indeed, some are speaking out against any controls at all. The arguments that are being used are generally invalid. It is said that only law-abiding and honest people will abide by the new provisions, that anyone who wants to ignore the law will break it, and therefore what is the point of having a national system of registration and control.

That is a strange reason for not making a regulation or law. It could be used with equal strength against laws prohibiting burglary. The fact that only law-breakers will break a law is no reason at all not to have the law.

This is one of the few occasions in my adult life on which Malcolm Fraser and I agree.

It is nonsense to say that people will not hand in their guns or not comply with the legislation which will ultimately be the law of the State, and that because people say they will not abide by the law we should not pass it. Imagine what would happen if we received a delegation from drunken drivers who said that we should not set alcohol limits for driving, because they would be the only ones caught. We would ignore such a delegation. It is not an argument we would consider in anyway. We will pass laws for this State which are the best that we as a Parliament can aim for. In this case, the law is to protect our citizens from each other, not from us. I have not shot anyone lately - I do not know about other members!

The fourth argument put with the same vehemence by the anti-gun lobby relates to defence. I referred to that before with the rather distasteful piece from people in Maryborough, Queensland. I have received many letters from people pointing out that in dire emergency the national defence of Australia depends in some way on people having guns in their houses. It is an interesting argument. Defence is not a state matter, it is a federal matter. I am not sure that the plans and strategies we have in place for the defence of the realm include the rabbit-oh's 0.22 fighting off the screaming hordes from whatever country and from whatever direction. It is a somewhat novel concept. The people who pursue that argument missed "Desert Storm", the Middle East wars and a few others. Household weapons are not used in any meaningful way in modern warfare, and neither should they be.

The fifth point raised by the anti-gun lobby is a little close to the bone for me; that is, the question of uninformed politicians. Most letters begin by pointing out that I do not know anything about guns and that if I did I would not support this legislation. The same goes for all my colleagues, both state and federal, and for all political parties. Probably more than other criticisms in politics, that is the one that gets up my nose the most. I thought my six years in the Australian Army would have given me some familiarity with weapons. If that did not do so in the general sense, I thought my three years as an infantry soldier might have given me a working knowledge of the odd weapon or two. Even if that were not the case, I still maintain a close relationship with the Pilbara regiment, which would at least allow me to understand which end of the weapon the bullet comes out. More than any of the others, that argument annoys me, because I am aware of the time, effort and energy people have put in at federal and state level, and across all political parties, to try to understand the issues, and what is involved in gun ownership. I am sure that many people who started out dealing with the question of gun ownership now know a lot more about guns. I suspect a few of them know a lot more than they ever wanted to know.

We cannot defend politicians publicly, and I do not try, other than to say I find that kind of letter writing to members of Parliament a cheap defence. If people cannot find anything to say other than that I am an uninformed politician, why bother to write to me? Why bother to try to change my mind if I am an uninformed politician? It is certainly not an attempt to inform me with those sorts of letters.

Mr Kierath: You are tempting us!

Mr GRAHAM: I am relying on the Minister's goodwill, so it is a double temptation.

The sixth argument put to me regularly in the past is that people need semiautomatic weapons to control feral animals. The people who control feral animals for the Agriculture Protection Board usually use bolt action weapons with telescopes, and fly around in helicopters. Very few kangaroos, donkeys or camels running around the north west carry weapons and shoot back at people from the APB. I have been out with some of the shooters and they are pretty good shots. They have brought under control a large number of feral animals in the north west. The changes made to the APB by the Minister for Primary Industry will do more to lead to an increase in vermin in the north west than will the shooters who use bolt action rather than semiautomatic weapons.

Having addressed and dispatched relatively easily the six major issues raised it leaves us with the problem of what to do. Without doubt, people want the gun laws to be significantly tightened. People have expressed legitimate concerns that fall into four groups. The first is the extra police powers - the power of entry without warrant. I have not had a serious argument put to me that police should not be able to seize weapons if they are held illegally or if they are used in armed robberies or assaults. However, the question arises regarding the right of entry and search by the police. We will deal with those matters during Committee.

The second point raised with me deals with the level of compensation and whether it is fair and equitable. I understand that is set by the Federal Government, and is not something over which the Minister has direct control. However, I will be interested to hear the Minister's views on whether the level of compensation is fair, particularly for people who have large numbers of collectable weapons. Some people collect military and antique or ancient weapons. People collect all kinds of weapons. I look forward to the Minister's response as to whether those people will be adequately compensated. More importantly, people collect many of the top level shotguns, which are very valuable. I know people who have two or three of those weapons which are classified under the Act and must be handed in. The question is whether at the top level people will receive a fair compensation and whether they can appeal against the compensation offered. An additional question is not directly related to compensation for the weapon: A number of people have approached me saying they have a semiautomatic weapon of whatever description, and they are prepared to hand it in and receive compensation in order to be law-abiding citizens. However, they may store the weapon in a gun case worth between \$250 and \$2 000; or the weapon may be fitted with specialist sights, scopes or stocks, or they may possess additional barrels for some of their specialist weapons. Those people want to hear from the Minister whether they can be compensated for that; and, if so, how they go about it.

Mr Wiese: Yes, they can. I will deal with that in my response.

Mr GRAHAM: I thank the Minister; I appreciate that. I was nearly going to deal with the Nungarin Shire Council, but I will not. I received a rather silly letter from the shire to which I responded. Members can consider the shire dealt with. It wants more money for mental health. I am sure it has written to the local member and pleaded the case for more money for mental health and that that money will be forthcoming. I look forward to that.

I will deal with much of the detail I want to raise in Committee. I do not want to leave the House and the public in any doubt about where I stand on uniform legislation and I am happy to say where my party stands: We support uniform gun laws and registration. I am happy to support the consequential reduction in the number of guns that will be available in Western Australia and, it is hoped, nationally. I have no difficulty standing for that and I have no difficulty supporting that. I am told that the shooters will probably run a candidate against me in the seat of Pilbara. If that candidate wins and I lose on this stand, I am happy to go out of politics having fought it on that issue. However, I suspect that it will not be an issue in the election. In any event, I am relaxed if it is.

On few issues in my adult life have I heard such clear and informed direction from the public on what it wants from its politicians. There is no doubt, however people play with statistics and polling, that across Australia people want the gun laws changed, and there is no doubt that people want fewer guns in the community.

MS WARNOCK (Perth) [9.42 pm]: Like my colleague the member for Pilbara, I am pleased to support uniform national gun laws, and I put on record my agreement with the Government's Firearms Amendment Bill and my conviction that it is vital for Australia to dissociate itself right now from the gun culture that has gripped America in recent years and, in my view, has turned it into an undesirable place to live. Although I support the Government's general approach in this matter - I will explain where we disagree - my opposition colleagues will present numerous amendments. I look forward to the Committee debate.

Mr Wiese: I hope they do so fairly soon, because it would be helpful to be able to see them.

Ms WARNOCK: I am sure the Opposition's lead speaker will present those to the Government. I feel sure that we will have a vigorous discussion about all of those amendments in Committee.

I am pleased that this blow should be struck for the millions of Australians who simply do not subscribe to those views that members have heard circulating in the community lately about a spurious "right" to bear arms. Several of my opposition colleagues have mentioned this. I believe there is no such thing under the Australian Constitution. In my view there should not be, and I would like to see discouraged any suggestion that there is. That suggestion is erroneous and it does not help the discussion when people throw that in to make their point.

Most Australians do not understand why some Australians want to own guns. They do understand that some people belong to legitimate sporting shooters' associations. They understand that farmers and vermin hunters have a good reason to own guns. They understand that Army and police officers have a reason for carrying guns. However, in general they do not understand why people living in suburban homes or in parts of the country have a desire to own guns or why they should be able to own guns.

Like everybody else in this House, I have been lobbied extensively by people on both sides of this argument for several months. Most Australians believe we should be very careful about who owns guns in this country and why they want to own guns. According to everything people have been telling me, most Australians believe the only people who should own guns are officers in the Army and the Police Force, sporting shooters and some farmers and hunters. According to what I have been reading about this matter, there is no way that most Australians believe any right exists to own a gun. From what I have read and heard, and from what people have told me, most people want to keep guns out of suburban homes.

Women, for example, are mostly very pleased that Western Australia, which already has tough gun laws, will make its laws tougher because they fear the careless proliferation of weapons in society and the terrible damage those weapons can do. A domestic argument, a disagreement about custody, can have appalling consequences if someone has easy access to a gun and the inclination to resort to it. The more guns that are available in society, the easier it is for people - the wrong people - to get hold of them and use them in armed robberies and domestic quarrels. It is for that reason that my colleague the member for Kenwick and I are so concerned about the proliferation of guns and why we support the attempt by this Government and the Federal Government to cut down the sheer number of guns in the community.

Members have heard the arguments about how this legislation will affect only legitimate gun owners and will not deal with unlicensed guns. That is something we can discuss in Committee. I dismiss those arguments. Any attempt to reduce the proliferation of guns so that we do not have the situation that exists in America, where apparently guns are available in every corner store, is an attempt that we should support.

The Federal Government's buyback scheme has started in most parts of Australia and large numbers of now illegal weapons are coming in. I and numbers of other people in the community, among them many of my colleagues, are pleased to see the overall reduction in the number of weapons. We consider this a very good thing. It is one of the main reasons we are prepared to support this Bill. This is despite research that has been circulated by some sections of the gun lobby - I do not say all sections, because I have heard from a number of people who are legitimate sporting shooters or who have used guns all their lives, plus some who would perhaps be among the more extreme members of the gun lobby - that suggests it makes no difference how many guns are circulating in the community. I do not see how that argument can be supported. I do not often agree with John Howard, but I agree with him in this instance when he says that the proliferation of guns is something that this legislation and Houses of Parliament around Australia should be concerned with.

Material I was given from one lobbyist on this subject suggests that the only thing that caused gun crime was violent movies. A number of different views have circulated about this. That was one view that I found myself disagreeing with. I believe excessively violent popular culture in movies, on television and in video games desensitises all of us to violence and to the effects of violence. I believe also, as some antigun lobbyists have said, that we should endeavour to teach our children, particularly our sons, not to resort to violence to sort out personal problems. I received some material from one men's group which suggested not only that we should concentrate our attention on removing excess guns from the community but also ways that we may remove violent activity from the community and look for other ways to sort out our personal problems.

Mr Omodei: Like playing marbles?

Ms WARNOCK: There are all sorts of things that can be done rather than biffing people. I would be happy to give the Minister a few suggestions if he wants to have a chat with me later about it. Several years ago the peace movement suggested non-violent resolution of conflict. I do not think we have to biff people on the chin to resolve arguments. The Minister may seek to biff a number of people on the chin, but we have managed to have reasonably civilised arguments in here without resorting to that sort of thing.

Mr Kierath: Tell us about some of your union people.

Ms WARNOCK: No; not at all, I was not thinking of them. I was thinking of some other people I know. Above all we must reduce the number of guns available in the community and the opportunities for people to acquire dangerous weapons that all too easily can be used against other people. To say, as some gun lobbyists do, that guns do not kill people, people do, frankly is too simplistic. It is an argument we have heard too often in this discussion. There is no reason for most people to own guns in our suburbs. We should discourage any suggestion that it is just like owning any other thing such as a vase or a football. It is not. Guns are made to kill either people or animals or, in the case of sporting guns, to hit a target. If they fall into the wrong hands they become lethal.

At a rally earlier this year which my colleague, the member for Kenwick also attended, a woman whose two young children were killed by her estranged husband read a poem to the rally. She was quoted later in newspapers as saying, "Ban them, don't take any chances with guns . . . they are a danger, they cost lives. People say that 'guns don't kill;

people do'. But guns make it very easy and very quick, particularly when they are automatic or semi-automatic." Her husband, who later killed himself with a gun, in order to buy the gun had apparently forged a letter from a farmer saying that he could shoot vermin on the farmer's property. That is one of many reasons that we should limit the number of guns available and make it very difficult for some people to buy them.

I take much the same view about this issue as my colleague, the member for Kenwick. What I have seen and heard of violence against women makes me determined to find any way of reducing that often fatal violence. Reducing the number of guns is one way; prohibiting some people from using guns is another; raising the age at which people can own and use guns is another; banning automatic or semiautomatic weapons with some exemptions is another; and asking people to demonstrate a good reason for owning a gun, such as belonging to a sporting shooters' club, is another.

Like my opposition colleagues I have some reservations about this legislation and will try to persuade the Government to take some of those amendments into account. However, in general I support the thrust of this Bill. As I have mentioned in this Parliament before, I grew up in the bush and am very familiar with the everyday use of weapons. In my family there was no such thing as sporting shooting. We shot animals to eat and when we were practising shooting we had to shoot jam tins off a fence post. We were brought up very strictly in the way we used guns and were never allowed to point them at anyone for any reason. In general we were given the training to use guns that I believe should be given to anyone who wants to use a gun legitimately. Despite this particularly careful way of learning how to use guns, from time to time guns were stolen and misused by other people.

People say that we should not turn ordinary people who want to own guns into criminals. That is not what this legislation is trying to do and it is certainly not something that I intend to do. The plain fact is that the sheer number of guns in a community, bought for whatever legitimate reason and stored in households in a way that is not quite secure, can result in a fatal event down the track if the wrong person gets hold of a weapon. That is one of the very good reasons for being strict about how we give people permission to use guns, how we license them to use guns, how we store guns and how we treat guns generally.

My own experience of guns has taught me that we should be more strict about their use. That is one of the reasons I support the Government's legislation in general. I agree with my colleague, the member for Morley, and others that we must balance the interests of legitimate gun owners and not make the lives of people who have a good reason for owning a gun and who use it carefully, unbearably restrictive. In any community we must weigh up the interests and rights of people and take into account the common good at the same time. If we weigh up those matters and consider this issue from both sides we will appreciate the very good reason for supporting the views of the majority of people throughout the country who believe that we need stricter gun laws than we have had in the past and that we need uniform national gun laws. It seems to me that there are concerns about the use of guns in our community.

There certainly seems to be a legitimate concern about the level of violence in our community. As a woman I have a strong reason for wanting to cut down that level of violence as women are so often the victims of it. For that reason and many others, such as my interest in the views of the general community, like most of my opposition colleagues, I support this legislation.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [9.57 pm]: I speak in support of this Bill. I have some concerns regarding details of the Bill which largely I will leave to the Committee stage. I also have some concerns about the handling of this matter by the Government. I will address three main issues: First, the importance of establishing uniform national firearm laws. Secondly, it is important that we reduce the availability of guns in our community. I will give reasons why I think that important step must be taken by this Government and even more so by Governments in other States that have had less strict gun laws in the past. Thirdly, it is important to acknowledge the legitimate use and enjoyment of guns by many respectable and law abiding citizens in this State. That is an area where this Government has fallen down. Although it has consulted interest groups in framing the details and mechanisms for implementing the legislation, I do not believe the Government has taken full advantage of the expertise of individuals and various groups who know much more about guns than I do.

Western Australia is clearly recognised as having had strict, if not the strictest, gun laws for some time. Clearly the Labor Government in the 1980s played a part in ensuring Western Australia had tight gun laws. We also tried to achieve a uniform approach to licensing and restricting guns in the other States so that they had similar laws to those in Western Australia. The current Government has recognised and has built on what it inherited. It has gone a little step further so far with the legislation controlling guns, which relates mainly to giving the police powers to confiscate guns in certain circumstances. I accept that the Government has tried to build on the legislative framework that we have in Western Australia to ensure that guns are used properly and that they are not available to people who may use them incorrectly, and where there are illegal guns in the community it has taken appropriate steps to reduce them. That is continuing a policy that we have had in Western Australia for some time.

The need to establish uniform gun laws has been quite evident through a whole range of incidents and traumas that have arisen. One that sticks in my mind was the German tourist in the 1980s who was able in Queensland to purchase high powered weapons not available in this State and then travel through the Northern Territory and the Kimberley shooting people on the roadside. That drove home to people the need to establish uniform gun laws across Australia. Although having tight gun laws across Australia would not have made those acts of madness impossible, it would have reduced the opportunity if Queensland and other States had the same strict legislation as we had in Western Australia and which we have now in perhaps a slightly tighter form.

Incidents like that clearly impressed on the public generally that it was silly for a nation such as Australia to have a range of different laws applying to guns in each State. Clearly, simple administrative matters of law apply to people who have licences for guns and who are moving from one State to another. They need to take into account the original requirements of the State. At an administrative level it made good sense for States to arrive at a consensus on legislation for gun licensing. Although people could say rationally that such a national approach was a very good idea, it was very difficult to achieve. A whole range of interest groups in different States did not want to change their positions for whatever reason. A large planning problem was trying to establish that uniformity which the Labor Government in the 1980s tried to achieve. We found from time to time that in certain States there was interest in tightening the gun laws and coming closer to those of Western Australia and other States which had fairly strict legislation. They tended to be rather passing fads, depending on what trauma or incident occurred in any given State at any given time. We did not have anything which drove all the States collectively to try to achieve a uniform approach.

Of course, we found in April 1996 that the shootings at Port Arthur were a traumatic event not just for the State of Tasmania. The magnitude of that disaster was such that it was a trauma for the nation. It impressed on the whole nation that it was time we adopted a national approach to gun legislation. The Prime Minister, rightly I believe, acted promptly in the wake of that tragedy. One might say perhaps that he was abusing the opportunity, and I have certainly heard that criticism levelled at the Prime Minister. However, I do not think it is fair because, as I have said, incidents and traumas occur in Australia from time to time. They led to a very clear revision of the needs of a State without necessarily producing any impact on other States. It is right and proper that the Prime Minister, realising the mood of the nation following that tragedy, used it to try to establish uniform gun laws across Australia. One could argue about the standard of that uniform legislation, but clearly it has been arrived at. I will not revisit in detail what might or might not have been in any national standard. The Prime Minister's initiative was to use that opportunity to establish a standard, and that is what we are doing with this legislation in great part. In some areas this legislation varies from the agreement reached with the Commonwealth Government and other States. I will touch on that a little later.

The enactment of legislation for the control of guns constitutionally lies with the States, and, therefore, it is difficult for the Commonwealth Government to drive the process. It was only as a result of the Port Arthur incident that the Prime Minister found that he had such a huge weight of support nationally behind him that he was able to be quite forceful in ensuring that States arrived at a national uniform agreement on gun control. Having done that, I feel critical of the Western Australian Government. It consulted with the interest groups, and I recognise that. It consulted on what major provisions should be in the uniform legislation. However, I do not believe that the Government has consulted in a thorough and proper way on the fine detail and this legislation is lacking because of that. At the Committee stage the Opposition will be moving amendments to try to tidy up some of those areas. There are many we could go over. We will be looking at a limited number of areas where major improvements could be made to the legislation.

I have had many approaches from gun owners in my electorate. I respect their point of view. Many have been critical of the way in which the consultation process has been carried out by the Government. I say quite openly that I am no expert on guns. However, when those constituents have expressed concerns I have listened earnestly. Quite often I have had to say up front that I do not agree with their basic premise in some areas but I accept their understanding of what will or will not work with respect to the legislation. If we do not listen carefully to people who have an interest in and a knowledge of what gun owners will or will not do and what is possible in a realistic sense, the legislation will be deficient in a major way.

We have some genuine concerns that this legislation will be deficient in certain areas. This Government in its three and a half years in office has shown itself generally incapable of undertaking a proper and thorough process of consultation. That is why the Government has fallen down here. It does not have the expertise and has not had the practice of consultation. Therefore, although the Minister has been quite genuine in going out and listening to groups and has tried to take on board the various interests, I do not believe there has been the expertise in government to drive the process as effectively as it could be.

I will go through the history of how this has unfolded to give some substance to that allegation. Back in June 1995 the Labor Party put out its policy paper for discussion on tighter gun laws. That received a fairly positive response from the wider community. We were trying to see how we could improve the gun laws. We were thankful for the feedback we received. Although there was not total agreement, there was agreement that we were embarking on the process of consultation in a proper way. The Government was a bit embarrassed and was caught out by the fact that the Opposition was engaging in a proper process of consultation to see how gun laws could be improved. It issued a number of press releases about what it was working on. I accept that it was working on legislation, but we did not see anything in the light of day back in 1995. Then on 28 April 1996 we had the shootings at Port Arthur and the consequent trauma in which this country was caught up.

Prime Minister John Howard moved quickly to establish uniform gun laws across Australia. On Friday, 10 May 1996 the Australian Police Ministers met and agreed in principle on uniform gun legislation. The Prime Minister called Police Ministers together and arrived at some form of agreement less than two weeks after the shooting incident at Port Arthur. The details were not ironed out; however, there was general agreement that some sort of uniform approach would be taken and the outline of those initiatives was then available. On 15 May this Minister introduced the Government's Green Bill. That Green Bill was sold as a response to Port Arthur and to the Prime Minister's initiative on uniform gun laws.

Mr Wiese: It was not, and you know that is not true.

Mr KOBELKE: That was the perception of the people who came to me, Minister. That was the message that the Minister conveyed, whether he meant to or not. The Minister should go back over the chronology: The Minister did not release the Green Bill prior to the Port Arthur massacre on 28 April. On Friday, 10 May the Minister went to Canberra and met the Commonwealth Government and other State Police Ministers. On 15 May, when the media were totally saturated on the issue of uniform gun control across Australia, the Minister introduced into this Parliament what he called a Green Bill; it should rightly be called a discussion paper on tighter gun legislation. In the media coverage of the issue it was perceived to be part of the Minister's response to the Prime Minister's request for uniform gun legislation. By way of interjection the Minister admitted that it was not.

Mr Wiese: I did not admit it; I stated it categorically. If the member thinks anyone could prepare that document in the two weeks between Port Arthur and the Ministers' council, he is mistaken.

Mr KOBELKE: Why did the Minister introduce it; why did he not hold off and introduce legislation to achieve uniform legislation?

Mr Wiese: It was already in the process of being introduced when Port Arthur occurred. I held off bringing it into the Parliament, because we were trying to pick up some of the resolutions out of the APMC on 10 May and include them in the Green Bill before I brought it in here. We did that between Friday, 10 May and four days later.

Mr KOBELKE: The Minister has admitted it was, in part, a response to the drive for national gun laws.

Mr Wiese: Two or maybe three items were added to that Bill.

Mr KOBELKE: The Minister is giving added weight to the proposition I am putting that the general perception in the community was that the Minister's Green Bill or discussion paper was in some ways addressing the push for uniform gun laws. That perception was created deliberately. It was a false impression. Although the Green Bill and the Bill before us now have common elements, they are different Bills. However, the perception in the community was that the Green Bill was the Bill that would be debated in Parliament. I know the Bill stated that the Government was not committed to it. That was part of a con job. If the Minister were absolutely serious about what the Government wanted to do on gun legislation, he would do as the Government has done with almost every other Bill; he would introduce the Bill and say, "This is what we intend to do. We are open for discussion, and we may move amendments in the light of that discussion." That is not what the Minister said. He made it clear that his Green Bill was no more than a discussion paper and the Government was not committed to it. However, that was not the perception in the community. I have had feedback from people in various sectors and certainly from members of the gun lobby, who spent many hours going over the Green Bill working out its implications. However, when the Minister introduced this Bill on 26 September they found it was a different Bill and they had to do the work on that.

Mr Wiese: The whole point of a Green Bill is to get public comment. Then one takes notice of the comments that are made and incorporates those into the legislation one brings into the Parliament. It is what I said we would do when I introduced the Green Bill, and it is exactly what we did.

Mr KOBELKE: The Minister's own words reinforce my comment that this Government has a dismal record in engaging in a proper process of public consultation. In effect, the Minister has misled the community into thinking that his Green Bill was what the Government was trying to do with uniform gun legislation, when he has admitted

it was not. The Minister cannot make the statements he has just made without putting them against the backdrop of what was saturation media coverage on uniform gun legislation. It was on the news almost every night from the first meeting of the Australian Police Ministers' Conference on 10 May, through the long debate as to the detail on crimping and many other issues, through to the final agreement at the meeting of the Australian Police Ministers' Conference on 17 July. That debate about uniform legislation to control guns across Australia was in process in the newspapers and on television and radio almost every day, yet the Minister is saying that he was trying to run a proper process of public discussion on a Green Bill, which was a different thing. No-one in the community believes that was a proper consultation process. It was a con job. I am not saying that at the same time the Minister was not holding meaningful discussions with individuals and groups who were concerned about those issues.

Mr Cowan: No-one could have a meaningful discussion with you. That would be impossible.

Mr KOBELKE: I am getting under the Deputy Premier's skin. I am usually making sense when the Deputy Premier starts to grunt and groan.

Although the Minister listened to individuals and tried to take on board their comments, in the broad picture, the Government did not put in place proper consultation on the detail. The Government had people tricked into thinking the Green Bill was somehow what the Government was really about, when uniform legislation was a different issue. There was some commonality between the two Bills, but they were different. In that respect, this Government has sold the people of this State short. It has not ensured that the fine detail of this legislation is as good as it could be.

There is overwhelming support for reducing the number of guns in our community. This has some implications for the owners of guns that they would clearly not be happy about. The community has needs and the legislation respects those. Those people who are involved in the sporting use of guns will continue with their sport. Those people who are involved in collecting guns as a hobby will be able to continue, although there will be some implications for them and further restrictions. Farmers who have use for firearms will be able to avail themselves of guns. However, many guns in our community do not fulfil a useful need. They are simply in a cupboard and they may have been there for years; some are licensed and some are not. In metropolitan Perth many people have guns who cannot justify the need for hanging on to their guns. They are not involved in shooting as a sport, they are not serious collectors, but they simply have a gun under the bed or put away in a cupboard.

Mr Cowan: How will you make people give them back?

Mr KOBELKE: I will come to that. We must ensure that the legislation provides a stricter regime for licensed guns. That must be done at the same time as we consider the moves taken by the Government to tackle the problem of unlicensed guns. Both this Government and the previous Government in Western Australia have been successful in doing that by allowing for moratoriums.

Mr Cowan: You mean amnesties.

Mr KOBELKE: An amnesty so that people can return guns which may not be licensed or for which the licence may have expired. We must encourage and allow people to turn in those guns. I do not believe people should use guns for personal defence in a metropolitan area, such as in Perth. That may sit awkwardly with some, but the evidence is there.

Mr Shave: What if the other person has a gun in his hand when he walks into your home?

Mr KOBELKE: I will address that. I will give the member an argument of some substance, rather than just trite questions and answers going backwards and forwards. I take it that the member for Melville believes people should have guns for self-defence in their homes.

Mr Shave: People have the right to defend themselves - absolutely.

Mr KOBELKE: That is a different matter. We all have the right to defend ourselves under the law. Is the member for Melville saying that these people should have a gun to do that in their homes? Although I gave the member the opportunity to respond, he does not want to do so. There is evidence from the United States and other places, where there is almost an unfettered use of guns, that they do not provide greater security in the home. The evidence shows that of the number of people who are shot in their homes, the overwhelming majority is the residents, not the intruders. In the United States and other countries, residents who have guns in their homes are killed through accidental use of the firearm, suicide, domestic disputes or through the intruder getting the better of, and killing, the resident.

The facts clearly show that the use of a gun to try to protect the householder is more likely to lead to the death or injury of the householder, rather than the intruder. I do not think the member for Melville can stack up a case based

on fact to show that safety in the home will be improved by allowing people to have guns. I believe we can improve safety in the home by ensuring guns are less available in our urban community.

I am running out of time to elaborate on the connection between licensed and unlicensed firearms; however, I will make a few comments. This legislation is directed to tightening the legislative control over guns. It does not tackle in a major way unlicensed guns. There is a connection. If we reduce the number of licensed guns in our society, the impact on the number of unlicensed guns will be small. We must take a whole lot of other measures to ensure that the number of unlicensed guns is also reduced. That area is of more concern than the concern about people who have gone through the proper process, who have licensed their guns and who are taking quite responsible action to ensure the guns are not misused. We cannot get away from the connection that if guns are legally available in our community, a percentage of them will either be used illegally or end up being held as unlicensed weapons.

Balance is needed in this issue. That balance may be seen to rest on a different point, depending on an individual's perspective. We could have quite rational debate about where the balance lies. There must be a concern for the many people who fall victim to the misuse of guns. It may simply be the threat of a gun in a hold-up, or some person trying to intimidate another, perhaps in a domestic dispute. The repercussions of the use of a firearm in that way cannot be underestimated. Our legislation reflects that in that the penalties for the use of a replica firearm are quite stiff. We already recognise that dire consequences can flow simply from threatening with a firearm. The trauma of being shot or, for a family, where someone is killed is far more severe. Against the need to ensure a reduction in the number of victims of guns, a restriction is required to be placed on responsible holders of gun licences by tightening the requirements. I can understand how people may feel this restriction is unacceptable; however, that balance must be made. We must try to find a way of ensuring those people have the right to use firearms at the same time as we increase the protection for the wider community.

The introduction of legislation to require the wearing of seat belts in motor vehicles has a number of parallels to this Bill. That issue was hotly contested at the time. A political argument raged for some time about whether the liberty of people should be impinged upon by requiring them to wear a seat belt when driving a motor vehicle. Quite rightly, some people said that that was their choice. However, the balance had to be reached and the Government of the day weighed up the implications for the death of innocent parties who may have been passengers in the vehicle, the total cost to the State in terms of medical costs and a whole range of other costs that flow from the trauma associated with accidents. After that legislation was brought in the figures showed a reduction in the amount of road trauma due to the introduction of the wearing of seat belts.

In the past few months I have seen messages from the police indicating a fairly large percentage of people - I cannot put a figure on it - who do not wear seat belts are now involved in accidents. The severity of the injuries and the number of deaths have increased. In part, that has been attributed to the fact that people are not obeying the law and not wearing seat belts.

That brings out another point parallel to the gun legislation. It is not simply a matter of putting in place these provisions and imposing them on people in a heavy-handed way. People are being killed who would otherwise be alive had they been wearing seat belts. In addition to enforcement, we must ensure we have a proper process of education. I believe that process of education should have started already in the consultation that should have taken place between this Government and a whole range of interest groups. As I have already indicated, although I recognise consultation has been carried out - the Minister has done it in good faith - it has been far short of what the Government could have done to ensure this legislation picked up the needs of gun owners, and took full account of what they understand to be workable in respect of tighter gun legislation.

The diversity of views makes this a difficult issue. Whatever decision the Government makes, it will fall between different interest groups. It is a matter of balance. On the whole, the Government has the balance right; however, it could have done it better. In Committee we will seek to make some amendments that will improve the legislation. The legislation will be to the advantage of not only this State but, because it brings about uniform national laws, the whole nation.

MR RIEBELING (Ashburton) [10.27 pm]: I record that I support the vast majority of provisions in the legislation. I wish to raise a number of matters, and I hope the Minister in his response will be able to comment on a couple of them. First, it is my position now, and it has been for many years, that I support any moves to remove as many guns as possible from our society, and to do that in the best possible way that suits the State. The Minister has put forward this legislation, which he believes is the best way to achieve that. I support the Minister in those endeavours. As has been stated previously, the Western Australian firearms legislation has for many years been the best in Australia for two reasons: First, not only are there restrictions on the types of weapons that people can get licensed over here; but, secondly, our system of licensing has ensured that the vast majority of people register their weapons. That is the great strength in the current Western Australian legislation. I fear that this Bill will not improve that situation in years to come.

In some of the Eastern States, the person is registered but the number and types of weapons that person owns is not known to the authorities. As a result of the slack laws in the Eastern States, Western Australia has been forced, through this national push, to have legislation which will impact adversely on people, such as sporting shooters.

I have a number of queries about this legislation. Over the past few months, we have been receiving on a regular basis, as has, no doubt, the Minister, mail from people who wish to express their concerns about the new firearms legislation. Much of that information has not been very accurate. I am concerned that some of the comments made by people who object to the new standards are based on emotion rather than a reading of what is intended by the legislation.

I will go through a few points that are contained in a letter that arrived on my desk today, although it is dated 14 August. Several of the points made in that letter are probably common concerns among some people in the gun lobby, but unfortunately the arguments are not correct. The letter states that it is wrong that a person cannot get a firearm for personal protection; and the inference is that the previous legislation allowed that. That is not the case. People in Western Australia have never been able to get a licence for a firearm for personal protection. That assumption is perhaps born out of a belief in what the Americans push as their right to bear arms. I am not aware of any provision in the Firearms Act that allows people to get a firearm for personal protection. I am pleased that has never been the case, and I hope it never will be the case.

The letter states -

Section 23, subsection (1) changes "intoxicated or excited by reason of being under the influence of" into "affected by".

The letter states that this would mean that a person who cleaned a weapon after drinking a single can of beer would commit an offence. That is taking the legislation to the extreme or nth degree. That is not what this legislation is designed to do. This legislation is quite sensible with regard to that matter. A person who is affected by alcohol should not go near a weapon. I am sure most responsible members of the community who own weapons would support the view that alcohol and guns do not mix. The people to whom I have spoken in my electorate confirm that a mixture of alcohol and guns can be fatal and should be avoided at all costs. In this case, the legislation is correct.

The letter states also -

Section 23, subsection (3) and section 6 subsection (3) impose penalties of 5 years. The listed offences are victimless crimes but carry harsher penalties than those commonly handed out for crimes such as rape, manslaughter and even murder.

I want to bring to the attention of the House two errors in that paragraph. Firstly, the three offences which supposedly carry penalties similar to five years' imprisonment are rape, manslaughter and murder. The offence of rape, which is in section 326 of the Criminal Code, carries a penalty of 20 years' imprisonment; the offence of manslaughter, which is in section 287 of the Criminal Code, carries a penalty of 20 years' imprisonment; and the offence of murder, which is in section 282 of the Criminal Code, carries a penalty of strict security life imprisonment. Clearly the penalties under the Criminal Code are far more excessive than those mentioned in the Firearms Amendment Bill.

The author of this letter states that the offences listed in section 23(3) of the Firearms Act are victimless crimes. However, it is clear from that section that it is not referring to victimless crimes. It states -

Unless he holds a licence or permit under this Act entitling him to do so, or unless the provisions of section 8 apply, a person who carries or uses a firearm . . . commits an offence.

My understanding of that section is that the firearm would have to be used in connection with an offence against a person. However, the amendment to section 6(3) does cause me some concern because the offence appears to be a simple offence, and a proposed penalty of five years' imprisonment appears to be somewhat excessive. The letter states also that some traffic offences and the like are more serious.

Most of what is said in that letter is ill-informed. However, some of the people who use weapons for sporting and range shooting, and some gun collectors, do have genuine concerns. This legislation should reflect our desire that people will comply with it. If my perceptions are wrong, I hope the Minister can explain how they are wrong. The problem I see is that we are trying to encourage people with soon to be unlawful weapons to hand them in to the police station. How will the process be handled where a person with an illegal weapon wishes to convert that weapon into a now legal weapon of a similar capacity? Will the person who has not had a new firearm added to his licence within the previous 12 months be required to go through the process of obtaining letters from property owners and the full checks that will be introduced as a result of this legislation? Alternatively, will the person who hands in a

firearm be able to use his existing licence for a new firearm to replace the weapon being handed in? That is the biggest fear in my electorate and it has been mentioned to me on a number of occasions.

Most firearm owners and users of weapons will comply with the legislation although they may not necessarily agree with it. The people to whom I refer have complied with all the changes in this area over the years and I anticipate that the vast majority of firearm owners will comply, albeit grudgingly, with the legislation and hand in the weapons. However, I do not think the Government should penalise those people by making them take out new licences. The only thing that will change is that the weapon they own which was once legal will become illegal as a result of this legislation. I hope the Minister has allowed for some process to deal with licensing of replacement weapons. We have national gun legislation -

Mr Cowan: You do not.

Mr RIEBELING: If this Bill is passed, there will be uniform gun legislation throughout Australia, because I understand Western Australia will be the last State to pass the legislation. Once the passage of this Bill is completed, I am sure people in the community hope there will never again be a massacre such as that which occurred in Tasmania.

Mr Cowan: How will this legislation prevent that?

Mr RIEBELING: I do not think it can. Does the Deputy Premier think it will?

Mr Cowan: No.

Mr House: You said it will.

Mr RIEBELING: I have never said that. The whole uniform approach was sold on the premise that somehow if uniform legislation were passed no more massacres would occur. That is clearly misleading. Although this legislation will certainly reduce the number of weapons in the community, my biggest fear is that it will increase the number of weapons we do not know about in the community. It will encourage people to go underground with their weapons. I do not know of any way to find out where those weapons are, other than through government action by amnesty allowing people to hand in weapons.

Mr Bradshaw: They have amnesties all the time.

Mr RIEBELING: Yes, and I understand they have been relatively successful in Western Australia over the years. I think the Minister for Police will agree that the number of weapons the police do not know about in Western Australia is probably low compared with the figures in other States. However, I do not understand how this legislation will uncover those weapons which are currently illegal and which must be handed in under this legislation. I shall be interested to know from the Minister whether the buyback scheme now in operation has encouraged many people to hand in weapons, such as fully automatic or assault firearms, which are illegal under existing law. Has there been a rush to hand in such weapons? It may well be that the Minister can advise that many people have handed in guns. I hope that has happened but I do not think this legislation will achieve what the vast majority of people think it will. That is the great weakness in this legislation but, for the life of me, I do not know what the solution is for reducing the number of weapons in the community.

Mr Cowan: When you get the answer, we will send you to Canberra so that you can advise the Prime Minister.

Mr House: Even you could do it better than some of the advisers from whom he is getting advice now.

Mr RIEBELING: Perhaps so. If the existing legislation in Western Australia had been adopted nationally, I believe it would have achieved much more of what the public hopes for from this proposal. To the extent that the legislation may achieve a reduction in the number of guns in the community, I support it. I am concerned about the number of people killed by guns in the community. I understand that the number of people killed each month in Australia as a result of firearms accidents and incidents is equivalent to the number of people who were killed in the Port Arthur massacre. Of course, the vast majority of deaths caused by firearms involve people committing suicide. I am advised by experts in the field that a person choosing to commit suicide using a firearm usually succeeds, because there is no turning back once the trigger has been pressed. However, a number of other methods of attempting suicide provide people with some chance of changing their mind about the crisis they are experiencing. To that extent, the more weapons that are taken from the community, the fewer opportunities there will be for people to use firearms to commit suicide.

I hope those in the community who own a firearm, but who do not use and look after it, will respond positively to the legislation. I hope those people who are not responsible gun owners will take the opportunity to get rid of their weapons by handing them in. I am sure a number of firearm owners throughout the State would not know if their

firearms were stolen. My father was one such owner; he had a firearm in the cupboard which had not been used for 20-odd years. When his grandchildren started running around the house he decided to get rid of the weapon. That was a sensible thing to do. If a person owns a firearm but does not use it - one accepts the argument that it cannot be kept for self-defence because a licence cannot be obtained for that purpose - he should take the opportunity to hand it in. A great deal of hype has preceded this legislation in Australia.

Members have referred to the situation in the United States. Some people say the situation there is such that gun legislation is starting to work in some way. It is my firm belief that there are far too many guns in America. I had contact with the federal firearms authority - I think it is called the FTA - when I was in the States about 18 months ago. I told that organisation about our weapons control legislation and asked it what it thought of it. I was told that if our legislation were in force in the United States, the United States would be a far safer place in which to live. It is probably the most liberal gun ownership nation on earth. I have no doubt that it also has the highest death rate due to guns of any place on earth, barring countries at war.

There are flaws in the legislation. I hope the Minister listens carefully to the arguments that the Opposition -

Mr Wiese: I keep asking for amendments. Let me have them so I can have a look at them.

Mr RIEBELING: The Minister will be getting the amendments during Committee. No doubt they will be so good that the Minister will immediately see the sense in them.

Mr House: Why not put them on the Notice Paper as is the normal convention in this place?

Mr RIEBELING: The Minister will be speaking to our key speaker in this debate.

Mr Shave: Your deputy leader said we would get them today.

Mr RIEBELING: I doubt whether anyone would give the member for Melville anything.

Mr House: Anybody who is serious about amendments puts them on the Notice Paper. You have not put them on the Notice Paper. Are you serious about them?

Mr RIEBELING: We are very serious about gun legislation. Members opposite will listen to the debate. They might not like it, but they will listen to it. We will present our case as we see fit during Committee. If members opposite have an open mind, which I doubt -

Mr Kierath: You don't have a mind!

Mr RIEBELING: I do, but the Minister does not. He is the man who wants to throw the trapdoor for the hang man. Is he speaking in this debate?

Mr Kierath: No.

Mr RIEBELING: I did not think so. So his comments from an ill-informed position are extremely riveting because he will not speak at all.

Mr Kierath: You cannot even get funding right, so how can you speak about gun legislation?

Mr Wiese: Let us be serious. If you want a meaningful response to the amendments - I have given a meaningful response to every matter raised with me - put them before me.

Mr RIEBELING: The Minister will get the amendments. Once he has seen them he will see that they have been worth waiting for and the wisdom that we possess will hit him like a blinding light, in the same way as he is hit by the sun when he is out ploughing the fields in the early morning. There will be a blinding flash and he will see the wisdom of our amendments.

Mr Johnson: Your deputy leader told us we would see those amendments today.

Mr RIEBELING: Members should be patient. We have plenty of time to produce them.

This legislation will not achieve what most people hope it will achieve. In fact some parts of the legislation will create the problem of hiding more weapons than we as a society wish to be hidden.

MRS van de KLASHORST (Swan Hills) [10.55 pm]: I support the Bill but have some reservations. I know that many of my constituents also have reservations about some parts of the Bill. My husband has been a licensed gun owner of a 0.22 single shot for 30 years. I also have two sons who have been shooting on our property since they were 12 years of age. They have several guns and they too have been licensed, responsible, trained firearm owners for almost 20 years. As I often say in the party room and in this place, I represent people in the outer metropolitan

area, where many of my constituents have small holdings. Thus I have told the Minister many times that should some of my constituents have problems in getting licences for firearms, I will be approaching him on their behalf.

Like other people in this place I have received many calls from both sides of the debate. To be honest I have received most calls from firearm owners. Many of them have met me in my office and I have spoken to many on the telephone. I received too many representations in the end to be able to contact everyone personally. However, a considerable number of people have told me of their concerns. As I promised them, I have advised the Minister of each of their concerns. However, it is necessary to raise some of those concerns here as I promised those people when they came to my office. I will not be able to refer to all the concerns because there are too many. However, I will bring some concerns forward on behalf of the gun owners in Swan Hills.

One concern is the change in the legal age limit of firearm owners from 16 to 18 years of age. While I agree with this, there are now some 16 and 17 year olds who have the smaller firearms such as the single shot 0.22 or the firearms that will be legal. They say that, because they have been considered responsible enough to hold a licence for a year, they should be given special consideration and be allowed to keep their guns until they turn 18 years of age.

Mr Wiese: That is dealt with in the legislation and they will be able to.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I must have missed that when I read the legislation. I am concerned that we will be taking something from them that we have already given them. Another concern, which I know is referred to in the legislation, is antique guns. One gentleman from England who rang me is a gunsmith. For many years he has collected guns. Some of them will not fall within the "legal" category and he wants to know whether he will be able to keep his guns. I know the Minister has addressed that in the collectors or antique guns section of the legislation.

Mr Wiese: Yes, he will and it does not apply only to antique firearms. It applies to weapons that people want to put into a collection. That could include firearms made yesterday.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: In other words, the person must hold a collector's licence?

Mr Wiese: If a person has a collector's licence, he will be able to keep them.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I thank the Minister for that information. I have a number of sporting groups within my electorate and representatives from them have approached me about this legislation. I align this sport to darts and the people participating in it must practise. Members will be aware that shooting is an Olympic sport. It has been put to me that members of all sporting disciplines should be able to continue their sport. I understand the Minister has been attending to this issue, but I did say that I would again bring it to the Minister's attention.

I am also concerned about the storage of guns, which is something with which I have had experience. Home burglaries appear to be an everyday occurrence; therefore, people who possess guns should keep them in locked metal cabinets. For many years my husband and sons, who are and will continue to be responsible gun owners, have as a matter of good practice stored their guns in one place and the magazines and bolts in another, all under lock and key.

Concern has been expressed to me about carrying guns from one place to another. What happens when a farmer, who is a licensed gun owner, must take his gun from one property to another? People are concerned that under this legislation they will be required to have a locked cabinet in their car. The legislation states that the magazine must be taken out of the gun and stored in another place. The concern is: What happens if the gun is needed immediately? For example, my husband uses his gun in the orchard every day for pest control. Every morning he puts the magazine in the gun and leaves the safety catch on. He does not put a bullet into the breach, but he keeps the rifle in his car. We have 2 000 fruit trees on our orchard and for 30 years he has had the gun on hand in case he is required to use it. The gun is not kept under lock and key, but is left on the seat of his car, often for six to 10 hours a day. I know many farmers do this. While working in the orchard my husband has come across wild pigs and other pests that need to be disposed of. My husband has not raised this issue with me, but other members of the community want to know how they stand if they are carrying their rifle from one property to another. I am not sure how that situation is covered in the legislation and I will be interested to hear the Minister's comments.

The people who have visited my office are concerned that they are being classed as criminals. I concur with them that they are not criminals; they are people, like my husband, who have owned a licensed firearm for 30 years. Irrespective of whether they are the types of firearms that will be required to be handed in or whether they are the type they will be allowed to keep, the people who own them are not criminals. They are ordinary people and the only difference between them and other people is that they happen to own a shotgun or a semiautomatic rifle. I am very concerned that a fever has been whipped up to the extent that these people are being branded as criminals. They are not and I feel very strongly about this. One of my sons has a gun which he will be required to hand in. He is not a criminal and has not used his gun illegally. The same applies to all the gun owners who have contacted me.

I received one or two complaints from people who claim to have been treated like criminals when they handed in their guns. I know that the police are treating most people with respect, but there have been one or two incidents where people have come away feeling that they have been badly treated. People are getting angry about this and I can understand that.

Other members have referred to the fact that the legislation states that people with a criminal record and those people who have a proven history of violence should be prevented from holding a firearm licence. I fully agree with this as members will be aware that I wrote the domestic violence action plan for the Government and I also headed the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce. It found that it was a common occurrence for women to be threatened by people - often their spouse or partner - with rifles. I also understand that under this legislation police will have the authority to enter people's houses without obtaining a search warrant. Adequate checks and balances must be placed on this provision because the fear is that people's freedom will be impinged upon. Members will know that not everything in society is perfect and there is not always a level playing field. People can be mischievous by telling the police that somebody is misbehaving or has been mixing with criminals when that is not the truth.

I know from the discussions I have had with the Minister that he has addressed many of the issues I have raised. It is something that will stand the test of time. Perhaps the legislation should be reviewed in one or two years to make sure that if there are any problems, they are ironed out. We must make sure that neither the police nor the civilians use the legislation for anything other than what it was intended.

I agree that Western Australia has had a better set of firearm licensing rules than the other States. Many of my constituents have questioned the need for a photograph on the firearm licence. These people have emphasised that they are law abiding citizens who have done nothing wrong other than to own a firearm which, under this legislation, will become illegal. They feel that it will be a form of discrimination to be required to have a photograph on their licence. I was asked to pass on their concerns to the Minister.

Firearms dealers are like any Western Australian small businessmen who have invested a lot of capital in finding suitable premises and stock. Like most people they have taken out loans and have interest to pay on them. Like many small businesses they are just managing to survive each week. They must employ people and meet the rent and other expenses. A firearms dealer's business has always been legitimate. However, through no fault of theirs, much of their stock, which they have either purchased or are paying off, has been sitting in their shops not being turned over.

That has been happening for several months. Some of the small business people are concerned that they have not been getting the income they were originally getting and that their investment is sitting on the shelves. The profit is not coming in and some are getting quite desperate because they have these firearms lying around their shop and they are not getting any return for them. I know the Commonwealth will address this problem, but it is important that it is addressed immediately so that some of these businesses do not go to the wall before they get the money that is being promised. Small businesses, like any of us, cannot live on promises. The Commonwealth Government must pull its finger out and pay some of these people the money that has been promised sooner rather than later. In addition, many of the firearms have accessories such as telescopic sights and so on, which in many cases represent a large investment. It is important that the Commonwealth does not penalise these people for what was previously legal business. It is extremely important that we ensure this problem is addressed.

The other issue that has been raised is the level of compensation. I am concerned about this issue and have spoken to the Minister about it. The Commonwealth is compensating people who have illegal guns in their possession. I am not talking about the guns that will be illegal after the legislation is passed; I am talking about people who have had guns under their bed or in their back shed that have never been licensed. These people have had illegal guns - whether they have used them or not is immaterial - and they have not been law abiding citizens. I know that we want to remove them from the community, but we are paying these people for illegal guns. I cannot come to terms with or understand how we can have an amnesty and give people money for firearms that were illegal in the first place. We are encouraging people to be criminals. They believe that it is all right to have an unlicensed firearm and the Government will pay for it. I know the principle is to remove as many weapons as possible from the community, but I cannot come to terms with the fact that people who have not been law abiding will be paid. This discriminates against our law abiding citizens.

Mr Wiese: The member is right: Part of the plan is to remove as many firearms as possible from the community. However, none of those firearms is licensed in the Eastern States. So, they are all unlicensed firearms and the compensation is being paid. Because of the slackness of the Eastern States and the need to compensate those people who have unlicensed firearms, we are caught. I make no apologies for paying to remove those firearms which are unlicensed in this State and which come into the category to be banned, and virtually the whole community would support that. We are better off removing them.

Mrs van de KLASHORST: I agree, but at the same time it is morally wrong to pay for non-licensed guns. It is an issue of balance. Somehow in our society we tend to continue to pay criminals and perhaps not the victims, but that is a completely different debate.

I agree with the legislation generally but, as I said, there are some anomalies. We need to remove these larger and more dangerous firearms. When one fires a single shot rifle with criminal intent one can kill one person, whereas if one fires an automatic rifle, as has happened in Ireland and Tasmania, one can kill several people at once. The principle of the legislation is correct.

With the reservation that we must not make criminals of people who are not criminals, I will support the legislation. I have passed on to the Minister the concerns of my constituents and many other people. I agree that the legislation is correct in many aspects. I simply hope and wish that it will do what it is intended to do, and only time will tell.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bloffwitch.

House adjourned at 11.16 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PUBLICATIONS - VIDEOS; OPINION POLLS, ALLOCATIONS

1399. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for brochures, pamphlets and other similar publications for each individual agency within your portfolio?
- (2) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (3) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for production of videos and similar publicity ventures?
- (4) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (5) In 1996-97, has any money been allocated for opinion polling?
- (6) If yes, what opinion polling is proposed and what will it cost?
- (7) What were the allocations for polling in the previous three financial years?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(7) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

PUBLICATIONS - VIDEOS; OPINION POLLS, ALLOCATIONS

1400. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for brochures, pamphlets and other similar publications for each individual agency within your portfolio?
- (2) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (3) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for production of videos and similar publicity ventures?
- (4) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (5) In 1996-97, has any money been allocated for opinion polling?
- (6) If yes, what opinion polling is proposed and what will it cost?
- (7) What were the allocations for polling in the previous three financial years?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs in the following terms:

- (1)-(7) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

CONTRACTING OUT - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1406. Dr GALLOP to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Since 1993, what services have been contracted out by individual agencies within your portfolio and what is the total cost of those contracts for each year?
- (2) What are the names of the companies that have received contracts in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (3) What is the value of each contract in excess of \$50 000?
- (4) In relation to (3) above, what is the demonstrated saving of each service contracted out?

- (5) In relation to (3) above, does the contractor have access to, or use of, any government services or facilities in the performance of the contract?
- (6) If so, what are they?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)-(6) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of their programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

CONTRACTING OUT - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1411. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Since 1993, what services have been contracted out by individual agencies within your portfolio and what is the total cost of those contracts for each year?
- (2) What are the names of the companies that have received contracts in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (3) What is the value of each contract in excess of \$50 000?
- (4) In relation to (3) above, what is the demonstrated saving of each service contracted out?
- (5) In relation to (3) above, does the contractor have access to, or use of, any government services or facilities in the performance of the contract?
- (6) If so, what are they?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(6) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of their programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

CONTRACTING OUT - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1412. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Since 1993, what services have been contracted out by individual agencies within your portfolio and what is the total cost of those contracts for each year?
- (2) What are the names of the companies that have received contracts in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (3) What is the value of each contract in excess of \$50 000?
- (4) In relation to (3) above, what is the demonstrated saving of each service contracted out?
- (5) In relation to (3) above, does the contractor have access to, or use of, any government services or facilities in the performance of the contract?
- (6) If so, what are they?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs in the following terms:

- (1)-(6) Government agencies routinely contract external providers to undertake a range of services in support of the delivery of their programs. Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place at any time the details sought are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query I will have the matter investigated.

ADVERTISING - BUDGET; EXPENDITURE

1434. Dr GALLOP to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the total advertising budget proposed for each individual agency within the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) In the same year, what is the expected expenditure on campaign advertising and on non-campaign advertising?
- (3) In relation to campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) if there has been an increase in allocation, how is that explained;
 - (c) what portion of the 1996-97 allocation will be spent on television, radio, print and other medium;
 - (d) in 1996-97, what electronic and/or print medium campaigns are planned in excess of \$50 000;
 - (e) have any of these campaigns been initiated by, or involved, any other agency or body;
 - (f) if yes, which agency or body?
- (4) In relation to non-campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) what is the reason for the difference in figures?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)-(4) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

ADVERTISING - BUDGET; EXPENDITURE

1439. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the total advertising budget proposed for each individual agency within your portfolio?
- (2) In the same year, what is the expected expenditure on campaign advertising and on non-campaign advertising?
- (3) In relation to campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) if there has been an increase in allocation, how is that explained;
 - (c) what portion of the 1996-97 allocation will be spent on television, radio, print and other medium;
 - (d) in 1996-97, what electronic and/or print medium campaigns are planned in excess of \$50 000;
 - (e) have any of these campaigns been initiated by, or involved, any other agency or body;
 - (f) if yes, which agency or body?
- (4) In relation to non-campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) what is the reason for the difference in figures?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(4) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

ADVERTISING - BUDGET; EXPENDITURE

1440. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the total advertising budget proposed for each individual agency within your portfolio?
- (2) In the same year, what is the expected expenditure on campaign advertising and on non-campaign advertising?
- (3) In relation to campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) if there has been an increase in allocation, how is that explained;
 - (c) what portion of the 1996-97 allocation will be spent on television, radio, print and other medium;
 - (d) in 1996-97, what electronic and/or print medium campaigns are planned in excess of \$50 000;
 - (e) have any of these campaigns been initiated by, or involved, any other agency or body;
 - (f) if yes, which agency or body?
- (4) In relation to non-campaign advertising -
 - (a) what is the expected expenditure for 1996-97 and how does that figure compare with the previous three financial years;
 - (b) what is the reason for the difference in figures?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs in the following terms:

- (1)-(4) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

PUBLICATIONS - VIDEOS; OPINION POLLS, ALLOCATIONS

1455. Dr GALLOP to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for brochures, pamphlets and other similar publications for each individual agency within your portfolio?
- (2) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (3) In 1996-97, what is the proposed allocation for production of videos and similar publicity ventures?
- (4) What were the allocations for the previous three financial years?
- (5) In 1996-97, has any money been allocated for opinion polling?
- (6) If yes, what opinion polling is proposed and what will it cost?
- (7) What were the allocations for polling in the previous three financial years?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)-(7) Under the program budgeting format used throughout the public sector, expenditure is not budgeted for at the level of detail sought. I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

POLICE SERVICE - SPECIAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL, POLICE AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REVIEW

1493. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police Relations and ask -

- (a) when did the review of this committee commence;
- (b) when is the review to be completed;
- (c) who is conducting the review?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (a) August 1994.
- (b) The report on the administrative review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations was completed in December 1994.
- (c) The review was conducted by the Public Sector Management Office.

POLICE SERVICE - SPECIAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL, POLICE AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REVIEW

1494. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police Relations and ask -

- (a) has the committee ceased to function while the review is continuing;
- (b) if yes, why; and
- (c) how long has this been the case?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (a)-(c) Since the review commenced in August 1994, the committee has not held any formal meetings. The Chairperson continued in his position until 26 July 1996 and administrative staff have continued in their roles. Furthermore, during this time the local liaison committees continued to function in the normal manner. This committee is an advisory body which comes within my portfolio responsibility. Following a number of concerns expressed to me about the operations and effectiveness of the committee I requested that the Public Sector Management Office conduct a review and make recommendations. Given the reasons for the review it was decided that no further meetings of the committee should be held until the review process was finalised.

POLICE SERVICE - SPECIAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL, POLICE AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REVIEW

1495. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

With reference to the review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police Relations, I refer to the report *Getting Stronger on Justice* produced by the Aboriginal Justice Council, page 62, section 4.3.5, Aboriginal/Police Community Relations "A number of recommendations were made however the report has not yet been released" and ask -

- (a) why has the report not yet been released?
- (b) what recommendations have been made?
- (c) has action been taken on any of these recommendations?
- (d) do the recommendations suggest that Aboriginal representation from local and regional areas be retained;
- (e) do the recommendations suggest that the Aboriginal Advisory Group to the Commissioner be retained?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (a) The report into the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations was an internal administrative review conducted for myself as the Minister for Police with ministerial responsibility for the committee. It was not intended that the report become a public document.
- (b)-(c) The report includes a range of recommendations some of which have already been implemented while others are in the process of being implemented.
- (d) The membership of the new Minister's Council on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations is in the process of being put in place.
- (e) Yes.

POLICE SERVICE - SPECIAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL, POLICE AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REVIEW

1496. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police Relations and ask -

- (a) will the review seek input from the Special Government Committee;
- (b) will the review seek public submissions;
- (c) will the review seek oral submissions?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (a)-(c) The report on the administrative review of the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations was completed in December 1994. It was an internal administrative review conducted for myself as the Minister for Police with ministerial responsibility for the committee. During the review process there was consultation with -

Special Government Committee Chairperson and members
Staff supporting the committee
Office of the Minister for Police
Police officers in metropolitan and regional areas
WA Police Service administrative staff
Representatives of Aboriginal groups
Relevant local government representatives
Community representatives on local liaison committees
Community and Public Sector Union
Representatives from relevant government agencies
Consultants from Public Sector Management Office

POLICE SERVICE - SPECIAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL, POLICE AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REVIEW

1497. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

I refer to two of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in Western Australia, and to recommendation 215 which called for the introduction of procedures for negotiations at the local level between the Police and the Aboriginal community and recommendation 225 which focuses on the establishment of Aboriginal policy and development units within the Police Services and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware that any changes to the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal/Police Relations is a breach of the above recommendations;
- (b) if yes, will the Minister continue to make changes?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (a) The report into the Special Government Committee on Aboriginal, Police and Community Relations was an internal administrative review which I initiated following a number of concerns expressed to me about the operations and effectiveness of the committee. The changes to the committee are consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody because they are aimed at enhancing its effectiveness and thereby improving Aboriginal, police and community relations.

- (b) The recommendations contained in the report have either been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - VIOLENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULTS BY MEN, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE INITIATIVES

1552. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Further to question on notice 155 of 1996, in order to "prevent violent and sexual assaults" has the Government/Police Service undertaken any initiatives to change the behaviour of men who perpetrate these assaults?
- (2) If yes, what are they?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr WIESE replied:

This question should be referred to the Hon Minister Assisting the Minister for Justice.

LANDCARE - FUNDING

1570. Mr McGINTY to the Treasurer:

With reference to the Government's review of Land Care last year in which it warned that the seriousness and extent of Western Australia's salinity problems should not be underestimated and the Environment Minister's complaint that "he did not have enough money under his control to solve the problem of salinity", can the Treasurer guarantee that the only two land care programs, funded by specific purpose grants - the \$4m Landcare and Environment Action Program and the \$5.6m National Landcare program - will not be cut to meet the required \$30m budget cuts to specific purpose grants?

Mr COURT replied:

Specific purpose grants are set by the Commonwealth Government. It has approved \$9.467m for 1996/97 under the National Landcare Program, which is an increase on 1995/96 and an improved share (19%) of the funds nationally available. In the August Budget, the Federal Government announced the abolition of the Landcare and Environment Action Program. The remaining nine projects are being administered by the Western Australian Department of Training, and will have been concluded by December 1996.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SCHOOL RATIONALISATION PROCESS

1588. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the school rationalisation process as it was originally known been discontinued?
- (2) If yes to (1) -
- (a) when was it discontinued; and
- (b) as at the date the school rationalisation process was discontinued -
- (i) what was the total cost of the process; and
- (ii) what was the total amount saved?
- (3) If no to (1), has the school rationalisation process been modified, and if so, what are the new terms of the school rationalisation policy?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The policy on Rationalisation of Schools is still current and the process continues for school communities that initiate a review. The Education Department has not initiated school reviews in 1996 in preference to investigating a regional planning process which will aim to improve the delivery of education in all areas throughout the State. Regional planning provides coordination between system and school level planning to better manage resources and to optimise educational opportunities in each cluster of schools. This concept is at the embryonic stage and there are many issues that the Education Department will need to

consider, including how primary and secondary schools are grouped in country and metropolitan locations; what will be the underlining planning principles; and the community consultation process.

TAFE - COUNSELLORS EMPLOYMENT; CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

1591. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) With respect to each of the TAFE colleges in 1995 -
 - (a) how many counsellors were employed to provide a clinical psychological service to students;
 - (b) what qualifications and experience did those counsellors have;
 - (c) how many hours did those counsellors work;
 - (d) where were those services located;
 - (e) what was the total cost of those services; and
 - (f) what was the counsellor to student ratio at each campus?
- (2) With respect to each TAFE college for the 1996 year -
 - (a) how many people providing clinical psychology services are available to students;
 - (b) what qualifications and experience do these people have;
 - (c) how many hours do these people work;
 - (d) where are these services located;
 - (e) what is the total cost of these services; and
 - (f) what is the psychologist to student ratio?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)
 - (a) In July 1995 the Department employed 43 (38.8 FTE) student counsellors. Student Counsellors carried out a variety of duties including advice to students and prospective students on courses, employment prospects, study techniques, financial assistance and, in some cases, personal psychological counselling.
 - (b) Student counsellors were TAFE lecturers with registration as Psychologists with the Psychologist Board of WA.
 - (c) In July 1995, 25 (23.3 FTE) student counsellors were employed under lecturing conditions, ie, 30 hours a week / 40 weeks a year. Eighteen (14.5 FTE) were essentially employed under public service conditions, ie, 37.5 hours per week and six weeks leave.
 - (d) Central Metropolitan, North Metropolitan, South East Metropolitan, South Metropolitan, Geraldton Regional, Great Southern Regional, Midland and South West Regional Colleges.
 - (e) Approximately \$7.1m in direct salary costs.
 - (f) TAFE colleges catered for approximately 135 000 students in 1995.
- (2) (a)-(e) In 1996, TAFE colleges do not provide personal psychological counselling. Student demand indicated a need and focus upon appropriate course and career information advice. This service is now carried out by information and career advice officers at TAFE colleges. Should a student require personal psychological counselling, they are referred to appropriate agencies. Only the South Metropolitan College has employed a Psychologist. The job description form does not require the occupant to perform personal psychological counselling. Central Metropolitan College employs an international/local student adviser who provides 'counselling support services to international students' only. Consistent with a contract between the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, the Department of Training employs four counsellors exclusively for Adult Migration Education Services students. These positions are not funded by the Department of Training.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - TEACHING POSITIONS; SURPLUS APPLICANTS POLICY

1593. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many full and part-time vacancies for teaching positions have been filled for the 1996 school year in the following areas -
 - (a) pre-primary;
 - (b) primary;
 - (c) secondary subject areas;
 - (d) youth education officers;
 - (e) school psychology;
 - (f) special education;
 - (g) any other?
- (2) How many applications were received for each position listed above, including applications from new graduates?
- (3) What is the Department's policy regarding surplus applicants?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a)-(b) No statistics available to separate preprimary from primary.

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Full time: | 571 FTE |
| Part time: | 907 FTE |

 - (c)

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Full time: | 526 FTE |
| Part time | 535 FTE |
 - (d)

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Full time | 27 FTE (all full time) |
|-----------|------------------------|
 - (e)

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Full time | 53 FTE |
| Part time | 18 FTE |
 - (f)

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Full time | 120 FTE |
| Part time | 280 FTE |
 - (g)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Aboriginal education full time | 284 FTE |
| Part time | 118 FTE |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| English as a second language | |
| Full time | 92 FTE |
| Part time | 85 FTE |
- (2)
 - (a)-(b) 2,215
 - (c) 1,292
 - (d) 27
 - (e) 71
 - (f) 400
 - (g)

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Aboriginal education | 250 |
| English as a second language | 181 |
- (3) The Education Department appoints teachers on merit. All teachers seeking employment have a ranking and as positions become available an offer of employment is made to the most meritorious teacher who matches the position profile.

POLICE SERVICE - OFFENCES OF VIOLENCE

1597. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the number of -
 - (a) offences of violence (such as assault) reported in the following areas in each month from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 inclusive?
 - (i) Floreat;
 - (ii) City Beach;
 - (iii) Wembley Downs;

- (iv) Churchlands;
- (v) Woodlands;
- (vi) Wembley;
- (vii) Doubleview;
- (viii) Scarborough; and

- (b) clearances of those crimes in each of the abovementioned areas for each month from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996?

- (2) What numbers of offences and clearances referred to in (1) above occurred in the comparable period in 1990-91?

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

- (1) (a) Reported "offences of violence" offences against the person for the following localities -

- (i) Floreat -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 2 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 6 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 3 |
| Dec | 1 |
| Jan | 2 |
| Feb | 3 |
| Mar | 5 |
| Apr | 2 |
| May | 3 |
| Jun | 0 |
- (ii) City Beach -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 2 |
| Sep | 1 |
| Oct | 1 |
| Nov | 1 |
| Dec | 3 |
| Jan | 6 |
| Feb | 7 |
| Mar | 2 |
| Apr | 1 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 5 |
- (iii) Wembley Downs -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 0 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 1 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 2 |
| Jan | 0 |
| Feb | 1 |
| Mar | 2 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 1 |
| Jun | 0 |
- (iv) Churchlands -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 2 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 1 |
| Dec | 1 |
| Jan | 0 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Apr | 1 |
| May | 1 |
| Jun | 0 |

(v) Woodlands -
 Jul 0
 Aug 0
 Sep 2
 Oct 1
 Nov 0
 Dec 1
 Jan 3
 Feb 2
 Mar 0
 Apr 4
 May 0
 Jun 0

(vi) Wembley -
 Jul 7
 Aug 5
 Sep 11
 Oct 2
 Nov 6
 Dec 4
 Jan 3
 Feb 7
 Mar 3
 Apr 1
 May 4
 Jun 8

(vii) Doubleview -
 Jul 7
 Aug 3
 Sep 1
 Oct 0
 Nov 3
 Dec 5
 Jan 1
 Feb 4
 Mar 5
 Apr 2
 May 3
 Jun 3

(viii) Scarborough -
 Jul 11
 Aug 35
 Sep 9
 Oct 25
 Nov 20
 Dec 15
 Jan 12
 Feb 9
 Mar 31
 Apr 12
 May 13
 Jun 15

(b) Clearance of "offences of violence" offences against the person for the following localities -

(i) Floreat -
 Jul 0
 Aug 1
 Sep 1
 Oct 0
 Nov 2
 Dec 1
 Jan 1
 Feb 0
 Mar 2
 Apr 5
 May 0
 Jun 2

(ii) City Beach -
 Jul 0
 Aug 2

| | |
|-----|---|
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 2 |
| Dec | 1 |
| Jan | 1 |
| Feb | 1 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Apr | 8 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 2 |

(iii) Wembley Downs -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 1 |
| Dec | 1 |
| Jan | 1 |
| Feb | 1 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 1 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 0 |

(iv) Churchlands -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 0 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 1 |
| Nov | 1 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 0 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 1 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 0 |

(v) Woodlands -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 3 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 2 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 3 |
| May | 1 |
| Jun | 1 |

(vi) Wembley -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 7 |
| Aug | 5 |
| Sep | 8 |
| Oct | 4 |
| Nov | 2 |
| Dec | 3 |
| Jan | 2 |
| Feb | 6 |
| Mar | 6 |
| Apr | 1 |
| May | 3 |
| Jun | 3 |

(vii) Doubleview -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 2 |
| Aug | 5 |
| Sep | 1 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 3 |
| Dec | 5 |
| Jan | 0 |

| | |
|-----|---|
| Feb | 1 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Apr | 5 |
| May | 2 |
| Jun | 4 |

(viii) Scarborough -

| | |
|-----|----|
| Jul | 9 |
| Aug | 32 |
| Sep | 9 |
| Oct | 10 |
| Nov | 19 |
| Dec | 4 |
| Jan | 12 |
| Feb | 5 |
| Mar | 13 |
| Apr | 17 |
| May | 21 |
| Jun | 7 |

- (2) (a) Reported "offences of violence" offences against the person prior to July 1991 are not contained in the current Offence Information System and are therefore not available. The statistics for 1991-92 (the year the OIS was implemented) have been provided for the following localities -

(i) Floreat -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 2 |
| Sep | 2 |
| Oct | 1 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 1 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 1 |
| Jun | 3 |

(ii) City Beach -

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 2 |
| Sep | 53* |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 2 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 2 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 1 |

(iii) Wembley Downs -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 0 |
| Sep | 1 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 0 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 0 |

(iv) Churchlands -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 2 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 0 |

| | |
|-----|---|
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 1 |

(v) Woodlands -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 1 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 1 |
| Oct | 0 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 0 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 1 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| Jun | 0 |

(vi) Wembley -

| | |
|-----|----|
| Jul | 3 |
| Aug | 5 |
| Sep | 10 |
| Oct | 5 |
| Nov | 6 |
| Dec | 3 |
| Jan | 4 |
| Feb | 5 |
| Mar | 12 |
| Apr | 6 |
| May | 3 |
| Jun | 4 |

(vii) Doubleview -

| | |
|-----|----|
| Jul | 1 |
| Aug | 1 |
| Sep | 40 |
| Oct | 1 |
| Nov | 2 |
| Dec | 5 |
| Jan | 2 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 2 |
| Apr | 0 |
| May | 2 |
| Jun | 0 |

(viii) Scarborough -

| | |
|-----|----|
| Jul | 9 |
| Aug | 8 |
| Sep | 9 |
| Oct | 19 |
| Nov | 14 |
| Dec | 19 |
| Jan | 13 |
| Feb | 5 |
| Mar | 13 |
| Apr | 8 |
| May | 9 |
| Jun | 14 |

(b) Clearance of "offences of violence" offences against the person for the following localities -

(i) Floreat -

| | |
|-----|---|
| Jul | 0 |
| Aug | 0 |
| Sep | 0 |
| Oct | 4 |
| Nov | 0 |
| Dec | 0 |
| Jan | 1 |
| Feb | 0 |
| Mar | 0 |
| Apr | 0 |

| | | |
|-------|-----------------|----|
| | May | 0 |
| | Jun | 1 |
| (ii) | City Beach - | |
| | Jul | 0 |
| | Aug | 0 |
| | Sep | 53 |
| | Oct | 1 |
| | Nov | 2 |
| | Dec | 1 |
| | Jan | 2 |
| | Feb | 0 |
| | Mar | 0 |
| | Apr | 0 |
| | May | 0 |
| | Jun | 0 |
| (iii) | Wembley Downs - | |
| | Jul | 1 |
| | Aug | 1 |
| | Sep | 0 |
| | Oct | 0 |
| | Nov | 1 |
| | Dec | 1 |
| | Jan | 1 |
| | Feb | 0 |
| | Mar | 0 |
| | Apr | 0 |
| | May | 0 |
| | Jun | 0 |
| (iv) | Churchlands - | |
| | Jul | 0 |
| | Aug | 1 |
| | Sep | 1 |
| | Oct | 0 |
| | Nov | 1 |
| | Dec | 0 |
| | Jan | 1 |
| | Feb | 0 |
| | Mar | 0 |
| | Apr | 0 |
| | May | 0 |
| | Jun | 0 |
| (v) | Woodlands - | |
| | Jul | 0 |
| | Aug | 0 |
| | Sep | 1 |
| | Oct | 0 |
| | Nov | 0 |
| | Dec | 0 |
| | Jan | 0 |
| | Feb | 1 |
| | Mar | 0 |
| | Apr | 0 |
| | May | 0 |
| | Jun | 0 |
| (vi) | Wembley - | |
| | Jul | 1 |
| | Aug | 3 |
| | Sep | 5 |
| | Oct | 3 |
| | Nov | 2 |
| | Dec | 0 |
| | Jan | 5 |
| | Feb | 5 |
| | Mar | 13 |
| | Apr | 4 |
| | May | 1 |
| | Jun | 3 |
| (vii) | Doubleview - | |
| | Jul | 0 |

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----|
| | Aug | 0 |
| | Sep | 3 |
| | Oct | 0 |
| | Nov | 0 |
| | Dec | 4 |
| | Jan | 1 |
| | Feb | 1 |
| | Mar | 2 |
| | Apr | 0 |
| | May | 1 |
| | Jun | 2 |
| (viii) | Scarborough - | |
| | Jul | 5 |
| | Aug | 5 |
| | Sep | 7 |
| | Oct | 10 |
| | Nov | 8 |
| | Dec | 8 |
| | Jan | 12 |
| | Feb | 2 |
| | Mar | 9 |
| | Apr | 8 |
| | May | 6 |
| | Jun | 9 |

The information provided in response to the above questions contains the total offences against the person as these offences are considered to be crimes of violence and include: homicides, robberies, assaults, sexual assaults and deprivation of liberty.

*In (2)(a)(ii) 49 of these offences were committed by one offender over a period of 20 months.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SCHOOL GRANTS

1599. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the total sum allocated in school grants for each of the following years -
 - (a) 1992;
 - (b) 1993;
 - (c) 1994;
 - (d) 1995; and
 - (e) 1996?
- (2) What are the general terms and conditions attaching to school grants, in particular -
 - (a) must the school grant be expended;
 - (b) within what period must the school grant be expended;
 - (c) can school grants be accumulated, and if so -
 - (i) for how long;
 - (ii) to what level;
 - (d) are there any other limitations on how school grants may be spent?
- (3) How much current school funding is accumulated school grants?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) \$M
 - (a) 35 035
 - (b) 40 507
 - (c) 43 689
 - (d) 46 076
 - (e) 45 598
- (2) (a) The School Grant is distributed to schools twice per annum to meet operational costs at the local level.
- (b) There are no timelines on school grant expenditure. Funding is expended at the school level according to local priorities as determined in the School Development Plan.
- (c)-(d) As above.

- (3) As schools receive funds from a range of sources, it is not possible to indicate the level of accumulated school grant funding. Unspent School Grant funds are aggregated with other funds in the school bank account and reported in total as general funds.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SCHOOL ENTRY AGE CUT-OFF DATE 1 JULY; FLEXIBILITY

1613. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With regard to the proposed school entry age cut-off date of 1 July, will there be any flexibility in the application of the cut-off date?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, what procedures will be in place to determine whether a child born after 30 June will be allowed to commence school early?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) Although no decisions concerning school entry age cut-off dates will be made until after the community has been consulted, ideas on how to facilitate flexibility will be gained from the consultation process. There are processes currently in place which allow flexibility, particularly for those children born in November and December and also acceleration for some children. In any situation where flexibility is considered the process will always involve a partnership between the family and the school.
- (2) Procedures for early admission to the education system for those children born later in the year will not be determined until after the process of community consultation has taken place and all ideas have been considered.

QUESTION ON NOTICE - 771, SCIENCE PROJECT PROPOSAL

1620. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With respect to parliamentary question on notice 771 of 1996, will the Minister table part B of each science and information division science project proposal?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes. [See paper No 598.]
- (2) Not applicable.

POLICE SERVICE - NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN POLICING, ATTENDANCE

1653. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many women police officers applied to go to the recent national conference on women in policing?
- (2) How many went?
- (3) Was there active recruitment to encourage women to attend?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) How many women police officers are there in Western Australia and how many men?
- (6) How many of them have rank beyond constable?
- (7) How many complaints have been made in -
- (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1996;
- of -
- (i) sexual harassment at work;
 - (ii) discrimination related to promotion?
- (8) What grievance procedures are in place for dealing with these issues?

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

(1)-(2) Two women police officers, Senior Sergeant Lilly Cvijic and Sergeant Jill Willoughby attended the recent national conference on women in policing from the Western Australia Police Service. These officers were nominated by the Commissioner of Police. The Western Australian Police Union of Workers sponsored Senior Constable Josephine Grill's attendance. The Western Australia Police Service Equal Opportunity Co-Ordinator, Mr Michael Cardy, also attended, and Mr Falconer, Commissioner of Police, attended on the final day of the conference.

(3)-(4) The Western Australia Police Service did not actively recruit women to attend, however, the conference was advertised in the Australia Woman Police Association newsletter, which is distributed to all female police officers by the Western Australia Police Service on behalf of the Association.

(5) As at 9 August 1996:-

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 426 | women police officers |
| 4 028 | male police officers |
| 31 | women recruits in training |
| 160 | male recruits in training |

(6) Of the 426 women police officers, the following have rank beyond that of Constable:

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 14 | Sergeants |
| 3 | 1/C Sergeants |
| 3 | Senior Sergeants |

(7) The following represents complaints made by sworn officers in the years specified -

| | Sexual Harassment | Discrimination re promotion |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1993 | 4 | 0 |
| 1994 | 1 | 0 |
| 1995 | 0 | 0 |
| 1996 (to date) | 4 | 0 |

Complaints received at a local or district level which were resolved informally at that level are not recorded. A system of advising the Equal Employment Opportunity Co-ordinator of the outcome of complaints resolved locally, maintaining anonymity of all parties, was introduced in 1995. No advice has been received to date.

(8) In addition to a line manager based in-house grievance system through which members can refer their complaint of harassment or discrimination, the following avenues within the Western Australia Police Service are available -

- consulting their supervisors directly without using the in-house grievance system;
- refer to Internal Investigations Unit;
- utilising the services of a harassment contact officer;
- taking the matter to their union; and
- taking the matter to the Equal Opportunity Commission.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE/NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND STUDENTS, CONSULTANT POSITIONS

1673. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

(1) How many consultant positions in the area of English as a second language/non-English speaking background students exist in the Education Department?

(2) When were these positions created?

(3) What other non-teaching or advisory positions exist within the English as a second language/non-English speaking background student area for -

- (a) primary pupils;
- (b) compulsory secondary pupils;
- (c) post-compulsory secondary pupils?

(4) What is the annual cost of such consultant positions?

(5) What is the annual cost of the other non-teaching or advisory positions?

- (6) How much of the funding for the consultants' position is provided by -
 - (a) the Federal Government;
 - (b) the State Government?
- (7) How much of the funding for the non-teaching or advisory positions is provided by -
 - (a) the Federal Government;
 - (b) the State Government?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) Two Consultant positions.
- (2) 1988.
- (3)
 - (a) 1.5 FTE education officer for primary
 - (b)-(c) 1.5 FTE education officer for secondary/post compulsory
- (4) \$123,325
- (5) \$168 757
- (6)
 - (a) \$60 123
 - (b) \$63 202
- (7)
 - (a) \$168 757
 - (b) Nil.

SPORT AND RECREATION - JUNIOR SPORT, STUDIES

1708. Dr GALLOP to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Has the Ministry of Sport and Recreation conducted any studies into the costs of junior sport?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) who conducted the studies?
 - (b) when were they conducted?
- (3) Will the Minister table the findings of the studies with his answer to this question?

Mrs PARKER replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response:

- (1) No. However, there has been research undertaken on the impact of the cost of sport. Some information on the cost of sport for juniors is being sought from State Sporting Associations through the 1996 WA Sport Census. The Ministry of Sport and Recreation has also advised that the Australian Bureau of Statistics research indicates that costs considerations are one of the lower scoring factors inhibiting sport participation. Professor David Kirk and others from the University of Queensland concluded that family income and family structure are also key factors in determining the likelihood of a child's involvement in junior sport. Research work initiated by Dr Donna Fruin of Curtin University of Technology has also indicated that young people who do not exercise consider that the more interesting activities cost more, therefore making participation difficult. Those who did participate in exercise emphasised that money does not prevent them from participation, however, it does limit the number of activities they can afford to do.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - CHILD PROTECTION, NEW ARRANGEMENTS

1724. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Under the new child protection arrangements, are social workers employed by the department spending more time -
 - (a) dealing face to face with families; or
 - (b) attending to the reporting requirements of the new system?
- (2) Is it fair to say that, since the introduction of the new child protection arrangements, social workers are generally spending less time dealing face to face with families?

- (3) If so, is this an intended consequence of the changes?
- (4) If not, what assessment has been carried out to determine this outcome?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The New Directions in Child Protection and Family Support were introduced to provide a more appropriate response to referrals. The new approach provides a more targeted and skilled child protection response. Departmental social workers will be more able to deal face to face with families in a supportive way than has been previously possible. A trial of New Directions found that 79 per cent of referrals which expressed concerns about children were classified as child concern reports and were followed up by home visits in most cases to the family with a view to offering support services. New Directions has introduced changes to assessment and reporting requirements in order to provide the most appropriate and effective service to children and their families. These changes include collecting more relevant information which will enhance rather than reduce the ability of social workers to provide direct support to families.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) An evaluation was conducted of the pilot program and ongoing monitoring is occurring through regional mentor groups, the Project Manager and Steering Committee. A full evaluation is planned after the New Directions have been operating for 12 months.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - CHILD PROTECTION

Parents Referred to Non-government Agencies; Approach to Allegations

1725. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Does the Department of Family and Children's Services refer parents to non-government agencies following receipt or examination of reports about their child's well-being?
- (2) Under what circumstances are parents so referred?
- (3) When dealing with reports or allegations of child abuse or inappropriate parenting, does the department examine the complaint or allegation from the position of ensuring its first priority is the protection of the child?
- (4) Is the department's approach to such allegations or complaints -
 - (a) child-centred; or
 - (b) family-centred?
- (5) Does the department adhere to the philosophy of the child-centred or family-centred approach?
- (6) Exactly what philosophy does the department follow?
- (7) When referring parents to non-government agencies, does the department clarify if the non-government agency's approach is the same as the department's?
- (8) Do some non-government agencies operate from a more family-oriented philosophy than the department?
- (9) To what extent, if at all, have any concerns been raised within the department about the adequacy of the referral arrangements?
- (10) Have any concerns been raised in the department about the prospect of a serious child abuse problem not being detected under the new arrangements?
- (11) Exactly what is the nature of the concern or concerns that have been raised?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The department often refers parents to non-government agencies after assessment/investigation.
- (2) Referrals to other agencies are made on the basis of an assessment of the family or child's circumstances, their needs and the availability of services. Where there is conflict between the needs of the family and the needs of the child, the child's needs are held as paramount.

- (3)-(5) The department considers situations of child abuse according to the circumstances of each case. Consideration is always given to working with children in the context of the family where this does not compromise the safety of the children. In many, if not most cases, the terms "child centred" and "family centred" are not mutually exclusive.
- (6) Family and Children's Services aims to promote responsibility and growth in family and community life and to contribute to the protection and care of children.
- (7) Family and Children's Services refer children and their families to other agencies on the basis of the availability and appropriateness of services to meet the needs of the children and families.
- (8) There is a range of philosophies held by non-government agencies. Philosophical approaches are usually based on the functions/missions of the various agencies. It would be difficult to judge whether a particular agency was more or less family oriented than the department.
- (9) The question does not indicate what is meant by referral arrangements nor what information is being sought.
- (10)-(11) In the early development of the New Directions during training and informal discussions, some staff in the department were concerned that the new arrangements may not ensure thorough investigation of child abuse reports. Once the New Directions were trialed and evaluated, and staff were trained, there was clearer understanding by all staff that the thoroughness of child protection investigations was not reduced.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SENIOR OFFICERS OF ABORIGINAL DESCENT

Aboriginal Education and Training Council, Resources

1728. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many senior officers in the Education Department are of Aboriginal descent?
- (2) Has the Government adopted the policy or objective of ensuring Aboriginal people are promoted to senior positions within the Education Department?
- (3) What steps is the Government taking in this respect?
- (4) What authority has been given to the Aboriginal Education and Training Council?
- (5) What resources have been made available to the Aboriginal Education and Training Council?
- (6) What resources will be made available for the Aboriginal Education and Training Council this financial year?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) Three at Level 8 and above.
- (2)-(3) The Education Department has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander career and employment plan which is currently being revised and rewritten. The revised plan will have two major goals:
 - 1. to increase the number of Aboriginal employees within the Education Department of Western Australia to at least 3 per cent over the next five years, targeting recruitment and advancement; and
 - 2. to create and maintain a welcoming work environment to which Aboriginal people will be attracted and in which their retention and advancement is fostered.
- (4) The Aboriginal Education and Training Council was established in 1995 by the Western Australian Minister for Education, Employment and Training to provide policy advice to government on issues relating to Aboriginal education and training.
- (5) The resources which have been made available to the AETC from state sources are office accommodation; clerical and technology support; allowance and expenses for the chairperson; travel and accommodation expenses for members' attendance at meetings; research support (0.5 FTE); an education officer (0.1 FTE); and an executive officer (0.5 FTE). The Commonwealth provides funding for travel, accommodation and catering at consultative meetings; target projects; a research officer (1.0 FTE); and a clerical officer (1.0 FTE).

- (6) AETC resources are allocated by calendar, rather than financial, year. The resources listed in part (5) are available through to the end of December 1996. Funding for the period 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997 is subject to state-commonwealth discussions, which are due to begin in September 1996. The outlook for 1997 is an equivalent or improved level of resources.

JOB LINK - FUNDING; YOUTH PLACEMENTS

1730. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) In each of the last four financial years how much has been allocated to each Job Link project each year?
- (2) What are the locations of the Job Link projects?
- (3) Does each project report on the number of people it has been able to place in employment?
- (4) How many young people did the Job Link project place into employment in each of the last four financial years commencing with the 1992-93 financial year?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Employment and Training has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(4) The Western Australian Department of Treasury has prepared reports on the funding arrangements and locations of the various Job Link projects over the past four years. The State Employment Assistance and Strategy commenced operation on 1 January 1995 with a seven month transitional funding period. SEAS statistics are only available for a period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996.

[See paper No 601.]

BUDGET (COMMONWEALTH) - CUTS; SAVINGS, COST CUTTING MEASURES

1743. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Has the Minister asked any of his departments or agencies to identify savings, cost cutting or other measures that will enable the Government to cover the \$90m cut imposed on the State by the Howard Commonwealth Government?
- (2) Have any savings, cost cutting or other measures been identified which will save some or all of the shortfall?
- (3) What savings, cost cutting or other measures have been identified?
- (4) What measures does the Government intend to implement?
- (5) When does the Government propose to implement these measures?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(5) I refer the member to question on notice 1740 of 1996.

BUDGET (COMMONWEALTH) - CUTS; SAVINGS, COST CUTTING MEASURES

1746. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the Minister asked any of his departments or agencies to identify savings, cost cutting or other measures that will enable the Government to cover the \$90m cut imposed on the State by the Howard Commonwealth Government?
- (2) Have any savings, cost cutting or other measures been identified which will save some or all of the shortfall?
- (3) What savings, cost cutting or other measures have been identified?
- (4) What measures does the Government intend to implement?
- (5) When does the Government propose to implement these measures?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Employment and Training has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(5) I refer the member to question on notice 1740 of 1996.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, CONSULTANT POSITIONS

1759. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many consultant positions in the area of English as a second language/non-English speaking background students exist in the Education Department?
- (2) When were these positions created?
- (3) What other non-teaching or advisory positions exist within the English as a second language/non-English speaking background student area for -
 - (a) primary pupils;
 - (b) post-compulsory secondary pupils?
- (4) What is the annual cost of the consultants' positions?
- (5) What is the annual cost of the other non-teaching or advisory positions?
- (6) How much of the funding for the consultants' positions is provided by -
 - (a) the Federal Government;
 - (b) the State Education budget?
- (7) How much of the funding for the non-teaching or advisory positions is provided by -
 - (a) the Federal Government
 - (b) the State Education budget?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) 2 consultant positions.
- (2) 1988.
- (3)
 - (a) 1.5 FTE education officers;
 - (b) 1.5 FTE education officers work across secondary and post compulsory.
- (4) \$123 325.
- (5) \$168 757.
- (6)
 - (a) \$60 123;
 - (b) \$63 202.
- (7)
 - (a) \$168 757;
 - (b) nil.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, NEW ARRIVAL AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR TEACHING, FUNDING

1765. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) As both the new arrival and support programs for teaching of English as a second language are funded by a fixed capita grant, have any services within these areas been cut back as a result of the 7.5 per cent increase granted to teachers in this State?
- (2) Has the State Government allocated funds to ensure that services are maintained at the pre-7.5 per cent increase?
- (3) Have extra funds been requested from the Federal Government to cover the increase in teacher salaries?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Tuesday, 20 August 1996 by the member for Nollamara and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1672.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, NEW ARRIVAL AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS, REMOTE AREAS

1766. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What steps have been taken by the Department of Education to establish new arrival intensive English as a second language and ESL support programs for those pupils who move to more remote parts of the State within the first three years after arrival?
- (2) Have the resources of the Distance Education Centre been utilised to develop these programs?
- (3) What methods are in place to keep track of those pupils who -
 - (a) move to more remote centres within the State and require new arrival and support programs;
 - (b) arrive from other States/Territories and require the services of the new arrival and support programs in English as a Second Language?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Tuesday, 20 August 1996 by the member for Nollamara and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1674.

POLICE SERVICE - ANGEL, JEANIE

1773. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Further to the findings by the Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service of the Legislative Council regarding the arrest and charging of Jeanie Angel, is the Minister or Commissioner of Police inquiring into those events?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, when will the report be released?

Mr WIESE replied:

This question should more appropriately be referred to the Attorney General.

POLICE SERVICE - BREAKING AND ENTERING OFFENCES, BEECHBORO

1776. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the number of breaking and entering offences in Beechboro?
- (2) How many have there been each week since 1 May 1996?
- (3) What action is the Police Force taking to reduce the incidence of break-ins in the suburb?
- (4) Will the Government ensure resources are made available to the Police Force to carry out regular patrols of the area, given the high incidence of break-ins?

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) For the week:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| 29 April to 05 May | 5 |
| 06 May to 12 May | 5 |
| 13 May to 19 May | 8 |
| 20 May to 26 May | 7 |
| 27 May to 02 June | 2 |
| 03 June to 09 June | 6 |
| 10 June to 16 June | 4 |
| 17 June to 23 June | 3 |
| 24 June to 30 June | 14 |
| 01 July to 07 July | 11 |
| 08 July to 14 July | 9 |
| 15 July to 21 July | 3 |
| 22 July to 28 July | 9 |
| 29 July to 06 August | 13 |

- (3) An Offence Report Inquiry Team has been established at the Lockridge Police Station to conduct inquiries into crime reports. In addition a Burglary Team has been instigated in the Midland Police District to investigate burglaries in Lockridge and other localities in the Police District. Recent operations conducted jointly by these Teams in the Lockridge Police sub-district have been most successful.
- (4) Yes. A recent increase of four personnel at the Lockridge Police Station will also enhance the Station patrolling capacity.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - INTENSIVE LANGUAGE CENTRES

Academic Requirements for Level 3 and 4 Promotional Positions, Abolition

1779. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

Why has the Department of Education abolished the academic requirements as a selection criteria for Level 3 and Level 4 promotional positions at intensive language centres?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Tuesday, 20 August 1996 by the member for Nollamara and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1675.

POLICE SERVICE - CRIME STATISTICS

1797. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Police:

Could the Minister advise the following statistics for crime for the following areas -

- (a) indecent assault;
- (b) serious assault;
- (c) burglary (break and enter);
- (d) motor vehicle theft;
- (e) stealing;
- (f) damage,

in the following suburbs -

- (i) Scarborough
- (ii) Balcatta
- (iii) Stirling
- (iv) Innaloo
- (v) Osborne Park
- (vi) North Trigg
- (vii) North Karrinyup
- (viii) Yokine
- (ix) Joondanna
- (x) Dianella
- (xi) Tuart Hill
- (xii) Mt Hawthorn
- (xiii) North Perth
- (xiv) Mt Lawley/Menora/Coolbinia,

for the -

- (aa) year to date;
- (ab) compared to last year.

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

| | #1995 | #1996 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| (a)(i) Scarborough | 7 | 5 |
| (a)(ii) Balcatta | 9 | 3 |
| (a)(iii) Stirling | 1 | 0 |
| (a)(iv) Innaloo | 1 | 1 |
| (a)(v) Osborne Park | 0 | 2 |
| (a)(vi) Trigg | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(vii) Karrinyup | 1 | 0 |
| (a)(viii) Yokine | 8 | 5 |
| (a)(ix) Joondanna | 1 | 2 |
| (a)(x) Dianella | 4 | 0 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| (a)(xi) Tuart Hill | 2 | 1 |
| (a)(xii) Mt Hawthorn | 6 | 14 |
| (a)(xiii) North Perth | 3 | 15 |
| (a)(xiv)(1) Mt Lawley | 4 | 27 |
| (a)(xiv)(2) Menora | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(xiv)(3) Coolbinia | 0 | 0 |
| (b)(i) Scarborough | 22 | 30 |
| (b)(ii) Balcatta | 10 | 11 |
| (b)(iii) Stirling | 7 | 6 |
| (b)(iv) Innaloo | 8 | 5 |
| (b)(v) Osborne Park | 14 | 12 |
| (b)(vi) Trigg | 0 | 0 |
| (b)(vii) Karrinyup | 1 | 5 |
| (b)(viii) Yokine | 5 | 9 |
| (b)(ix) Joondanna | 5 | 2 |
| (b)(x) Dianella | 13 | 15 |
| (b)(xi) Tuart Hill | 5 | 8 |
| (b)(xii) Mt Hawthorn | 2 | 5 |
| (b)(xiii) North Perth | 9 | 8 |
| (b)(xiv)(1) Mt Lawley | 6 | 11 |
| (b)(xiv)(2) Menora | 1 | 1 |
| (b)(xiv)(3) Coolbinia | 0 | 1 |
| (c)(i) Scarborough | 287 | 255 |
| (c)(ii) Balcatta | 299 | 309 |
| (c)(iii) Stirling | 73 | 85 |
| (c)(iv) Innaloo | 104 | 88 |
| (c)(v) Osborne Park | 415 | 201 |
| (c)(vi) Trigg | 58 | 38 |
| (c)(vii) Karrinyup | 132 | 82 |
| (c)(viii) Yokine | 266 | 199 |
| (c)(ix) Joondanna | 129 | 81 |
| (c)(x) Dianella | 316 | 280 |
| (c)(xi) Tuart Hill | 201 | 138 |
| (c)(xii) Mt Hawthorn | 164 | 100 |
| (c)(xiii) North Perth | 244 | 201 |
| (c)(xiv)(1) Mt Lawley | 335 | 291 |
| (c)(xiv)(2) Menora | 40 | 42 |
| (c)(xiv)(3) Coolbinia | 33 | 32 |
| (d)(i) Scarborough | 85 | 73 |
| (d)(ii) Balcatta | 51 | 46 |
| (d)(iii) Stirling | 65 | 42 |
| (d)(iv) Innaloo | 61 | 34 |
| (d)(v) Osborne Park | 106 | 50 |
| (d)(vi) Trigg | 24 | 20 |
| (d)(vii) Karrinyup | 64 | 24 |
| (d)(viii) Yokine | 46 | 21 |
| (d)(ix) Joondanna | 21 | 14 |
| (d)(x) Dianella | 40 | 40 |
| (d)(xi) Tuart Hill | 32 | 22 |
| (d)(xii) Mt Hawthorn | 30 | 26 |
| (d)(xiii) North Perth | 79 | 63 |
| (d)(xiv)(1) Mt Lawley | 90 | 81 |
| (d)(xiv)(2) Menora | 6 | 9 |
| (d)(xiv)(3) Coolbinia | 3 | 4 |
| (e)(i) Scarborough | 575 | 364 |
| (e)(ii) Balcatta | 225 | 204 |
| (e)(iii) Stirling | 98 | 85 |
| (e)(iv) Innaloo | 204 | 173 |
| (e)(v) Osborne Park | 274 | 315 |
| (e)(vi) Trigg | 176 | 147 |
| (e)(vii) Karrinyup | 242 | 152 |
| (e)(viii) Yokine | 185 | 139 |
| (e)(ix) Joondanna | 80 | 49 |
| (e)(x) Dianella | 300 | 203 |
| (e)(xi) Tuart Hill | 134 | 93 |
| (e)(xii) Mt Hawthorn | 173 | 80 |
| (e)(xiii) North Perth | 225 | 204 |
| (e)(xiv)(1) Mt Lawley | 316 | 243 |
| (e)(xiv)(2) Menora | 15 | 46 |
| (e)(xiv)(3) Coolbinia | 25 | 17 |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----|-----|
| (f)(i) | Scarborough | 203 | 145 |
| (f)(ii) | Balcatta | 119 | 87 |
| (f)(iii) | Stirling | 58 | 74 |
| (f)(iv) | Innaloo | 77 | 86 |
| (f)(v) | Osborne Park | 160 | 104 |
| (f)(vi) | Trigg | 28 | 32 |
| (f)(vii) | Karrinyup | 76 | 67 |
| (f)(viii) | Yokine | 87 | 94 |
| (f)(ix) | Joondanna | 48 | 26 |
| (f)(x) | Dianella | 124 | 132 |
| (f)(xi) | Tuart Hill | 85 | 44 |
| (f)(xii) | Mt Hawthorn | 99 | 40 |
| (f)(xiii) | North Perth | 94 | 137 |
| (f)(xiv)(1) | Mt Lawley | 189 | 179 |
| (f)(xiv)(2) | Menora | 13 | 37 |
| (f)(xiv)(3) | Coolbinia | 15 | 21 |

NOTE : Information is not available for North Karrinyup or North Trigg. Data has been provided for the localities of Karrinyup and Trigg.

Represents data for the period 1 January to 31 July for the respective year.

POLICE SERVICE - CRIME STATISTICS

1798. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Police:

Could the Minister advise the following statistics for crime for the following areas -

- (a) indecent assault;
- (b) serious assault;
- (c) burglary (break and enter);
- (d) motor vehicle theft;
- (e) stealing;
- (f) damage,

in the following suburbs -

- (i) Quinns Rocks;
- (ii) Merriwa;
- (iii) Clarkson;
- (iv) Burns Beach;
- (v) Wanneroo
- (vi) Gnangara
- (vii) Wangara
- (viii) Landsdale
- (ix) Marangaroo

for the -

- (aa) year to date;
- (ab) compared to last year

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

| | #1995 | #1996 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| (a)(i) Quinns Rocks | 1 | 3 |
| (a)(ii) Merriwa | 11 | 0 |
| (a)(iii) Clarkson | 2 | 0 |
| (a)(iv) Burns Beach | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(v) Wanneroo | 37 | 3 |
| (a)(vi) Gnangara | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(vii) Wangara | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(viii) Landsdale | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(ix) Marangaroo | 0 | 8 |
| (b)(i) Quinns Rocks | 2 | 5 |
| (b)(ii) Merriwa | 1 | 6 |
| (b)(iii) Clarkson | 1 | 11 |
| (b)(iv) Burns Beach | 2 | 0 |
| (b)(v) Wanneroo | 10 | 8 |
| (b)(vi) Gnangara | 0 | 4 |
| (b)(vii) Wangara | 2 | 3 |

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----|-----|
| (b)(viii) | Landsdale | 1 | 0 |
| (b)(ix) | Marangaroo | 3 | 2 |
| (c)(i) | Quinns Rocks | 40 | 29 |
| (c)(ii) | Merriwa | 29 | 35 |
| (c)(iii) | Clarkson | 34 | 33 |
| (c)(iv) | Burns Beach | 1 | 0 |
| (c)(v) | Wanneroo | 181 | 89 |
| (c)(vi) | Gnangara | 10 | 5 |
| (c)(vii) | Wangara | 79 | 25 |
| (c)(viii) | Landsdale | 58 | 30 |
| (c)(ix) | Marangaroo | 164 | 164 |
| (d)(i) | Quinns Rocks | 12 | 4 |
| (d)(ii) | Merriwa | 5 | 5 |
| (d)(iii) | Clarkson | 8 | 6 |
| (d)(iv) | Burns Beach | 1 | 0 |
| (d)(v) | Wanneroo | 53 | 37 |
| (d)(vi) | Gnangara | 8 | 4 |
| (d)(vii) | Wangara | 19 | 11 |
| (d)(viii) | Landsdale | 15 | 9 |
| (d)(ix) | Marangaroo | 20 | 16 |
| (e)(i) | Quinns Rocks | 83 | 47 |
| (e)(ii) | Merriwa | 43 | 22 |
| (e)(iii) | Clarkson | 25 | 19 |
| (e)(iv) | Burns Beach | 6 | 4 |
| (e)(v) | Wanneroo | 191 | 113 |
| (e)(vi) | Gnangara | 33 | 11 |
| (e)(vii) | Wangara | 68 | 62 |
| (e)(viii) | Landsdale | 47 | 36 |
| (e)(ix) | Marangaroo | 107 | 64 |
| (f)(i) | Quinns Rocks | 14 | 31 |
| (f)(ii) | Merriwa | 12 | 20 |
| (f)(iii) | Clarkson | 13 | 25 |
| (f)(iv) | Burns Beach | 2 | 1 |
| (f)(v) | Wanneroo | 138 | 80 |
| (f)(vi) | Gnangara | 4 | 7 |
| (f)(vii) | Wangara | 32 | 16 |
| (f)(viii) | Landsdale | 25 | 16 |
| (f)(ix) | Marangaroo | 65 | 48 |

#Represents data for the period 1 January to 31 July for the respective year.

POLICE SERVICE - CRIME STATISTICS

1799. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Police:

Could the Minister advise the following statistics for crime for the following areas -

- (a) indecent assault;
- (b) serious assault;
- (c) burglary (break and enter);
- (d) motor vehicle theft;
- (e) stealing;
- (f) damage,

in the following suburbs -

- (i) Currambine;
- (ii) Joondalup;
- (iii) Connolly;
- (iv) Heathridge;
- (v) Edgewater;
- (vi) Iluka;
- (vii) Ocean Reef;

for the -

- (aa) year to date;
- (ab) compared to last year

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

| | #1995 | #1996 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| (a)(i) Currambine | 1 | 1 |
| (a)(ii) Joondalup | 0 | 3 |
| (a)(iii) Connolly | 0 | 0 |
| (a)(iv) Heathridge | 0 | 4 |
| (a)(v) Edgewater | 3 | 1 |
| (a)(vi) Iluka | 0 | 1 |
| (a)(vii) Ocean Reef | 0 | 0 |
| (b)(i) Currambine | 2 | 5 |
| (b)(ii) Joondalup | 6 | 12 |
| (b)(iii) Connolly | 1 | 0 |
| (b)(iv) Heathridge | 8 | 3 |
| (b)(v) Edgewater | 4 | 3 |
| (b)(vi) Iluka | 0 | 1 |
| (b)(vii) Ocean Reef | 4 | 4 |
| (c)(i) Currambine | 22 | 18 |
| (c)(ii) Joondalup | 88 | 56 |
| (c)(iii) Connolly | 40 | 22 |
| (c)(iv) Heathridge | 95 | 53 |
| (c)(v) Edgewater | 34 | 66 |
| (c)(vi) Iluka | 5 | 3 |
| (c)(vii) Ocean Reef | 100 | 51 |
| (d)(i) Currambine | 10 | 10 |
| (d)(ii) Joondalup | 56 | 36 |
| (d)(iii) Connolly | 7 | 1 |
| (d)(iv) Heathridge | 27 | 18 |
| (d)(v) Edgewater | 27 | 7 |
| (d)(vi) Iluka | 1 | 0 |
| (d)(vii) Ocean Reef | 10 | 4 |
| (e)(i) Currambine | 55 | 29 |
| (e)(ii) Joondalup | 222 | 191 |
| (e)(iii) Connolly | 28 | 27 |
| (e)(iv) Heathridge | 81 | 68 |
| (e)(v) Edgewater | 76 | 45 |
| (e)(vi) Iluka | 13 | 7 |
| (e)(vii) Ocean Reef | 99 | 97 |
| (f)(i) Currambine | 14 | 14 |
| (f)(ii) Joondalup | 71 | 93 |
| (f)(iii) Connolly | 12 | 16 |
| (f)(iv) Heathridge | 68 | 52 |
| (f)(v) Edgewater | 38 | 39 |
| (f)(vi) Iluka | 4 | 2 |
| (f)(vii) Ocean Reef | 64 | 71 |

#Represents data for the period 1 January to 31 July for the respective year.

ETHNIC GROUPS - NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND (NESB) PEOPLE, PROGRAMS MEETING NEEDS; LANGUAGE SERVICES, FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

1817. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) What funds have been allocated, within the Minister's portfolio, for programs which are aimed at specifically meeting the needs of ethnic groups and individuals of non English speaking background?
- (2) To which/what programs have these funds been allocated?
- (3) What amount has been allocated for language services?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)-(3) In 1996, approximately \$7.07m has been allocated to the training sector to fund various language services and programs for people from non-English speaking backgrounds. These language programs include -

Settlement English Program;
 Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) Program;
 Special Intervention Program;
 Advanced English Language Program;
 Prevocational Program;
 English as a Second Language Program;
 Indigenous Language Program, and
 The Overseas Qualifications Unit.

ETHNIC GROUPS - NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND (NESB) PEOPLE, PROGRAMS
 MEETING NEEDS; LANGUAGE SERVICES, FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

1822. Mrs ROBERTS to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What funds have been allocated, within the Minister's portfolio, for programs which are aimed at specifically meeting the needs of ethnic groups and individuals of non-English speaking background?
- (2) To which/what programs have these funds been allocated?
- (3) What amount has been allocated for language services?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(3) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation has not provided any direct funding, however, it is committed to covering service provision to groups and individuals of non-English speaking background through a series of feature articles in a future issue of Recreation Exchange during 1996/97. This publication is distributed widely within the sport and recreation industry at a professional level.

ETHNIC GROUPS - NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND (NESB) PEOPLE, PROGRAMS
 MEETING NEEDS; LANGUAGE SERVICES, FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

1823. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What funds have been allocated, within the Minister's portfolio, for programs which are aimed at specifically meeting the needs of ethnic groups and individuals of non-English speaking background?
- (2) To which/what programs have these funds been allocated?
- (3) What amount has been allocated for language services?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) In respect of the Ministry of Justice, \$417 000 is provided for cross-cultural training together with approximately \$400 000 provision for staff wages to enable officers to attend such training. The Court Services Division also has an allocation of \$66 000 for interpreter services in courts as does the Guardianship and Administration Board which has an allocation of \$2 000 for interpreter and translation services. Interpreters are also utilised in prisons and detention centres on a fee for service basis.

SPORT AND RECREATION - NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUND PEOPLE, EMPLOYMENT
 TRAINING PROGRAMS

1828. Mrs ROBERTS to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What training programs have been put into place for non-English speaking background community groups, and individuals to utilise employment training programs available through federal and state programs in the area of sport and recreation?
- (2) Which community groups or organisations have been selected to deliver these training programs?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(2) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation liaises extensively with the Western Australian Arts, Sports and Recreation Industry Training Council with the view to increasing the Ministry's influence on the development and implementation of the Western Australian sport and recreation industry training agenda

and developing a more structured and diversified industry training framework. Ministry employees involvement is predominantly used to provide consultancy services which involves membership on committees including the Equity/Access Committee. This committee is currently working on a research project due for completion in November 1996. This project is aimed at identifying barriers for people of non-English speaking background. Funding of \$21 000 has been provided by the Western Australian Department of Training.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - WOMEN EMPLOYEES, PROMOTION AND RETENTION RATES

1841. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the promotion rates of women employed in teaching, senior administrative or managerial positions in Western Australian schools and in the Department of Education?
- (2) What are the comparative rates for 1985 and 1990?
- (3) What are the retention rates of women employed in teaching, senior administrative or managerial positions in Western Australian schools and in the Department of Education?
- (4) What are the comparative rates for 1985 and 1990?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(4) The Education Department does not keep information about employees in a manner which allows this question to be adequately answered. In addition, any data for the years requested can only be extracted manually. The following figures, however, are provided for the member's information -

| | | Education Department of WA Number of Employees in Promotional Positions 1991-1995 (as at 31 December each year) | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Education Act | | Level | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
| | Females | 3 | 439 | 458 | 459 | 445 | 458 |
| | Males | | 1064 | 1115 | 1120 | 1111 | 1087 |
| | Females | 4 | 95 | 104 | 112 | 118 | 120 |
| | Males | | 251 | 291 | 299 | 290 | 298 |
| | Females | 5 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 21 |
| | Males | | 295 | 268 | 263 | 245 | 251 |
| | Females | 6 | 17 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 26 |
| | Males | | 71 | 92 | 88 | 85 | 89 |
| Public Servants | Females | 6 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 13 |
| | Males | | 28 | 27 | 33 | 29 | 25 |
| | Females | 7 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| | Males | | 29 | 22 | 24 | 14 | 15 |
| | Females | 8 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| | Males | | 31 | 28 | 37 | 32 | 39 |
| | Females | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Males | | 4 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| | Females | Class 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Males | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Females | Class 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Males | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Females | Class 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Males | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Females | Class 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Males | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING - WORLEY REPORT INTO SKILLED LABOUR REQUIREMENTS, RESOURCES SECTOR

1849. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the Government accepted the recommendations of the Worley report into the skilled labour requirements of the resources sector in Western Australia?
- (2) What specific additional funds have been allocated in the 1996-97 Budget to implement each aspect of these recommendations?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1)-(2) Yes. The Western Australian Department of Training has allocated \$9.5m to skill shortage related training in 1996/97. This funding will create more than 5 300 extra training places over the next two years. Specifically this initiative will involve:

An additional \$3.98m, which is equivalent to over 2 500 training places, to be offered for the delivery of training programs in the building and construction, metals, engineering and mining areas during 1996;

An additional \$500 000 in funding, which is equivalent to a further 250 training places for 'enterprise specific tendered training delivery' in skill shortage related areas, has been allocated for second semester 1996;

The department will commit \$5m, which is equivalent to an additional 2 600 training places, to skill shortage related training programs during 1997. This funding will provide an additional 500 000 hours of skills training over the next 18 months in high demand sectors such as metals, engineering, building and construction. In line with the findings of the Worley Study, this funding will target specific skill shortage areas.

In addition to the \$9.5m which will be allocated to additional skills shortage related training during 1996/97, the following important initiatives are under way:

The Western Australian Department of Training is currently examining a range of other relevant strategies, including the development of accelerated trade training programs, skills upgrading programs, and a promotional campaign to encourage industry to take on apprentices and trainees. Within the Department's Industry Specific Tendered Programs, which were advertised on 10 August, training providers will be encouraged to bid for the delivery of accelerated and skills upgrading programs which target metals and engineering trade occupations currently in shortage.

The Minister has also announced a review of employment-based training with a view to modernising the apprenticeship/traineeship system, thus making it more flexible and relevant to the needs of industries. This review is expected to be completed by the end of 1996.

TAFE - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES

1858. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Which Technical and Further Education Centres provide the basic 510 hour on-arrival English as a second language classes for newly arrived migrants?
- (2) How many of those who attend these classes are -
 - (a) paid for by the Federal Government; and
 - (b) full fee paying students?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1) The courses are provided through the Adult Migrant Education Services. English as a Second Language courses are also available through special-purpose centres at 12 St George's Terrace and 14 Victoria Avenue. Further courses are also located on the Balga and Beaconsfield TAFE campuses and, when required, at the independent colleges in the Pilbara and goldfields.
- (2)
 - (a) 2 700 places have been planned for the calendar year of 1996.
 - (b) None.

MIGRANTS - WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH, GROUP TRAINING PROGRAMS

1860. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) How many group training programs designed to meet the training needs of newly arrived migrants, both adults and youths, whose first language is not English, are being conducted in Western Australia?
- (2) Which industry groups are involved?
- (3) Where are these programs located?
- (4) When did they commence?

- (5) Will the Government allocate funds from the State Budget to ensure that these programs continue if federal funds are cut?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1) Newly arrived migrants, who are eligible for English language tuition, can attend the Adult Migrant Education Service, where they will be offered a range of programs.
- (2) None.
- (3) 12 St George's Terrace;
14 Victoria Avenue;
Balga Campus of North Metropolitan College of TAFE;
Beaconsfield Campus of South Metropolitan College of TAFE, and
numerous community venues as needed by demand.
- (4) Courses for newly arrived migrants were established in 1947.
- (5) There is no indication that funds for English language tuition for newly arrived migrants will be reduced. Some labour market programs may have reductions in funding. However, there is no information available to date that suggests that programs for migrant job-seekers will be affected.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - PARENT HELP LINE

1863. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many calls for assistance or advice were received on the Parent Help Line in each month of the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) What were the categories in which statistics were kept, indicating the reasons for calls, over this twelve month period and how many calls were taken in each category?
- (3) How many of these calls led to people having follow-up assistance from the Department of Family and Children's Services or some other agency?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

Family and Children's Services does not operate a Parent Help Line as such, it does however operate the Parenting Line from the Parent Help Centre. The Parenting Line provides parenting information and advice about caring for children up to 18 years of age. The information requested by the member with regard to the Parenting Line follows:

(Note: The Parenting Line commenced operations from 12 October 1995. Prior to this, the Parent Help Centre operated a telephone counselling service. It also operated the Parent Information Resource Services. These two services have now been amalgamated with the Parenting Line since March 1996).

| | PHC | PIRS | Total |
|----------------|-----|------|-------|
| July 1995 | 514 | 107 | 621 |
| August 1995 | 598 | 90 | 688 |
| September 1995 | 523 | 102 | 625 |
| October 1995 | 594 | 27 | 621 |
| November 1995 | 712 | 405 | 1117 |
| December 1995 | 460 | 112 | 572 |
| January 1996 | 496 | 139 | 635 |
| February 1996 | 661 | 185 | 846 |
| March 1996 | | 699 | 699 |
| April 1996 | | 713 | 713 |
| May 1996 | | 1137 | 1137 |
| June 1996 | | 518 | 518 |

- (2) Telephone Contacts for Period 1/7/95 to 30/6/96

| Nature of Problem | PHC | PIRS | Total |
|----------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Child Abuse | 127 | 2 | 129 |
| Angry Feelings | 56 | 4 | 60 |
| Psych/emotional | 292 | 26 | 318 |
| Management Child Behaviour | 3600 | 408 | 4008 |
| Parent/child Relationship | 551 | 432 | 983 |
| Adult Relationships | 147 | 63 | 210 |
| Alcohol/drugs | 40 | 24 | 64 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|
| Medical | 264 | 97 | 361 |
| Isolation | 24 | 8 | 32 |
| Lack of Resources | 1570 | 1236 | 2806 |
| At Risk | 99 | 2 | 101 |
| Domestic Violence | 29 | 4 | 33 |
| Post Natal Depression | 107 | 5 | 112 |
| Adult Child Abuse Victim | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Int/Phys Disability | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 193 | 165 | 358 |

(3) Customers Referred to F&CS or Another Agency

| Nature of Problem | F&CS | Other Agency | Invited to PHC | Total |
|----------------------------|------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| Child Abuse | 34 | | 20 | 54 |
| Angry Feelings | 13 | | 18 | 31 |
| Psych/emotional | | 44 | 44 | 88 |
| Management Child Behaviour | | 265 | 1215 | 1480 |
| Parent/child Relationship | | 598 | 8 | 606 |
| Adult Relationship | | 81 | 16 | 97 |
| Alcohol/drugs | | 30 | | 30 |
| Medical | | 222 | 3 | 225 |
| Isolation | | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Lack of Resources | | 520 | 16 | 536 |
| At Risk | 16 | | 10 | 26 |
| Domestic Violence | | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Post Natal Depression | | 18 | 23 | 41 |
| Adult Child Abuse Victim | | | | 0 |
| Int/Phys Disability | | | 1 | 1 |
| Other | | 15 | 9 | 24 |

In summary, 58 customers were referred to Family and Children's Services District offices. 1 816 customers were provided with information about other agency services and 1 388 customers were invited to access other Parent Help Centre services. Because of the confidential nature of the service information is not available on whether customers accessed the other suggested agencies.

CONTRACT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF - GROUP CERTIFICATES, ERRORS
MADE BY FUJITSU

1906. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer to the Department of Contract and Management Services letter to government employees advising mistakes had been made in employee tax group certificates by the company Fujitsu that has the government payroll contract and ask -

- (a) did the company or the Government meet the costs associated with the error and
- (b) what does the Government intend to do to ensure that standards do not slip as a result of the Government contracting services out to the private sector?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

In the production of Employee Group Certificates, the Western Australian Department of Training utilised the facilities of Australia Post. The Department and Australia Post have had no involvement with the company Fujitsu on this matter.

SCHOOLS - SANDSTONE PRIMARY

Staffing Allocation; Gardener/Handyman; Cleaning Allocation; Grant

1909. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the staffing allocation to Sandstone Primary School in 1996?
- (2) Does Sandstone Primary School have a gardener/handyman, and if so, what is the time allocation for this position?
- (3) What allocation does Sandstone Primary School receive for cleaning?

- (4) Does Sandstone Primary School receive an allocation for a clerical assistant, and if so, what time allocation is given for this position?
- (5) What was the school grant to Sandstone Primary School in 1995 and what is the actual or anticipated total school grant for 1996?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) 1.4 FTE (Education Act).
- (2) Yes. 0.3 FTE.
- (3) 10 hours per week.
- (4) Yes. Office - 0.5 FTE
Library - 0.1 FTE.
- (5) 1995 - \$18 475.44
1996 - \$19 047.01 (actual).

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - PRIMARY SCHOOLS ESTABLISHMENT, MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN REQUIREMENT

1917. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the minimum number of children considered necessary to establish a primary school?
- (2) What provisions is the Education Department of Western Australia making to build schools in the rapidly developing and new south metropolitan suburbs?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) Under Education Act Regulation 159 a government primary school may be established if there is a reasonable prospect of a continued average attendance of not less than 10 children. Except in the case of isolated communities, however, where no alternative arrangements may be possible, schools are not established with such small numbers of students. The average opening enrolment for schools in the Perth metropolitan area is approximately 300 students.
- (2) In the last three years the Education Department has built four primary schools (Canning Vale, Koorana, Port Kennedy and Singleton) in the new and rapidly developing south metropolitan suburbs. The Warnbro Community High School has been built. In addition, four education support centres (two primary and two secondary) have opened at Koorana, Jandakot, Leeming and Warnbro. If Mandurah is included, two primary schools (Riverside and Halls Head) and two education support centres (Riverside and Mandurah) have also been built within this period. Next year an interim school will be opened at Secret Harbour. This will provide the local community with an excellent facility well ahead of the time it would qualify for a school in its own permanent buildings. The Education Department will continue to meet demands created by new residential growth areas. It is projected that there could be the need for up to 10 new schools in the southern suburbs (excluding Mandurah) within the next eight to ten years.

ENVIRONMENT - PROGRAMS/GRANTS, COMMONWEALTH BUDGET CUTS

1922. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What environmental programs/grants have been either cut or scrapped as a result of the Federal Budget for 1996-97?
- (2) Will the State Government be providing extra funding for any of these programs/grants, and if so, will the Minister state which ones will be continued?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details as to which programs/grants will not be continued at all?
- (4) Has the Minister held any discussions with his federal counterpart, or a representative, on budget cuts?
- (5) If yes, will the Minister provide details as to when these discussions took place and what the outcome was?
- (6) Will the Minister provide a list of all programs/grants that are fully funded or funded in part by the Federal Government?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) None.
- (2) Not applicable, no I cannot state which ones will be continued.
- (3)-(4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) National Land Care - \$133 000.
State of the Environment Report - \$33 000.
World Environment Day - \$2 500.
National Pollutant Inventory - \$25 000.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING - TAFE COLLEGES, THEFT INSURANCE; INCIDENCES

1927. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Do -
 - (a) the Department of Training; or
 - (b) individual Technical and Further Education colleges;
 have insurance coverage of items stolen from TAFE or on TAFE campuses?
- (2) What was the incidence of theft or the value of items stolen from TAFE or on TAFE campuses in -
 - (a) 1993-94 financial year
 - (b) 1994-95 financial year
 - (c) 1995-96 financial year
- (3) Has the amount of theft on TAFE campuses increased?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1) The Western Australian Department of Training and its associated Colleges adopt a policy of self insurance for items lost or stolen. This policy conforms to State Government guidelines for insurance of public buildings, plant and equipment as outlined in 'Circular to Ministers' dated 17/11/1988.
- (2) In 1993/94 and 1994/95, the Western Australian Department of Training did not differentiate between items that were lost or stolen.

The following amounts were written off the Department's asset register for lost and/or stolen items. Some of these assets which could not be found had outlived their useful life and had been fully depreciated.
 - (a) 1993/94 \$0
 - (b) 1994/95 \$98 269
 - (c) 1995/96 \$19 586 - which were items stolen in two separate incidents.
- (3) Since the Department was not able to differentiate between items that were lost and stolen in 1994/95, it is not possible to ascertain if the incidence of theft has increased or decreased between 1994/95 and 1995/96.

TAFE - CLEANING CONTRACTS, COSTS

1928. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Further to question on notice 449 of 1996, what was the actual amount paid to each contractor for each contract in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) What was the actual cost of administering -

- (a) each contract;
- (b) all contracts?
- (3) How was the administrative cost calculated?
- (4) Is it true the specifications in the cleaning contract did not provide for a standard of cleaning equivalent to the standard of cleaning provided by day labour.

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (1) \$3 498 045 - see below for further details.
- (2) \$154 251 - see below for further details.
- (3) The administration costs are the Department's salary costs relating to supervising the contracts and processing the regular payments to the contractors.
- (4) No. The cleaning specifications used for all college cleaning contracts include a Cleaning Standards section and a Cleaning Schedule to ensure a high standard of cleaning is maintained.

CLEANING CONTRACTS
Cost Information

| College | Site | Contractor | Cost 95-96 \$ | Admin Costs \$ |
|---------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| NMC | Balga | Linfoot | 168 367 | 2 700 |
| | Carine | Charles Services Co | 106 289 | 2 700 |
| | Joondalup | Western Office | 77 596 | 3 766 |
| SMC | Fremantle | Linfoot | 214 470 | 5 722 |
| | Rockingham | Delron | 170 970 | 6 198 |
| | Murdoch | Western Office | 41 752 | 5 100 |
| | Fleet Street | Kennedy | 58 671 | 34 000 |
| | South Terrace | Linfoot | 30 783 | 10 234 |
| | Henderson Street | Western Office | 13 227 | 928 |
| | Peel | Judy Gray | 11 444 | 1 072 |
| SEMC | Bentley | Linfoot | 206 988 | 4 700 |
| | Carlisle | Quirk Corporate Aust | 160 404 | 5 070 |
| | Armadale | Charles Services Co | 7 765 | 1 000 |
| | Thornlie | Goldenwest | 304 318 | 5 070 |
| | Como | Linfoot | 3 205 | 500 |
| | Equine Centre | Charles Services Co | 6 408 | 2 000 |

| College | Site | Contractor | Cost 95-96 \$ | Admin Costs \$ |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| CMC | | Kennedy | 6 888 | |
| | | Mastercare | 158 536 | |
| | | Charles Services Co | 197 296 | |
| | | Quirk Corporate Aust | 67 286 | |
| | | Western Office Cleaning | 58 199 | |
| CMC | | Berkeley Challenge | 125 102 | 28 000 |
| Midland | Midland | Linfoot | 329 052 | 2 436 |
| SWRC | Bunbury | Quirk Corporate Aust | 179 354 | 5 362 |
| | Collie | Quirk Corporate Aust | 24 721 | 739 |
| | Margaret River | Delron | 10 150 | 303 |
| | Busselton | Quirk Corporate Aust | 11 625 | 348 |
| | Harvey | Delron | 10 032 | 300 |
| | Manjimup | Delron | 9 912 | 296 |
| GRC | Geraldton | Berkeley Challenge | 156 945 | 7 536 |
| GSRC | Albany | Delron | 145 593 | 3 561 |
| C.Y. O'Connor | Northam | Kennedy/Prestige | 27 097 | 680 |
| | Adamson House | Clunes | 8 876 | 218 |
| | Merredin | Delron | 5 424 | 680 |
| AMTC | Wembley | Delron | 73 320 | 200 |
| | East Perth | Delron | 190 316 | 1 000 |
| CCTN | Prospect Pl 8 mths | Western Office | 25 753 | 3 500 |
| | Prospect Pl 4 mths | Quirk Corporate | 38 782 | 1 750 |
| Kimberley | Derby | Richardson Cleaning | 2 600 | 1 645 |
| | Kununurra 6 mths | Barretts Cleaning | 14 899 | 988 |

| College | Site | Contractor | Cost 95-96 \$ | Admin Costs \$ |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | Kununurra 8 mths | MNE Cleaning | 16 744 | 988 |
| Kimberley | Halls Creek 2 mths | Shilo Enterprises | 3 776 | 329 |
| | Halls Creek 10 mths | Edwards Cleaning | 13 650 | 1 646 |
| | Wyndham 6 mths | B & E Cleaning and Gardening | 3 480 | 987 |
| Total | | | \$3 498 045 | \$154 251 |

CONTRACTS - GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

1944. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many contracts does the Government have with the private sector for work which was carried out by government employees when the Government was elected to office in February 1993?
- (2) What is the name of each contractor?
- (3) What is the nature of the work provided by each contractor?
- (4) What is the contract price paid to each contractor?
- (5) How many government employees used to carry out the work that is now carried out by each contractor?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(5) The specific information sought in this question is not collated or recorded centrally. Individual agencies would need to dedicate significant time and numbers of staff in order to extract the information and present it in the format requested. Furthermore, it is likely to be difficult to ensure the accuracy of all relevant information over the period requested. The member has already been provided with copies of the reports on the first two annual surveys of competitive tendering and contracting and the third survey report will be completed towards the end of the year.

CONTRACTS - GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

1950. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many contracts does the Government have with the private sector for work which was carried out by Government employees when the Government was elected to office in February 1993?
- (2) What is the name of each contractor?
- (3) What is the nature of the work provided by each contractor?
- (4) What is the contract price paid to each contractor?
- (5) How many government employees used to carry out the work that is now carried out by each contractor?

Mr WIESE replied:

- (1)-(5) The specific information sought in this question is not collated or recorded centrally. Individual agencies would need to dedicate significant time and numbers of staff in order to extract the information and present it in the format requested. Furthermore, it is likely to be difficult to ensure the accuracy of all relevant information over the period requested. The member for Morley has already been provided with copies of the reports on the first two annual surveys of competitive tendering and contracting and the third survey report will be completed towards the end of this year.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, FUNDING, MEDIA RELEASES

1963. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Has the Minister issued a number of media releases concerning the Government's decision to provide funding to various non-government organisations?
- (2) Have some of the media releases related to government funds being provided to non-government organisations that have received government funding for a number of years to provide the services in question?
- (3) In the media releases, does the Minister make it clear that the funding being provided is not new and allows the organisation to continue to provide the services that have been provided for some time?
- (4) Is it true that some of the media releases create the impression that the funding provided is new funding rather than continued funding for an existing service?
- (5) If not, why have some of the media statements deliberately not made reference to the funding being provided to enable an existing service to continue?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Every attempt is made to identify new funding and/or new services.
- (4) No.
- (5) The Minister does not have control over the published statements which appear in the media.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1974. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (1) 189
- (2) 75

Small Business Development Corporation

- (1) 39
- (2) 11

Perth International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (1) 9.6
- (2) All employees are employed under individual contracts of employment

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (1) 9
- (2) 8 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (1) 10
- (2) 9 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Great Southern Development Commission

- (1) 12
- (2) 11 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Kimberley Development Commission

- (1) 10
- (2) 9 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Mid West Development Commission

- (1) 11
- (2) 9 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Peel Development Commission

- (1) 10
- (2) 9 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

Pilbara Development Commission

- (1) 12
- (2) 10 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement
one trainee is employed through Group Training North West)

South West Development Commission

- (1) 21
- (2) Nil

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (1) 15
- (2) 13 (CEO is not employed under the terms of a Workplace Agreement)

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1977. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Fair Trading; Women's Interests:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) Below is a table which is based on full time equivalents staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| Agency | Actual FTEs June 1996 | Estimated Total Number of Staff Covered by WPAs |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Fair Trading, Ministry of | 179 | 0 |
| Family & Children's Services | 1 128 | 0 |
| Seniors Interests, Office of | 22 | 0 |
| Women's Policy Development Office | 23 | 0 |
| Total | 1 352 | 0 |

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1978. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Lands; Housing:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?

(2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr KIERATH replied:

For the member's information there follows a table which is based on full time equivalents staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| Agency | (1) Actual FTEs June 96 | (2) Estimated total number of staff covered by WPAs |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Homeswest | 801 | 650 |
| Land Administration, Department of | 688 | 622 |
| * LandCorp | 62 | |
| Productivity & Labour Relations, Department of | 102 | 85 |
| Registrar Industrial Relations Commission, Department of | 70 | |
| Workcover WA | 133 | |
| Workplace Agreements, Commissioner of | 18 | 15 |
| Worksafe Western Australia | 165 | 80 |
| Total | 2039 | 1452 |

Note: The agency with an asterisk was not part of the FTE monitoring process but estimates have been provided. The number of staff on workplace agreements are estimated 'headcount' figures as reported to DOPLAR.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1985. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

I attach for the member's information a table which is based on full time equivalents' staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| | |
|---|----|
| * Government Employees Superannuation Board | 13 |
| * State Government Insurance Commission | 30 |
| State Revenue Department | 21 |
| Valuer General's Office | 19 |
| TOTAL | 83 |

Note: The agencies with an asterisk were not part of the FTE monitoring process but estimates have been provided. The number of staff on workplace agreements are estimated 'headcount' figures as reported to DOPLAR.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1986. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply:

I attach for the member's information a table which is based on full time equivalents' staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| * Lotteries Commission | 12 |
| Office of Racing Gaming & Liquor | 98 |
| * Totalisator Agency Board of WA | 16 |
| TOTAL | 126 |

Note: The agencies with an asterisk were not part of the FTE monitoring process but estimates have been provided. The number of staff on workplace agreements are estimated 'headcount' figures as reported to DOPLAR.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1988. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr NICHOLLS replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

For the member's information a table is set out below which is based on full time equivalents staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| Agency | Actual FTEs June 1996 | Estimated Total Number of Staff Covered by WPAs |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Art Gallery | 71 | 1 |
| Arts, Department for | 33 | |
| Museum | 167 | |
| Perth Theatre Trust | 116 | |
| Screen West | 5 | |
| Total | 392 | 1 |

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1989. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

For the member's information a table is set out below which is based on full time equivalents staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| Agency | Actual FTEs June 1996 | Estimated Total Number of Staff Covered by WPAs |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Conservation & Land Management, Department of | 1 230 | 340 |
| Environmental Protection, Department of | 171 | |
| Kings Park Board | 61 | 3 |
| Waters & Rivers Commission | 285 | |
| Zoological Gardens Board | 100 | |
| Total | 1 847 | 343 |

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - NUMBERS; WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS

1991. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many employees are employed in each agency and department under the Minister's control?
- (2) How many of these employees are employed under the terms of a workplace agreement?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

For the member's information a table is set out below which is based on full time equivalents staffing level information collected by PSMO and a recent survey conducted by DOPLAR. The figures relating to the number of employees covered by workplace agreements are the number of employees covered by individual and collective agreements registered with the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements as at 30 June 1996. They are based on estimates provided to DOPLAR by agencies.

| Agency | Actual FTEs June 1996 | Estimated Total Number of Staff Covered by WPAs |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of | 99 | |
| Justice, Ministry of | 3 640 | |
| Law Reform Commission | 6 | |
| Legal Aid Western Australia | 173 | |
| Total | 3 918 | |

TECHNOLOGY PARK, BENTLEY - CHILD CARE FACILITY, CONTRACT

1995. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer to proposals involving the Minister's department and other departments for the establishment of a child care facility at Technology Park in Bentley and ask -

- (a) was a contract entered into by Technical and Further Education Colleges, Fig Jam Nominees and WA Child Care Managers Pty Limited;
- (b) has that contract now been repudiated by TAFE;
- (c) if so, on what advice has a legally-binding contract, signed willingly by all parties, been repudiated;
- (d) is it correct that the contract was conditional upon provision of a grant by the Australian National Training Authority, which in fact, was provided;
- (e) is it also correct that ANTA was fully aware that the funding was being made to a private child care provider and that ANTA was aware of the name of the companies involved;
- (f) has the contract now been awarded to another party;
- (g) if yes to (6) above, who is that party;

- (h) will the Minister institute his own inquiry as to the reasons for the contract being repudiated; and
- (i) will he also table all documents relating to the process?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Employment and Training in the following terms:

- (a) No. A non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding was jointly signed by the College, Fig Jam Nominees and WA Child Care Managers Pty Limited. The Memorandum of Understanding expressly stated that it was to be referred to the Crown Solicitor's Office for the drawing up of a formal agreement.
- (b)-(c) Not applicable.
- (d) The provision by ANTA of a grant was necessary. However, total funding for the grant was not, and has not, been provided to this stage.
- (e) ANTA was aware which companies were involved in the negotiations and considers it is entirely a State responsibility who the State decides to be involved with in joint ventures of this nature.
- (f) No.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) There has been no repudiation of any contract.
- (i) Please see attached Memorandum of Understanding.

[See paper No 602.]

ASSET SALES - OVER \$100 000

2019. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has any department or agency under your control sold any assets over the value of \$100 000 since February 1993?
- (2) What assets were sold?
- (3) How much was received for each asset?
- (4) How were the proceeds of each asset sale used?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Employment and Training has provided the following response:

- (1) No
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

ASSET SALES - OVER \$100 000

2023. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has any department or agency under the Attorney General's control sold any assets over the value of \$100 000 since February 1993?
- (2) What assets were sold?
- (3) How much was received for each asset?
- (4) How were the proceeds of each asset sale used?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(4) Assets of the various estates and trusts under the control of the Public Trustee have been sold, if required, as part of the normal administration. Many of the assets would have exceeded \$100 000 in value. To ascertain specific details would require considerable work and I am not prepared to direct considerable resources to obtain the information requested.

ASSET SALES - OVER \$100 000

2024. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Has any department or agency under the Minister's control sold any assets over the value of \$100 000 since February 1993?
- (2) What assets were sold?
- (3) How much was received for each asset?
- (4) How were the proceeds of each asset sale used?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Tourism; Sport and Recreation in the following terms:

- (1)-(2) Nil.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

ASSET SALES - OVER \$100 000

2025. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Has any department or agency under the Minister's control sold any assets over the value of \$100 000 since February 1993?
- (2) What assets were sold?
- (3) How much was received for each asset?
- (4) How were the proceeds of each asset sale used?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs in the following terms:

- (1)-(2) Nil.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SCHOOL ASSETS AND LAND SALES, MORATORIUM; REVIEW

2027. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Government placed a moratorium on the sale of school -
 - (a) assets;
 - (b) land;
 - (c) ovals and bushland;
 - (d) any other assets?
- (2) When did the moratorium commence?
- (3) When does the moratorium end?
- (4) Is the Government conducting a review of the arrangements under which school assets, ovals, land or other assets may be sold?
- (5) What are the precise terms of reference of the review?
- (6) Who is carrying out the review?
- (7) Will the review take into account the views of the local community, school community, parents, students and others with an interest in the relevant school assets?
- (8) Will public submissions be called for?
- (9) When will this occur?
- (10) When will the review be completed?

(11) Has a date been set for the Government to make a decision on this matter?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

(1)(a)-(d) No.

(2)-(3) Not applicable.

(4) Yes.

(5) On 25 June 1996, the Minister for Education requested the Acting Director-General, Education Department of Western Australia, to undertake a review of the Department's School Initiated Excision of Surplus Property policy, to identify and address issues raised in its implementation.

(6) The Education Department is to coordinate the review. The Executive Director, Resources and Services, is the nominated chairperson of the review committee.

(7) Issues raised by schools, other agencies, community groups, local councils and other parties, during the implementation of the policy, will be used as a reference in the review.

(8) No.

(9) Not applicable.

(10) The review is expected to be completed for presentation to the Minister for Education during September/October 1996.

(11) No.

POLICE SERVICE - HIGH SPEED PURSUITS

Training

2066. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister for Police:

(1) Will the Minister table in the Parliament a full report on the issue of police pursuits of juvenile car thieves?

(2) Will the Minister advise the House -

(a) under what circumstances are police officers instructed to abandon chases:

(b) if consideration is given by an independent senior officer to issues of the safety of other motorists and the occupants of the car being pursued when a decision is made whether to allow a pursuit to continue or not?

(c) where permission to continue a pursuit is withdrawn what checks are available to ensure that this direction has been complied with?

Mr WIESE replied:

The Commissioner of Police has provided the following advice:

(1) A report to which the member refers does not exist. The issue of juvenile car thieves is not relevant by itself but instead is an integral consideration of the whole subject of pursuits. In any law enforcement it is a daily organisational consideration of the police to find ways to prevent danger or risk to the public from dangerous drivers. In endeavouring to do so, the Police Service is required to balance the community expectation that persons involved in dangerous and/or criminal behaviour will be apprehended and charged against the expectation that the public will not be exposed to a greater risk.

(2) (a) A strict set of guidelines on the subject may be summarised by saying that, where the risk or danger to the public by the offender or police reaches an unacceptable level if a pursuit were to be continued then it is aborted. Factors such as time, location, actions of the offenders prior to, during or after pursuit require to be balanced in each instance.

(b) Yes.

(c) Where cause is given to believe that the Commissioner's guidelines have been breached by any Police Officer, investigation is carried out by a Senior Officer from the Traffic Portfolio who is designated to be responsible for such internal investigations.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - FULL TIME STAFF, GOLDFIELDS REGION

2078. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many full-time staff are employed in the goldfields region by the Department of Family and Children's Services?
- (2) What is the -
 - (a) name of each regional office;
 - (b) number of staff, and their occupations, in each regional office;
 - (c) number of staff acting in a capacity and what is the period of time for which the position has been filled in an acting basis?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) 35 people full-time.
- (2)
 - (a) Laverton Branch, Leonora Branch, Norseman Branch, Esperance Branch, Goldfields District Office (includes Kalgoorlie-Boulder Branch), and Graeme Street Hostel.
 - (b)

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Laverton | 1 | Customer Service Officer |
| | 2 | Graduate Welfare Officers |
| Leonora | 1 | Customer Service Officer |
| | 1 | Team Leader |
| Norseman | 1 | Customer Service Officer |
| | 1 | Graduate Welfare Officer |
| Esperance | 1 | Customer Service Officer |
| | 2 | Social Workers |
| | 1 | Team Leader |
| | 2 | Resource Workers (part-time) |
| | 1 | Education Officer (part-time) |
| Goldfields District Office | 1 | Manager |
| | 1 | Senior Casework Supervisor |
| | 1 | Senior Social Worker (Child Protection) |
| | 1 | Senior Social Worker (Out of Home and Alternative Care) |
| | 2 | Education Officers |
| | 2 | Customer Service Officers |
| | 1 | District Administrative Assistant |
| | 1 | Team Leader |
| | 3 | Graduate Welfare Officers |
| | 3 | Social Workers |
| | 1 | Community Funding and Development Officer |
| | 1 | Children's Services Officer |
| | 1 | Aboriginal Resource Officer |
| | 1 | Resource Worker (part-time) |
| Graeme Street Hostel | 1 | Hostel Co-ordinator |
| | 4 | Hostel Assistants |
 - (3) 2 staff are acting, one for six months, one for three months.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - GRAEME STREET HOSTEL

2082. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) I refer to the Graeme Street Hostel and ask, what were the number of children staying there for the years ending -
 - (a) 30 June 1994;
 - (b) 30 June 1995;
 - (c) 30 June 1996;
 - (d) 30 June 1996 to date?
- (2) What was the average length of stay for each child for the years ending -
 - (a) 30 June 1994;
 - (b) 30 June 1995;
 - (c) 30 June 1996;
 - (d) 30 June 1996 to date?
- (3) What was the reason for each stay?
- (4) Did any children have criminal charges pending?

- (5) What was the number of staff employed for the years ending -
- (a) 30 June 1994;
 - (b) 30 June 1995;
 - (c) 30 June 1996;
 - (d) 30 June 1996 to date?
- (6) What was the total amount of funding provided during the years ending -
- (a) 30 June 1994;
 - (b) 30 June 1995;
 - (c) 30 June 1996;
 - (d) 30 June 1996 to date?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) (a) 70
(b) 59
(c) 81
(d) 14
- (2)-(3) A number of files need to be researched to address the question raised. An appropriate response will be provided direct to the member in due course.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) (a) 3.5
(b) 3.5
(c) 4
(d) 4
- (6) Operational funds (excluding salaries) were -
- (a) \$42 340
 - (b) \$43 417
 - (c) \$55 309
 - (d) Proposed budget 1996-97 - \$50 000

ROAD SAFETY - AWARD FOR GROOVING OF WINDSCREENS

2085. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of approaches to his department regarding a safety award winning procedure for the grooving of windcreens for improving and maintaining visibility, with reduced driver fatigue, under all weather and driving conditions?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the grooving is approved throughout Australia by road safety authorities?
- (3) Is the procedure a valuable road safety aid?
- (4) Is it correct that the State Government and its agencies have rejected use of the grooves on its vehicle fleet because of financial constraints?
- (5) Is the Government prepared to consider the grooving of all its vehicles when the financial position improves?
- (6) Will the Minister seek to have the matter introduced into the next round of budget talks early in the new year?

Mr WIESE replied:

I am advised by the Commissioner of Police as follows -

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) It is not considered a "valuable" road safety aid although it does assist with cleaning a windscreen. Two Police Service vehicles have trialled the procedure. However, there has been no discernible improvement that can be found as to justify its implementation. The procedure has also been examined by the Department of Transport Safety Branch. While not disapproving of the procedure they have declined to introduce its use on their vehicles or endorse its use. The procedure is a driving aid in that it reduces the need to clean the sweep area of the windscreen wiper on the windscreen. Drivers must still clean the whole windscreen and other window areas to maintain proper visibility. The Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia has

also independently examined the procedure and has not been convinced by its performance to endorse its widespread use. There does not appear to be any significant enhanced performance of this product over other commercial products to justify its use.

(4)-(6) No.

LAND - SWAN LOCATION 1911, AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS

2087. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Further to questions on notice 1609 and 1610 of 1996, have any agreements or arrangements, including development plans, been entered into with respect to -
 - (a) Portion of Swan location 1911 and being lot 716 on diagram 90078, certificate of title volume 2000 folio 589;
 - (b) portion of Swan location 1911 being lot 87 on plan 7542 (sheet 2) certificate of title volume 1809 folio 190; and
 - (c) portion of Swan location 1911, certificate of title volume 1878 folio 036 as shown on plan 7893 (sheet 1)?
- (2) If yes to (1) -
 - (a) Who were the parties to each agreement or arrangement;
 - (b) when was each agreement or arrangement entered into or arrived at;
 - (c) what are the terms of each agreement or arrangement;
 - (d) is each agreement or arrangement recorded in writing, and if so, where; and
 - (e) what is the value of each agreement or arrangement?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) Kings Park and Botanic Garden has not entered into any agreements, arrangements or prepared any development plans with respect to these portions of land.

ROTTNEST ISLAND ACT - AMENDMENTS

2096. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

Are there to be amendments to the Rottnest Island Act arising out of the Rottnest Island Review of September 1995?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I am advised by the Minister for Tourism in the following terms -

The Rottnest Island Review recommends some amendments to the Act. However, no decisions have yet been taken by the Government.

CHESTERFIELD HOUSE - HERITAGE LISTING; IN DISREPAIR

2098. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Heritage:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the existence of 'Chesterfield House' in Chesterfield Road, East Rockingham, and its role in colonial Western Australia as the first coaching stop from Fremantle south in the 1880s?
- (2) Is the home or the property on which it stands, listed on the Western Australian Heritage Register?
- (3) Is it correct that the property is owned by the state agency, the Industrial Lands Development Authority?
- (4) If so, when did ILDA acquire the property and why?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that the previous private owner partially restored this historic home at considerable expense?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that since Chesterfield House came into government ownership it has fallen into a bad state of disrepair?
- (7) Will the Minister issue instructions, to the appropriate agency, that it is not acceptable for State-owned heritage to be put at risk?
- (8) Will the Minister take steps to sell the property, with a heritage listing, thus allowing it to be put to an appropriate use?

Mr LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The property title is in the name of the former Industrial Lands Development Authority whose functions are now performed by the Western Australian Land Authority.
- (4) 1982, for future industrial land development for heavy industry.
- (5) No.
- (6) For a number of years the property was leased to the Rockingham Youth Care Trust until it was gutted by fire in December 1992. It has been fenced off for public safety reasons and until its future is decided.
- (7) Yes. The appropriate agency will be advised that the place has some significance as a contributor to the East Rockingham heritage precinct, and of the importance of recording the place and conserving whatever remnants it is feasible to do so.
- (8) No. The property is located within the risk contours of the heavy industry precinct. It is therefore not suitable for residential purposes or for public access.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - RESTRUCTURING; EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

2101. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to the many restructures of government departments and agencies in the past five years and ask, does any particular office within government remain in charge of an overview of restructuring of departments and agencies?
- (2) Given that most departments/agencies have been subjected to restructuring, is any assessment made after such restructuring to determine if the planned outcomes and benefits are actually achieved?
- (3) If so, will the Premier table those outcomes?
- (4) If not, how does the Government assess the benefits?
- (5) Can the Premier indicate how much the present Government has spent on reports on restructuring since it came to office?
- (6) If such a figure is not available, how does the Government know that it is getting value for money in its restructuring?
- (7) In the light of the above -
 - (a) how many employees are there in all State Government departments/agencies as at 30 June 1996;
 - (b) how many employees were there in all State Government departments/agencies as at 30 June 1991?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) Individual Ministers and Chief Executive Officers are responsible for determining the most appropriate structures within their organisations, and frequently make adjustments without the need for endorsement from an external body. Private sector consultants are utilised on occasion to advise Ministers and/or CEOs on management and structural reform. Where restructuring activities cut across more than one agency, or where Cabinet consideration of specific proposals for structural change is sought, the Public Sector Management Office provides independent advice to the Government. Other central agencies may be approached, on an ad hoc basis, for advice on relevant issues associated with structural change, such as financial management (Treasury) or in regard to the status of employees and other industrial matters (Department of Productivity and Labour Relations). In addition, the PSMO is responsible for procedures which give effect to the creation and abolition of Departments of State, established under the Public Sector Management Act 1994. Such actions are initiated by individual Ministers and require Executive Council approval. Agencies typically report on the purpose and outcome of significant structural changes in the course of providing annual reports to Parliament. This is complemented by the requirement that agencies include in their annual reports summaries of evaluation studies undertaken during the year, as delineated in my Circular to Ministers, No 37/94. Such evaluation studies may include reference to structural issues.

(5)-(6) Reports on the use of consultants throughout the public sector are periodically tabled in Parliament. Cost and general information on consultancy reports regarding structural issues in agencies can be accessed from that source. It is not possible to provide information on costs incurred through agencies' internal generation of reports on structural change, or in regard to the various reports and other forms of advice on structural reform (Cabinet Comments, etc) obtained from central agencies such as the Public Sector Management Office.

(7) (a) 87 709 Full Time Equivalents.
(b) 97 438 FTEs.

(Note: The following agencies were exempt from FTE monitoring at 30 June 1996 and are not included in the figures for part (a) or (b) -

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Animal Resources Authority | University of Western Australia |
| Busselton Water Board | Bunbury Water Board |
| Dairy Industry Authority | Curtin University of Technology |
| Egg Marketing Board of WA | Edith Cowan University |
| Government Employees Superannuation Board | Gold Corporation |
| Lotteries Commission | LandCorp |
| Murdoch University | Meat Marketing Corporation |
| Perth Market Authority | National Trust of WA |
| Rottneest Island Authority | Potato Marketing Authority of WA |
| Subiaco Redevelopment Authority | State Government Insurance Commission |
| | Totalisator Agency Board |

POLICE SERVICE - MOBILE COMMUNITY EDUCATION UNIT; COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES, FUNDING

2103. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Premier's announcement of a high-tech police service mobile community education unit and other initiatives and ask -

- (a) has a schedule of local and regional visits for this unit been established;
- (b) if so, does it include South Perth, and if not will he arrange for such a visit;
- (c) did the Premier's announcement also include funds for a range of other community policing initiatives;
- (d) can the Minister provide a list?

Mr WIESE replied:

I am advised by the Commissioner of Police as follows:

- (a) Yes. 1996 planning has been finalised and the 1997 schedule is still in the planning stage.
- (b) The Community Mobile Road Safety Display Unit will not be visiting South Perth in 1996. However, South Perth may be included on the Itinerary for 1997 which has yet to be finalised. The same exhibits but on a significantly larger scale have been opened to the public at the Scitech Centre during September and October 1996.
- (c) No.
- (d) Not applicable.

PRISONS - PRISONERS ON WORK RELEASE, ELIGIBILITY

2104. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister assisting the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is work release only available to prisoners serving a minimum sentence of more than 12 months?
- (2) Does this mean that a prisoner serving an 18 month minimum sentence could serve six months on work release while a prisoner serving 12 months is not eligible for work release at all?
- (3) Is this situation considered unjust - the fact that a prisoner serving an 18 month sentence will in fact be released (on work experience) at the same time as a prisoner serving a 12 month sentence?
- (4) Has consideration been given to allowing model prisoners with minimum sentences of 12 months the opportunity of work release?

Mr MINSON replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

(3) No. The eligibility for community-based work release is determined by current legislation and is dependent upon the length of time served and proximity to either the prisoner's earliest eligibility date or earliest date of release, whichever occurs first. Prisoners apply for inclusion and release is not automatic. Community-based work release requires a higher supervision regime in the community than parole supervision.

(4) No. This is not possible within current legislation.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE; RECRUITMENTS

2113. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

(1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees -

- (a) under 21 years of age;
- (b) between 21 and 25 years,

were recruited in the 1995-96 financial year?

(2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -

- (a) 1993-94 financial year;
- (b) 1994-95 financial year,

by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Agriculture Western Australia:

| | | | |
|-----|-----|---------|--------------------|
| (1) | (a) | 65. | |
| | (b) | 115. | |
| (2) | (a) | 1993-94 | Under 21 years 16. |
| | | | 21 - 25 years 53. |
| | (b) | 1994-95 | Under 21 years 41. |
| | | | 21 - 25 years 79. |

Fisheries Department:

| | | | |
|-----|-----|---------|-------------------|
| (1) | (a) | 2. | |
| | (b) | 13. | |
| (2) | (a) | 1993-94 | Under 21 years 6. |
| | | | 21 - 25 years 13. |
| | (b) | 1994-95 | Under 21 years 8. |
| | | | 21 - 25 years 30. |

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE; RECRUITMENTS

2119. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

(1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees -

- (a) under 21 years of age;
- (b) between 21 and 25 years of age,

were recruited in the 1995/96 financial year?

(2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -

- (a) 1993 - 94 financial year;
- (b) 1994 - 95 financial year;

by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

Mr WIESE replied:

WA Police Service

- (1) (a) 93.
(b) 220.
- (2) (a) 42 and 74 respectively.
(b) 168 and 204 respectively.

Bush Fires Board

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) 1.
- (2) (a) 1. (21 to 25)
(b) 4. (21 to 25)

WA State Emergency Service

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) 3.
- (2) (a) Nil and 2 respectively.
(b) 1 and 2 respectively.

Western Australian Fire Brigades Board

- (1) (a) 1.
(b) 19.
- (2) (a) 2 and 17 respectively.
(b) 4 and 24 respectively.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE; RECRUITMENTS

2120. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Local Government; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees:
 - (a) under 21 years of age;
 - (b) between 21 and 25 years of age.
- (2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the:
 - (a) 1993-94 financial year;
 - (b) 1994-95 financial year

by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Department of Local Government:

- (1) (a) 0
(b) 5
- (2) (a) 1
(b) 1

Office of Multicultural Interests:

- (1) (a) 1
(b) 0
- (2) (a) Detailed information not readily available
(b) 0

Keep Australia Beautiful Council:

- (1)-(2) 0

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

(1) (a) 2
(b) 10

(2) (a)-(b) Detailed information not readily available.

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

(1) (a) 2
(b) 1

(2) (a) (a) 1
(b) 2
(b) (a) 1
(b) 1

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE; RECRUITMENTS

2122. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

(1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees -

(a) under 21 years of age;
(b) between 21 and 25 years of age,

were recruited in the 1995-96 financial year?

(2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -

(a) 1993-94 financial year;
(b) 1994-95 financial year,

by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

State Revenue Department

(1) (a) 4
(b) 4

(2) (a) Under 21 Nil
21 - 25 1
(b) Under 21 2
21 - 25 3

State Government Insurance Commission

(1) (a) 16
(b) 4

(2) (a) Under 21 2
21 - 25 4
(b) Under 21 11
21 - 25 6

Valuer General's Office

(1) (a) 3
(b) 2

(2) (a) Under 21 1
21 - 25 2
(b) Under 21 1
21 - 25 7

Government Employees Superannuation Board

(1) (a) 3

- (b) 8
- (2) (a) Under 21 Nil
21 - 25 1
- (b) Under 21 1
21 - 25 10

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE;
RECRUITMENTS

2123. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees -
- (a) under 21 years of age;
- (b) between 21 and 25 years of age,
- were recruited in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -
- (a) 1993-94 financial year;
- (b) 1994-95 financial year,
- by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply -

Lotteries Commission

- (1) (a) 3
(b) 7
- (2) (a) Under 21 1
21 - 25 Nil
- (b) Under 21 Nil
21 - 25 Nil

The Lotteries Commission took on 10 work experience people under the age of 25 between 1992 and 1996. The Lotteries Commission also took on a Trainee (under 21 years of age) for a 12 month period in 1994-95.

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor

- (1) (a) Nil
(b) 2
- (2) (a) Under 21 2
21 - 25 4
- (b) Under 21 2
21 - 25 1

Burswood Park Board

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil

Totalisator Agency Board

- (1) (a) 16
(b) 7
- (2) (a) Under 21 1 Casual 0 Perm/Contract
21 - 25 0 Casual 2 Perm/Contract
- (b) Under 21 9 Casual 1 Perm/Contract
21 - 25 4 Casual 2 Perm/Contract

W.A. Greyhound Racing Association

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------|----|
| (1) | (a) | 56 | |
| | (b) | 16 | |
| (2) | (a) | Under 21 | 31 |
| | | 21 - 25 | 30 |
| | (b) | Under 21 | 59 |
| | | 21 - 25 | 19 |

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE;
RECRUITMENTS

2126. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control, how many employees -
- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| (a) | under 21 years of age; |
| (b) | between 21 and 25 years, |

were recruited in the 1995-96 financial year?

- (2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| (a) | 1993-94 financial year; |
| (b) | 1994-95 financial year, |

by each department and agency under the Minister for the Environment's control?

Mr MINSON replied:

WRC:

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (1) | (a) | Nil. |
| | (b) | 25. |
| (2) | The Water and Rivers Commission commenced operation on 1 January 1996, therefore did not exist in 1993-94. | |

CALM:

- | | | |
|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | (a) | 71. |
| | (b) | 101. |
| (2) | (a) | 37. |
| | | 42. |
| | (b) | 91. |
| | | 131. |

Perth Zoo:

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | (a) | 6. |
| | (b) | 8. |
| (2) | (a) | (i) 3, plus 29 young people on a LEAP scheme project. |
| | | (ii) 7. |
| | (b) | (i) 2. |
| | | (ii) 2. |

DEP:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------|
| (1) | (a) | Nil. |
| | (b) | 6. |
| (2) | 1993-94 financial year | |
| | (a) | 2. |
| | (b) | 2. |

1994-95 financial year
(a) Nil.

- (b) 2.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden:

- (1) (a) 1.
(b) None.
- (2) (a) 1.
(b) 3.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES - UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE; BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE;
RECRUITMENTS

2128. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Attorney General's control, how many employees -
- (a) under 21 years of age;
- (b) between 21 and 25 years,

were recruited in the 1995-96 financial year?

- (2) How many employees between these ages were recruited in the -
- (a) 1993-94 financial year;
- (b) 1994-95 financial year,

by each department and agency under the Attorney General's control?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) (a) 46.
(b) 109.
- (2) (a) 46 and 66.
(b) 72 and 111.

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION - REVIEW, GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION

2131. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government made a submission to the Australian Broadcasting Commission review?
- (2) If so, in that submission, did the Government -
- (a) urge the Federal Government not to reduce the level of funds made available to the ABC;
- (b) call for the retention of radio station Triple J?
- (3) Is a copy of the Government's submission publicly available?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The Western Australian submission was written in response to the review's request that all submissions should "have regard to the need for consistency between the cost of future ABC operations and the Government's broader fiscal strategy of delivery of government programs and services as efficiently as possible."
- (b) The submission argues that provision of the Triple J radio network should not only remain a core ABC service but should be extended in country areas of Western Australia.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.

CONTRACTING OUT - SAVINGS, REDUCTION IN TERMS AND CONDITIONS

2133. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) I refer to the Government claim that it has made considerable "savings" by contracting work out to the private sector and ask, is it true that -
 - (a) the bulk;
 - (b) some,
 of the "savings" have been made by lowering the wages and employment conditions of workers carrying out the jobs once they are transferred to the private sector?
- (2) Is it true that -
 - (a) the majority of;
 - (b) some,
 public sector employees who have obtained employment with private sector contractors have suffered a reduction in the total value of their wages and employment conditions?
- (3) If not, is the Minister prepared to assure the House that no former government employee who has obtained employment with a private sector employer, and carrying out the same work, has not had -
 - (a) their hourly rate reduced;
 - (b) any of their employment conditions reduced;
 - (c) any of their employment conditions reduced without being fully compensated by higher hourly rates for the full value of that reduction?
- (4) If the Minister claims that every former government employee who has taken up a job with a private contractor is not worse off, will the Government amend the Public Sector Management Act and regulations by removing those provisions which give the Government the right to order a public sector worker to take up an offer of employment in the private sector at 80 per cent of the employee's existing rate of pay?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) Public sector employees who have elected to transfer their employment to private sector contractors were given the choice of either transferring or remaining in government employment. No permanent public sector employee has been forced to transfer. The decision is voluntary. Government policy is to maximise the choices available to staff affected by contracting. For this reason tenders for government services try to maximise the number of quality of job offers made by private sector contractors to public sector staff. The real value of any particular job offer will depend on individuals' preferences and will be affected by a range of factors including the salary and salary packaging opportunities; wider choice of workplace location; more flexible hours and shift arrangements; and training, personal development and career opportunities. One of the reasons for the transition payment under regulation 9 of the Public Sector Management (Redeployment and Redundancy) Regulations is to ensure that staff transferring to private sector employment are not worse off.

This transition payment is intended to help compensate for any change in terms and conditions so as to make more attractive the choice of accepting an offer of private sector employment, so that the employees' knowledge and skill is available to the contractor. Savings from contracting arise from a number of sources. The best evidence available is presented in a report on contracting by public sector agencies published by the Industry Commission in January 1996. It found that the great proportion of savings are more likely to come from real efficiency gains; that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that in many cases the savings from contracting do represent real productivity gains, arising from -

- the introduction of more efficient management and work practices;
- more efficient use of capital;
- specialisation and access to expertise; and
- access to economies of scale.

The Industry Commission also observed that there is no long term guarantee of better job security to public sector employees by sheltering them from competition.

- (4) The power to direct an employee to accept a suitable offer of employment has not yet been used. However I agree with the position of the Minister for Labour Relations advised to the House on 27 June 1996 that the power should remain as a reserve power.

LEE, SIMON - VACANT LAND, WEST PERTH, DEVELOPMENT PLANS

2135. Mrs ROBERTS to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the plans Mr Simon Lee has to develop the vacant land in West Perth near the Freeway?
- (2) Will the Premier provide details of these plans?
- (3) Has the Premier had any meetings with Mr Lee, or a representative of his company, regarding this proposal?
- (4) Will the Premier provide details of these meetings?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1),(3)-(4) In November 1995, some 11 months ago, I met with Mr Lee to view a concept plan for development of all of the land from the old Markets site (owned by Mr Lee) through to the Central Railway Station.
- (2) These are the property of Mr Lee and the member should approach him.

LEE, SIMON - VACANT LAND, WEST PERTH, DEVELOPMENT PLANS

2136. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Minister met with Mr Simon Lee or a representative of his company, regarding Mr Lee's development plans for the vacant land in West Perth?
- (2) On how many occasions has the Minister met with Mr Lee on this issue?
- (3) What were the details of those meetings?
- (4) Have any agreements been entered into with Mr Lee, and if so, what are the details of these arrangements?

Mr LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes, representatives of Mr Lee's company.
- (2) Once.
- (3) Briefing as to proponent's plans to develop Mr Lee's land.
- (4) No.

FAMILY COURT - WAITING TIME

2138. Mr D.L. SMITH to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the waiting time parties and solicitors endure when filing documents in the Family Court of Western Australia?
- (2) What is the -
 - (i) maximum waiting time;
 - (ii) average waiting time,

for persons and solicitors waiting to file documents?

- (3) How many staff are allocated to counter filing duties?
- (4) Is there any proposal to increase the number and resources of counter filing staff?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) The court has adequate staff resources on the public counter to respond in a timely manner during average attendance periods. It is acknowledged that from time to time during periods of high public attendance in the registry, delays may extend in excess of 20 minutes. The court is unable to predict attendance levels and these fluctuate markedly. To assist solicitors a bulk filing service is offered and a mail service is available to any person filing documents. Personal attendance at the court is not required to file documents. Turn around times on bulk filing and mail is within two working days.

(3) Five FTE.

(4) No. Refer to (1)-(2).

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - PERSONAL INJURY MOTOR VEHICLE CLAIMS

2139. Mr D.L. SMITH to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

(1) How many claims were settled by the State Government Insurance Commission for personal injury motor vehicle claims in 1995-96?

(2) How many of these claims did not include general damages?

(3) With respect to the total number of cases where no general damages were paid, what was the total paid -

- (a) in legal fees to the injured party's solicitor;
- (b) in legal fees to the SGIC's own solicitors?

(4) How many claims were settled for the same period in which general damages were paid?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply -

(1) 3 436.

(2) 668.

(3) (a) \$361 914.71.
(b) \$324 957.34.

(4) 2 768.

PYRTON COMPLEX - PEOPLE RELOCATED TO DIFFERENT ACCOMMODATION

2164. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Disability Services:

(1) On what basis have people been removed from one complex to another at Pyrtton?

(2) What is the Minister's response to the claim that -

- (a) conditions are no better for residents in their different abode;
- (b) many residents are very distressed by the move?

Mr MINSON replied:

(1) Plans are in progress to move Pyrtton residents into community living options over the next three years. Carrimar Hostel residents were moved to Pindarra to rationalise living arrangements during this period and so avoid unnecessary expenditure associated with the extensive reroofing of Carrimar Hostel.

(2) (a) Living conditions at Pindarra are an improvement.

(b) No major behavioural stress has been observed in residents.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICE, BUNBURY, FUNDING

Men's Health Program

2175. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Health:

(1) What is the funding for the women's health service in Bunbury?

(2) Is there a men's health program in Bunbury?

(3) If yes, what is its level of funding?

(4) Is a car provided for workers in either service?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1) \$120 000, one half from the Commonwealth, one half from the State.

(2) Yes.

- (3) \$15 000 for three months.
- (4) No, but they have access to the car pool vehicles.

SALARY PACKAGING - OPTION FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

2230. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Has the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations recently advised government departments and agencies that Cabinet has endorsed the option of salary packaging for employees in the Western Australian public sector?
- (2) Have guidelines for salary packaging in the Western Australian public sector been produced?
- (3) Do the guidelines refer to the 'Total Employment Cost' criteria?
- (4) Do the 'Total Employment Cost' criteria consist of salary and other benefits aggregated to a total figure?
- (5) In calculating the 'Total Employment Cost', are the following included -
 - (a) normal salary;
 - (b) annual leave;
 - (c) sick leave;
 - (d) maternity leave;
 - (e) bereavement leave;
 - (f) other forms of paid leave (if so, what forms);
 - (g) overtime, shift allowances, penalty rates?
- (6) Are the salary packaging arrangements only available to employees covered by workplace agreement?
- (7) If so, why?
- (8) Has the Government attempted to negotiate with any public sector unions on converting into enterprise agreements or awards or provisions which facilitate salary sacrificing?
- (9) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(4) Yes.
- (5)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b)-(f) No.
 - (g) Only if the provision is in the form of a commuted permanent allowance, in place when the employee enters into a salary packaging arrangement.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Workplace agreements provide the flexibility to individualise items included in a salary package. Individual employees may agree to repackage employment conditions that are different to awards or enterprise agreements. Individual contracts need to be put in place to reflect the agreed package. In the Government's view, workplace agreements achieve this in the most effective way.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - COMPUTERS IN SCHOOLS, EXPENDITURE

2233. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the 1995-96 financial year, what was the total expenditure for the repair and maintenance of classroom computers in government schools?
- (2) What was the expenditure on the replacement of computers used in school classrooms in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Wednesday, 28 August 1996 by the member and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1908.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - PARENT HELP LINE

2235. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) How many calls for assistance or advice were received on the Parent Help Line in each month of the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) What were the categories in which statistics are kept indicating the reasons for calls over this twelve month period and how many calls were taken in each category?
- (3) How many of these calls led to people having follow-up assistance from the Department of Family and Children's Services or some other agency?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) I refer the member to my response to question 1863 of 1996.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - RESEARCH CONTRACTS

2236. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many research contracts were let by the Education Department of Western Australia on matters relating to government schools and education in Western Australia?
- (2) What was the title and description of each research contract?
- (3) On what date were tenders called for each contract and what was the closing date for the receipt of such tenders?
- (4) How many tenders were received for each contract?
- (5) Where tenders were not called, how many expressions of interest were sought and what was the reason for not advertising for tenders to take up such a contract?
- (6) What was the contract price for each research contract?
- (7) In each case, has the contract been concluded and the report presented?
- (8) In each case, has final payment been made for the work undertaken and if so, what was the total amount paid for the work?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Tuesday, 27 August 1996 by the member and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1864.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - BUDGET FOR EDUCATION, PER STUDENT

2237. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the total amount outlaid on education, per student, by the State Government in the 1995-96 financial year excluding specific purpose payments from the Commonwealth?
- (2) What was the total education expenditure used for the calculation of the answer to (1)?
- (3) What was the actual student population used for the calculation of (1)?
- (4) What is the estimated outcome for (1), (2) and (3), for the 1996-97 financial year?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This question was previously asked on Tuesday, 27 August 1996 by the member and has been responded to. Please refer to question 1865.

MENTAL HEALTH - NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, FUNDING

2240. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In regard to state government funding to non-government organisations or state allocated commonwealth funding to non-government organisations, working in the area of mental health services, who received funding in -

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95;
- (c) 1995-96?

- (2) Who advised the Minister in respect of funding decisions for mental health services?
- (3) If an advisory committee was involved, who was on that committee?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1)(a) 1993-94

Albany Halfway House
Even Keel

June O'Connor Centre

Richmond Fellowship

South West Mental Health Group

WA Association for Mental Health

Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill
(ARAFMI)

De Paul

GROW

Licensed psychiatric hostels

Schizophrenia Fellowship

WA Consumer Advisory Group

(b) 1994-95

Armada-Kelmscott pilot project

Aid to Useful Living

Cultural Mapping Service (NESB)

Employment Support Development Prog

Even Keel

Fremantle Division of General Practice

Gosnells Women's Health Service

GROW

Ishtar Multicultural Centre for Women

Kimberley Mental Health project

Maley House

Mirraboopa Multicultural Centre

Niola Hospital

Peel Personnel

Samaritan Befrienders

Silver Chain

South West Mental Health Group

Support In Site Accommodation

WA Association for Mental Health

Warren-Blackwood Personnel

York Community Centre

Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill

Association of Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council

Carnarvon Aboriginal Medical Service

Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Alcoholics and Homeless (ACRAH)

Albany Halfway House

Avon Valley Help Centre

De Paul

Dept. of Training

Forrest Personnel

Fremantle Housing Association

Great Southern Personnel

Hotham Personnel

June O'Connor Centre

Licensed psychiatric hostels

Milligan Foundation

Multicultural Women's Health Centre

Northern Suburbs Migrant Resource Centre

Perth Central Division of General Practice

Schizophrenia Fellowship

Soundworks

St Bartholomews

Tender Care

WA Consumer Advisory Group

Wesleycare

(c) 1995-96

Albany Schizophrenia Fellowship of WA

Alcohol & Drug Authority

Anglican Homes

Daughters of Charity (Ruah Inreach)

Forrest Personnel

Fremantle Women's Healthcare Centre

Great Southern Personnel

GROW

Hotham Personnel

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service

Milligan Foundation, Peel Region

Rockingham Women's Health Care

Samaritan Befrienders

Silver Chain

WA Association of Mental Health

Warren-Blackwood Personnel

Women's Health Care House

Carnarvon Medical Services - Aboriginal Corporation

Central/Coastal Division of General Practice

Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Alcoholics and Homeless (ACRAH)

TVW Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Licensed Psychiatric Hostel Licence Holder

Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI)

Fremantle Regional Division of General Practice

Albany Halfway House Association

Alzheimers Association of WA

Collie Family Centre

Embark

Fremantle Housing Association

Goldfields Centre Care

Graylands Volunteer Services

Health Consumers Council

June O'Connor Centre

Manic Depressive Support Association

Pathways Inc

Tendercare

Schizophrenia Fellowship of WA

St Bartholomews

WA Consumer Advisory Group

Wesley Mission Perth

Association of Services to Torture & Trauma Survivors

- (2) In 1993-94 advice was provided via regional structures. In 1994-95 and 1995-96 an advisory committee reporting to the Managing Director State Health Purchasing Authority, recommended on mental health service funding. Regional Purchasing Authorities also funded some mental health projects and advice was provided to the regional managers by their own advisory structures.
- (3) Director South Metropolitan Purchasing Authority, Director Psychiatric Services, a rural mental health service representative, two psychiatrists representing adult and child and adolescent services, and a non-government service provider representative.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF - GIBLETT BLOCK, REVENUE
FROM CLEAR FELLING

2245. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How much revenue was accrued to consolidated revenue from the clear felling operation in Giblett block in 1994?
- (2) How much of this revenue was derived from -
 - (a) pulp logs;
 - (b) saw logs?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

The amounts provided are the total amounts invoiced for sale of resource from timber harvesting operations in Giblett forest block in 1994.

- (1) \$1 325 351.30.
- (2)
 - (a) \$416 236.04.
 - (b) \$909 115.26.

SHELL GATEWAY SERVICE STATION, AUSTRALIND BYPASS - UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK LEAK

2247. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

What was the environmental impact resulting from damage to the underground fuel tank located at the Shell Gateway Service Station on the Australind bypass?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

Negligible. When the fuel storage tank ruptured ground water flowed into the tank preventing any fuel from escaping. After the problem was discovered the fuel and water were pumped out of the tank and the tank removed.

ATLAS BRICKWORKS - WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEM, GOVERNMENT ACTION

2249. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

- (1) Following the Premier's meeting on Wednesday, 26 August 1996, with local residents where the Atlas Brickworks waste disposal problem was discussed, what actions are being taken to follow up the residents' concerns?
- (2) What action will be taken to allay local fears over asbestos disposal?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The Government has acted swiftly to respond to the obvious level of community concern expressed at the Community Forum held on 26 August 1996. Since that meeting, the following actions have or are in the process of being taken -

The Government has announced that the application by Atlas to rezone the site as industrial land has been refused.

The site will close to putrescible waste on 30 April 1997 with no possible extension being permitted.

The operation of the landfill site has been the subject of regular inspection and a thorough audit for compliance with standards.

The operator has been ordered to install video surveillance equipment in the near future to provide continuous surveillance of the tipping operation and the video tapes produced will be available for public scrutiny.

The site will be licensed under the Environmental Protection Act during October and a detailed set of licence conditions is currently being developed to ensure the landfill is operated to the highest possible standard at all times.

The Department of Environmental Protection is moving to establish a community based working group which will also include the operators of the landfill and local parliamentary representatives. This group will act as conduit to ensure effective two way communication between the community and the landfill operator on all aspects of the landfill operation and the construction of the new "state of the art" bio-digestion plant which is currently being constructed on the site to replace the landfill. One of the first actions of the group will be to distribute a newsletter to the community to outline the actions which are being taken to address the concerns which have been raised. These actions will ensure that the putrescible landfill is operated in a manner which minimises impact on the community over the six month period it will remain in operation.

- (2) I am advised that the management of asbestos on the Atlas site has been reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection and has been found to comply fully with the requirements of the Health (Asbestos Disposal) Regulations. On this basis there is no public health threat to the surrounding community. In view of the level of concern which has been generated in the community by the asbestos disposal, the issues surrounding asbestos disposal will be thoroughly considered by the community working group and if possible additional measures will be implemented to further reduce the level of concern which exists. I understand the landfill operator has already relocated the asbestos disposal site to a position several hundred metres from the nearest housing areas.

JOHN TONKIN CENTRE - REFURBISHMENT CONTRACT

2250. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When was the contract to refurbish the John Tonkin Centre advertised?
- (2) When was the closing date?
- (3) What was the estimated monetary value of this tender?
- (4) How many companies showed interest in this tender?
- (5) What were the criteria by which the tenders were evaluated?
- (6) What company was awarded the contract?
- (7) Where is this company based?

Mr NICHOLLS replied:

- (1) A single contract was not let, however a number of contracts to undertake the work were advertised. These included -

Supply of carpet
 Installation of carpet
 Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning
 Supply and installation of mechanical services
 Supply and installation of electrical services
 Supply and installation of workstations
 Supply and installation of cabling
 Construction management of the work

The contracts were advertised as follows:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Supply of carpet | 31/03/96 |
| Installation of carpet | 27/04/96 |
| Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning | 27/04/96 |
| Supply and installation of mechanical services | 27/04/96 |
| Supply and installation of electrical services | 27/04/96 |
| Supply and installation of workstations | 27/04/96 |
| Supply and installation of cabling | 18/05/96 |
| Construction management of the work | 08/05/96 |

- (2) Supply of carpet 15/04/96
 Installation of carpet 08/07/96
 Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning 08/07/96
 Supply and installation of mechanical services 10/07/96
 Supply and installation of electrical services 10/07/96
 Supply and installation of workstations 04/06/96
 Supply and installation of cabling 11/07/96
 Construction management of the work 15/08/96
- (3) The estimated monetary value of each tender was:
- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Supply of carpet | \$700 000 |
| Installation of carpet | \$150 000 |
| Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning | \$1 353 824 |
| Supply and installation of mechanical services | \$277 000 |
| Supply and installation of electrical services | \$308 000 |
| Supply and installation of workstations | \$1 467 180 |
| Supply and installation of cabling | \$720 000 |
| Construction management of the work | \$260 000 |
- (4) The number of companies interested in the work packages were -
- | | |
|---|---|
| Supply of carpet | 6 |
| Installation of carpet | 8 |
| Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning | 6 |
| Supply and installation of mechanical services | 8 |
| Supply and installation of electrical services | 8 |
| Supply and installation of workstations | 5 |
| Supply and installation of cabling | 7 |
| Construction management of the work | 8 |
- (5) The evaluation criteria of each tender were -
- Supply of carpet: Lead time, price, quality.
- Installation of carpet: Company profile, relevant experience, financial capacity and turnover, resources and previous work record.
- Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning: Price, experience, previous work record, availability, conformance to specifications and compliance to program.
- Supply and installation of mechanical services: Price, suitability of staff, project experience, quality assurance, acceptability of subcontractors and suppliers, conformance to specification and compliance to program.
- Supply and installation of electrical services: Tender value, suitability of proposed staff, project experience, compliance to program, quality assurance accreditation, conformance with specifications, competitiveness of unit rates, acceptance of suppliers, acceptance of subcontractors.
- Supply and installation of workstations: Price, quality, delivery time, maintenance, serviceability, accessories range, company profile.
- Supply and installation of cabling: Compliance to schedule, compliance to technical specifications, sample tests, price, company profile.
- Construction management of the work: Experience, price, availability, references including current projects.
- (6) The companies to whom the work was awarded were:
- Supply of carpet - Westwools; Godfrey Hirst
- Installation of carpet - Bateman Carpet
- Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning - Dawn Express Partitioning Pty Ltd
- Supply and installation of mechanical services: James Hardie (T O'Connor) Pty Ltd
- Supply and installation of electrical services: Williams Electrical Services
- Supply and installation of workstations: Interlink Pty Ltd
- Supply and installation of cabling: GR Services (WA) (a division of Ralph M Lee Pty Ltd)
- Construction management of the work: Link Interiors

(7) The companies are based as follows:

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Supply of carpet: | Westwools: Godfrey Hirst: | Perth Melbourne |
| Installation of carpet: | | Perth |
| Supply and installation of ceiling, insulation and partitioning: | | Perth |
| Supply and installation of mechanical services: | | Perth |
| Supply and installation of electrical services: | | Perth |
| Supply and installation of workstations: | | Melbourne |
| Supply and installation of cabling: | | Perth |
| Construction management of the work: | | Perth |

ACTS - PASSED AND UNPROCLAIMED

2252. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Which Acts passed by this Parliament have never been proclaimed?
- (2) On which date was each Act passed?
- (3) Which Acts passed by this Parliament have sections or other parts which have never been proclaimed?
- (4) On which dates was each one passed?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

(1)-(4)

| Year | Act | Date of Assent | Proclamation Information |
|------|---|-------------------|---|
| 1994 | Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-vesting) Amendment Act 1994 | 11 April 1994 | To be proclaimed |
| | Mining Amendment Act 1994 | 2 November 1994 | Partly in operation; s. 5 to be proclaimed |
| | Electricity Corporation Act 1994 | 15 December 1994 | Partly in operation; ss. 90, 91 & 93 to be proclaimed |
| | Hospitals Amendment Act 1994 | 11 January 1995 | Partly in operation; Item 8 and para 4 of item 11 of s. 18 to be proclaimed |
| 1995 | Bank of Western Australia Act 1995 | 4 July 1995 | Partly in operation; s. 11 to be proclaimed |
| | Prisons Amendment Act 1995 | 4 July 1995 | To be proclaimed |
| | Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 | 29 September 1995 | To be proclaimed |
| | Unleaded Petrol Repeal Act 1995 | 12 December 1995 | To be proclaimed |
| | Business Licensing Amendment Act 1995 | 20 December 1995 | Partly in operation; parts 2 and 3 to be proclaimed |

| | | | |
|------|--|------------------|---|
| 1996 | Agricultural Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 1995 | 20 December 1995 | Partly in operation; s.16 to be proclaimed |
| | Sentencing Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Sentence Administration Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Sentencing (Consequential Provisions) Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | Partly in operation; Parts 2 & 5 and ss. 13, 35 & 36 to be proclaimed |
| | Coroners Act 1996 | 24 May 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Witness Protection (Western Australia) Act 1996 | 28 June 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Education Amendment Act 1996 | 11 July 1996 | Partly in operation; s. 4(2) (to some extent) and Pts. 3 & 4 to be proclaimed |
| | Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996 | 22 July 1996 | To be proclaimed |
| | Official Corruption Commission Amendment Act 1996 | 28 August 1996 | ss. 6-8, 10-18, 20-24 and balance of s. 25 to be proclaimed |
| | Listening Devices Amendment Act 1996 | 6 September 1996 | To be proclaimed |

| No. | Short title | Assent Date | Proclamation Information | Amend on Database |
|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

1992

| | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 53 | Acts Amendment (Jurisdiction and Criminal Procedure) Act 1992 | 9 December 1992 | ss. 5 & 17 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 75 | Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992 | 16 December 1992 | To be proclaimed | NO |

34th Parliament

1994

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------|------------------|----|
| 3 | Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-vesting) Amendment Act 1994 | 11 April 1994 | To be proclaimed | NO |
|---|---|---------------|------------------|----|

| | | | | |
|------|--|-------------------|---|--------|
| 58 | Mining Amendment Act 1994 | 2 November 1994 | s. 5 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 86 | Electricity Corporation Act 1994 | 15 December 1994 | ss. 90, 91 & 93 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 103 | Hospitals Amendment Act 1994 | 11 January 1995 | Item 8 and para 4 of item 11 of s. 18 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 1995 | | | | |
| 14 | Bank of Western Australia Act 1995 | 4 July 1995 | s. 11 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 19 | Prisons Amendment Act 1995 | 4 July 1995 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 34 | Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 | 29 September 1995 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 54 | Unleaded Petrol Repeal Act 1995 | 12 December 1995 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 56 | Business Licensing Amendment Act 1995 | 20 December 1995 | Pts. 2 & 3 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 61 | Agricultural Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 1995 | 20 December 1995 | s. 16 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 76 | Sentencing Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 77 | Sentence Administration Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 78 | Sentencing (Consequential Provisions) Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 79 | Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 1995 | 16 January 1996 | Parts 2 & 5 and ss. 13, 35 & 36 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 1996 | | | | |
| 2 | Coroners Act 1996 | 24 May 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 11 | Witness Protection (Western Australia) Act 1996 | 28 June 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |
| 22 | Education Amendment Act 1996 | 11 July 1996 | s. 4(2) (to some extent) and Pts 3 & 4 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 27 | Security and Related Activities (Control) Act 1996 | 22 July 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |

| | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|---|--------|
| 29 | Official Corruption Commission Amendment Act 1996 | 28 August 1996 | ss. 6-8, 10-18, 20-24 and balance of s. 25 to be proclaimed | PARTLY |
| 31 | Listening Devices Amendment Act 1996 | 6 September 1996 | To be proclaimed | NO |

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (LISWA) - LEGAL DEPOSIT, CHANGES

2254. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Is it still a legal requirement that a copy of every book published in Western Australia must be deposited with the State Library?
- (2) If not, when did this legal deposit requirement change?
- (3) Why was this change made?
- (4) As this deposit requirement surely held benefits for both the State Library Service and the public's ability to access a variety of publications will the Minister consider any amending legislation?

Mr NICHOLLS replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) This is a matter of legal dispute and opinion.
- (3)-(4) See (2).

ENDANGERED SPECIES - PROTECTION POLICY COMMITMENT

2255. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With regard to endangered species, is it correct the Government, in its pre-election promise, undertook to -
 - (a) review the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, with the aim of binding the Crown by its own fauna laws and to protect the habitats of endangered species;
 - (b) implement management practices to promote the recovery of the species currently endangered;
 - (c) encourage government and conservation groups to seek corporate sponsorship to assist in protecting individual species?
- (2) Has this policy commitment been fulfilled?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following answer -

- (1) Yes. The coalition environment policy, "The Environment - 1993 and Beyond", undertook to carry out the matters listed in part (1) of the member's question.
- (2) With regard to part (1) (a) of the question, the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 is being reviewed in its entirety. Proposed replacement legislation for this Act will be prepared and introduced following resolution of the issues raised as a result of the previous Government releasing a draft Wildlife Conservation Bill for public comment.

With regard to part (1) (b) of the question, the Government has implemented a range of management actions aimed at the recovery of rare and threatened wildlife species over the past three and a half years, through the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

The major initiative has been the launch of Western Shield which will eventually result in the recovery of rare and threatened fauna over about 5 million hectares of public lands. This program will expand on the success of recovery operations for the Woylie which saw this species removed from the State Threatened Species List and the National Endangered Species Protection Act, Endangered Species List, earlier this year.

Over 30 rare and threatened fauna species will benefit from Western Shield including the following: Banded Hare-wallaby, Bilby, Black-flanked Rock-wallaby, Boodie (Burrowing Bettong), Chuditch, Dibbler, Gilbert's Potoroo, Mallee Fowl, Noisy Scrub Bird, Numbat, Quenda, Quokka, Red-tailed Phascogale, Ring-tailed Possum, Rufous Hare-wallaby, Shark Bay Mouse, Stick-nest Rat, Tammar Wallaby, Western Barred Bandicoot, Western Brush Wallaby, Western Ground Parrot and the Western Swamp Tortoise.

CALM also manages 23 wildlife recovery teams established to bring about the recovery of threatened plant and animal species and is involved in a further six recovery teams established interstate. As a major initiative Regional and District Threatened Flora Management Programs are also being established covering all known threatened flora within a CALM district or region. Four such management programs are now complete with seven more in preparation.

With regard to part (1)(c) of the question, CALM has actively sought corporate sponsorship for endangered species work. The Department has benefited from sponsorship from Alcoa, Western Mining, WAPET, Hamersley Iron, Coles Myer and BankWest. CALM is actively seeking corporate support for its Western Shield project.

Community conservation groups are encouraged to seek corporate sponsorships for their projects directed to protecting individual species.

(3) See (2).

BUDGET (STATE) - 1996 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET PAPER No 7, RELEASE DELAY

2256. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

(1) Is it correct that the 1996 Supplementary Budget Paper No 7 has not yet been released?

(2) If so, will the Premier arrange for the document to be tabled?

Mr COURT replied:

(1) Budget Paper No 7 was published for the last time in 1995/96.

(2) With improvements in the accountability and annual reporting requirements of all agencies, and the devolution of responsibility to accountable officers (who are now accountable through their Ministers to Parliament in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act), it was considered inappropriate to continue to include non-budget sector data in the annual budget papers. There remains, however, an undertaking to report actual budget results for the financial year and, in this regard, Budget Paper No 7 has been replaced by the Summary of Consolidated Fund Transactions document which was tabled on 22 August.

SOILS AIN'T SOILS - LOT 186, ACOURT ROAD, JANDAKOT, GROUND WATER USE

2257. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

(1) Is 'Soils Ain't Soils' drawing and using ground water on piles of blending materials on lot 186, Ascot Road, Jandakot?

(2) If yes to (1) -

- (a) for how long has ground water been used in this way;
- (b) is a licence required;
- (c) was a licence obtained;
- (d) if yes to (c), when?

(3) Does ground water use on piles of peat and other soil blending material close to public drinking water bores pose any risk of contamination?

(4) If so, what is that risk?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) Soils Ain't Soils uses process water from Boral's sandwashing facility at lots 1 and 2 Johnston Road and Richgro's soil blending facility at lot 186 Acourt Road. The recycling of water already used in other industrial processes is an efficient practice.
- (2)
 - (a) Soils Ain't Soils have been using process water in this way for approximately two years.
 - (b) A ground water well licence is not required by Soils Ain't Soils for the re-use of process water, however, ground water abstraction by Richgro and Boral must be licensed by the Water and Rivers Commission.
 - (c) Ground water well licences have been issued for both Richgro and Boral's operations.
 - (d) A ground water well licence for Richgro's operation was issued on 29 September 1986 - issued through Canningvale Realty. A ground water well licence for Boral's operation was issued on 28 March 1983 - issued to Bell Basic.
- (3) Some potential exists depending upon the types of materials used and the method of storage.
- (4) Irrigating stocks of blended materials may cause leaching of coloured and nutrient enriched water to the ground. Because of the slow movement of ground water the potential for impact on any water supplies in the short term is minimal. However, long term location of this industry in areas used for public drinking supplies poses an unacceptable risk. The Government has been negotiating the relocation of the industry outside the Jandakot underground water pollution control area. The Water and Rivers Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection have been working closely with local governments, the soil blending industry and the community to facilitate rezoning of suitable sites.

POLLUTION - PENALTIES REVIEW

2258. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Are penalties for pollution to be reviewed and increased?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, when?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The review process has already commenced and I have requested parliamentary counsel to commence drafting amendments to the Act.

LIVE SHEEP TRADE - PHASE OUT PLANS; NUMBERS EXPORTED; DEATHS

2259. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) Is there any intention to phase out the live sheep trade and if so, by what date?
- (2) How many sheep from Western Australia have been exported live in each of the following years -
 - (a) 1990;
 - (b) 1991;
 - (c) 1992;
 - (d) 1993;
 - (e) 1994;
 - (f) 1995;
 - (g) 1996?
- (3) What standards are set for access to food and water and for cleaning of waste?
- (4) How are these standards maintained and enforced?
- (5) What are the penalties for breaches of those standards?
- (6) How many, or what proportion of, sheep die in transit?

(7) How are sheep transported once unloaded at their destination?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) There is no intention to phase out the live sheep trade.
 (2) The numbers of sheep exported live from Western Australia are as follows -

| Year | Number exported (million) | Death rate (%) |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1990 | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| 1991 | 2.7 | 2.2 |
| 1992 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| 1993 | 4.3 | 2.6 |
| 1994 | 4.1 | 2.2 |
| 1995 | 4.0 | 2.0 |
| 1996 | Not available | Not available |

- (3) The standards for access to feed and water are governed by Marine Orders Part 43. Waste matter is not removed from the sheep pens during the voyage. However, the ship must be cleaned according to standards governed by the Quarantine Act 1908 before it is permitted to return to an Australian port.
 (4) The standards are maintained and enforced by inspection.
 (5) The ship is not permitted to load sheep if it fails to comply with the feed and water standards required under Marine Orders. The Quarantine Act provides for fines of up to \$50 000 and a gaol sentence of up to 10 years for breaches.
 (6) See (2).
 (7) Once unloaded at their destination, the sheep are usually moved to the feed lot by truck. However, the sheep may be walked to the feed lot if it is located near to the wharf.

LIVE SHEEP TRADE - SHEEP PRICES; EMPLOYMENT; EXPORT INCOME

2260. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) What is the average price paid to a Western Australian farmer for a sheep sold -
 (a) locally -
 (i) as a carcass;
 (ii) live;
 (b) to a foreign market -
 (i) as a carcass;
 (ii) live?
 (2) How many Western Australians are employed in the live sheep export trade -
 (a) in Western Australia;
 (b) on ships;
 (c) at sheep destinations?
 (3) What impediments are there to processing sheep in Western Australia rather than by live export?
 (4) What is the export income of the live sheep trade?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) Average prices in Western Australia in August 1996 were -
 Carcass \$14 - ewes, 19-26 kg dressed weight, score 3.
 Live \$26 - shipping wethers, 50-55 kg liveweight.
 (2) This information is not readily available to Agriculture Western Australia.
 (3) There are no impediments to processing sheep in Western Australia. Sheep are exported to some countries, mainly in the Middle East, in the live form because of strong preference in some market sectors in those countries for fresh meat. Most countries importing live sheep also import processed sheep meat.
 (4) The value of exports of live sheep from Western Australia in 1995-96 was \$180m.

LIVE SHEEP TRADE - ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION, PROTECTION PROVISIONS

2261. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) How will sheep used in the live export trade be protected in the forthcoming animal welfare legislation?
- (2) If there is no intention to afford protection, will the Minister please instruct counsel to include such provisions in the legislation?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) One of the main features of the animal welfare legislation will be the adoption of strict standards or codes of practice for handling animals in a number of industries. At present, 14 codes of practice exist in Australia including codes of practice for sheep, the road transport of livestock and the sea transport of livestock. It should be possible to adapt some or all of these codes for use in Western Australia and adopt them in regulations under the new legislation.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

LIVE SHEEP TRADE - LAND DEGRADATION; POLLUTION ASSESSMENTS

2262. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

Is there any assessment of -

- (a) possible and actual land degradation caused by farming for live sheep export;
- (b) possible and actual pollution of Western Australian harbours and oceans from this trade?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (a) There are two elements to this question -
 1. farming for the production of sheep for live sheep exports; and
 2. holding of sheep pending transhipment.

With regard to the first element, the manner in which sheep are raised for live sheep exports does not differ from that for domestic consumption. The Soil and Land Conservation Act addresses the impacts to land of farming practices. The member may wish to address this question to the Minister for Primary Industry.

With regard to premises on which in excess of 10 000 total of live animals are held pending their sale, shipment or slaughter, these premises are prescribed in the Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 1996 and accordingly require licensing under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Holding yards associated with abattoirs also fall within this category. Proposals which have the potential to impact significantly on the environment may be formally assessed by the EPA. This may be the case for holding yards for sheep pending transhipment. No such yards have been subjected to formal assessment by the EPA to this date.

- (b) Activities within Australian ports are regulated by the designated port authority. Ships' masters are required to comply with a series of regulations issued and managed by the port authority which address matters related to the shipboard management while in port. Matters regulated include solid and liquid waste management. Australia is also a signatory to the International Marine Organisation over the control of discharges to ports. Once out of port, cleaning and discharge of waste is tied to international protocols over which Western Australian authorities have no control. Large port authorities have environmental management systems, including berth clean-up requirements and monitoring, which ensure potential impacts are minimised.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT, ATTENDANCE

2264. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Women's Interests:

With reference to the preparatory meeting next week for the Commonwealth Summit on Domestic Violence -

- (a) why has the Minister only approved six attendees from Western Australia when Tasmania is sending nine and the Northern Territory 10;

- (b) for what reason has the Minister omitted the Women's Refuge Group and the Domestic Violence Council, who are major community-based stakeholders, from the Western Australian delegation?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(b) The State Government in line with other state and territory Governments was requested by Senator the honourable Jocelyn Newman and the Prime Minister to send a delegation of up to five government representatives to the National Domestic Violence Forum in Canberra. It was suggested that the delegation could comprise officers with expertise in a number of specialist areas including service responses to victims and perpetrators, the prevention of domestic violence and responses of the police and the legal system. A full range of relevant government agencies were approached to send representatives, however for budgetary and other reasons a number of agencies had decided not to do so.

In recognition of the fact that the Government's domestic violence strategy is based upon a partnership with the community it was deemed essential that at least two non-government representatives should attend from Western Australia although they could not represent the Western Australian Government. Consequently Ms Jennifer Gardiner from the Domestic Violence Council and Ms Lera Bennell from the Aboriginal Family Violence Program were approached to attend at the Government's expense.

The Commonwealth Government separately invited a range of non-government "experts" from each State and Territory. In Western Australia this was done without consultation with the State Government. A total of 10 Western Australians attended the forum. The Government's delegation comprised three representatives -

Mr Bill Cullen, A/Director, Domestic Violence Prevention Unit.
Ms Sue Renshaw, Manager, Family and Children's Services.
Ms Gail McGowan, A/Principal Policy Officer, Office of the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Women's Interests.

FAMILY COURT - DIVORCE APPLICATIONS, FILING FEES

2268. Mr D.L. SMITH to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What was the filing fee, at the Family Court of Western Australia, for a divorce application on 1 May 1993?
- (2) What is the fee now?
- (3) Has the Family Court of Western Australia introduced filing fees on Form 8 applications and other documents in line with the federal Budget?
- (4) If yes, what fees for what documents are being charged?
- (5) From what date did these new fees operate?
- (6) What hearing fees for various types of applications are now being charged?
- (7) At what stage of the proceedings do these fees have to be paid?
- (8) By whom are they payable?
- (9) Will these fees also apply to family law proceedings in the Court of Petty Sessions -
 - (a) at the Family Court building in Perth;
 - (b) in country areas;
 - (c) in other metropolitan Courts of Petty Sessions?
- (10) If no, are any fees contemplated for family law proceedings in the Court of Petty Sessions and if so, what fees?
- (11) Will there be any increase in fees for applications for restraining orders arising out of domestic violence made in the Courts of Petty Sessions and if so what increase?
- (12) With respect to all these fees will there be -
 - (a) a general waiver for all legally aided clients and/or;
 - (b) a discretionary capacity to waive for impecunious parties?
- (13) Is there any intention for the -
 - (a) State Government;

(b) Federal Government,

to increase funding for the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia to cover these increased fees?

(14) What was the total amount of fees collected by the Family Court of Western Australia in 1995-96?

(15) What is the anticipated annual amount to be allocated when the new fees are in place?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

(1) \$300.

(2) \$460.

(3)-(4) Filing fees apply to the following forms filed under the Family Law Act 1975:

Form 2 Application for decree of nullity (of a marriage)

Form 4 Application for divorce

Form 6 Application for declaration as to validity (of a marriage)

The above forms have a filing fee of \$460.

Form 7 Application for final orders

Form 7A Response to application for final orders

The above forms have a filing fee of \$250.

Form 42 Notice of Appeal to the Full Court

The above form has a filing fee of \$616.

(5) 1 September 1996.

(6) (i) If a matter filed under the Family Law Act 1975 on a Form 2, 4, 6, 7 or 7A proceeds to a defended hearing, a fee of \$400 is payable when the hearing date is fixed.

(ii) A hearing fee of \$400 is payable on filing a form 43 notice of appeal from a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, under the Family Law Act 1975.

(7) Regulations 11(3) and 11(4) of the Family Law Regulations (as amended) provide that a filing fee is payable at the time when the application is filed and a hearing fee is payable at the time when a date is fixed for the hearing of the proceedings.

(8) Regulation 11(2) of the Family Law Regulations (as amended) provides:

“The person liable to pay a fee is:

(a) the person initiating the proceedings in respect of which the fee is payable; or

(b) if the Court, a Judge or a Registrar so orders:

(i) another party to the proceedings; or

(ii) each of 2 or more of the parties to the proceedings, including a person initiating the proceedings, in the proportions ordered.”

(9) (a)-(b) Yes - when applicable.

(c) other metropolitan Courts of Petty Sessions do not hear Family Law proceedings.

(10) Not applicable.

(11) Applications for restraining orders arising out of domestic violence heard in Courts of Petty Sessions are made under the Justices Act 1902 and are not affected by the amendments to the Family Law Regulations.

(12) Yes.

(13) Fees are remitted for Legal Aid clients.

(14) \$1 269 703.

(15) Unknown.

PHARMACEUTICALS - PRESCRIPTION FEES INCREASE, IMPACT ON ELDERLY PEOPLE

2270. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:

- (1) What does the Premier say to the elderly people in this State who face an increase in prescription fees for pharmaceuticals from \$2.70 to \$3.20 which will have a severe impact on many elderly Western Australians?
- (2) Does he agree with concerns of the Pharmacy Guild that 'pensioners may face financial difficulties'?
- (3) Will the Government introduce a subsidy for elderly people to ameliorate the harshness of its federal colleagues' budget decision?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The supply of pharmaceuticals to pensioners and the charges levied for those pharmaceuticals is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and the decision to raise the fee rests with the Commonwealth.
- (2) The 'safety net' arrangements for pharmaceuticals reduces the potential for pensioners to face financial difficulties in gaining access to pharmaceuticals.
- (3) No.

JUVENILES - CURFEW; POLICE POWERS UNDER CHILD WELFARE ACT

2271. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Police:

Have the Police advised the Government that a juvenile curfew would be unnecessary because officers already have the power under the Child Welfare Act to remove children from the streets who are considered to be a danger to themselves?

Mr WIESE replied:

I am advised by the Commissioner of Police as follows -

The Government and the police are well aware of the provisions of the Child Welfare Act particularly in relation to the apprehension of juveniles who are in need of care and protection.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION, MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

2278. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Ministry of Justice human resource division being managed -
 - (a) according to the standards set by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner;
 - (b) the Public Sector Management Act 1994?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following information -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION, MISMANAGEMENT

2279. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any mismanagement in the human resource management in the Ministry of Justice?
- (2) Has there been any mismanagement in the human resource management of the Ministry of Justice?
- (3) If so -
 - (a) what is the nature of the mismanagement;
 - (b) when did the mismanagement first come to the attention of the -

- (i) Minister;
- (ii) Ministry of Justice?

- (4) If any mismanagement has been identified -
- (a) has any investigation or report been conducted;
 - (b) what action has been taken on that investigation or report?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following information -

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - PRISON OFFICERS, APPRAISAL SYSTEM

2285. Mr BROWN to the Minister assisting the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice 756 of 1996, can the Minister advise -
- (a) when the Ministry of Justice psychologist developed the new appraisal systems;
 - (b) which prisons and over which period was the pilot appraisal system program trialled;
 - (c) was Mr George Tolley given or involved in this project at any time?
- (2) If so, can the Minister advise the details of Mr Tolley's involvement?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) (a) Developed during the period 1992-1994 and further refined during 1994-1996.
- (b) Principal prisons were Bandyup, Casuarina, Greenough and Albany, during 1992-1994.
- (c) Yes.
- (2) Mr Tolley reviewed the progress made.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVID GRANT

King, David

2288. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

Further to question on notice 762 of 1996, can the Minister advise if there are records of letters from Mr D. King to the former Director General of the Ministry of Justice being sent from -

- (a) Wooroloo Prison Farm;
- (b) Karnet Prison Farm?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - CORRECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION, BUDGET OVEREXPENDITURE

2289. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Further to question on notice 769 of 1996, can the Attorney General advise by how much the Corrective Services Division exceeded its budget in -

- (a) 1994-95 financial year;
- (b) 1995-96?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following information -

- (a) Did not exceed - savings of \$2 435 000.
- (b) Overspent \$7 562 000.

JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF - ROWE, WILLIAM, REPORT

Ryan, Michael; McCotter, Denzil; Public Service Commissioner's Report

2302. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Further to question on notice 433 of 1996, can the Minister advise if the findings of the Public Service Commissioner will be -
 - (a) made public;
 - (b) tabled with his report in Parliament?
- (2) Can the Minister advise why there has been a significant delay in determining issues raised in Mr Rowe's correspondence?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Until I receive advice from the Public Service Commissioner I am not in a position to make a determination.
- (2) This is an issue for the Public Service Commissioner.

REDUNDANCY PACKAGES - POSITIONS, ABOLITION POLICY

2306. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) Is it government policy that where an employee is offered and accepts a redundancy package the substantive position held by the employee is abolished?
- (2) If so, is it true that certain government agencies and departments get around this requirement by transferring employees they wish to make redundant to other positions or departments before offering a redundancy package?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Government policy is that before an employee can receive a redundancy/severance package the employee must be surplus to the agency's requirements and cannot be readily employed in the public sector. To become surplus a position within the agency must be abolished to match the reduction in the agency's FTE level.
- (2) The substantive position is usually the position which is abolished. However, other positions can be substituted in special circumstances to allow for the severance package to be paid to an employee. Severance packages are paid on a voluntary basis.

SEAPLANES - SWAN RIVER, COMO AREA, PROPOSALS

2315. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (a) Has the Swan River Trust made recommendations to the Minister regarding the operation of a seaplane service on Como water?
- (2) If so, what did the Swan River Trust recommend?
- (3) Has the Minister made a decision on the operation of the seaplane service?
- (4) If so, what is the Minister's decision?
- (5) If not, when does the Minister expect to make his decision?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) No.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) When the trust forwards its recommendation for consideration.

VITAMIN A PROGRAM - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

2320. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister for Health agreed to assist with funding for the vitamin A program?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) what contribution will be made;
 - (b) how will it be made;
 - (c) for how long will it be made?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a)-(b) A contribution of \$350 000 was recently made to the Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation for research on asbestos related diseases. The vitamin A program benefits from this contribution. Another \$350 000 will be made available in May 1997.
 - (c) Funds are available until June 1997. The continuation of the program will then have to be reassessed.

NURSING HOMES - SOCIAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF, INCOME SUPPORT TRANSFERRED TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT, FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

2321. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it true that the next assistance component of income support paid by the Department of Social Security to nursing homes and hostels will be transferred to the Health Department and Family and Children's Services for inclusion in their aged care subsidies?
- (2) What is the implication of this change for the state government run nursing homes?
- (3) What will be the implication for residents of commonwealth government funded nursing homes?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) It is understood the Commonwealth intends to combine the current Department of Social Security new assistance provided through the income support components into the form of a single direct subsidy for pensioners in residential care to be paid through the Department of Health and Family Services.
- (2) None.
- (3) According to the Commonwealth neither pensioners nor non-pensioners are supposed to be disadvantaged by this change and no individual resident will lose income.

ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS - CURTIN UNIVERSITY EDUCATED, STATUS; NATIONAL REGISTRATION; HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT

2322. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the status of Curtin University educated Aboriginal health workers?
- (2) Is there a move to develop a system of national registration for Aboriginal health workers?
- (3) How many Aboriginal health workers are employed by the Western Australian Health Department?
- (4) In what parts of the State are they employed?
- (5) What role does the Government envisage for Aboriginal health workers in the future development of our health system?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The Associate Diploma in Aboriginal Health Work offered by Curtin University is an accredited course for Aboriginal health workers.
- (2) Moves towards mutual recognition of Aboriginal health workers are currently being discussed.
- (3) Ninety-six full time equivalent positions are provided for Aboriginal health workers.
- (4) Statewide.
- (5) Aboriginal health workers will continue to play a key role in the delivery of primary health care services to Aboriginal people, working alongside other members of the health team.

STEIN, MRS - DEATH IN ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, INQUIRY

2323. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

In relation to the tragic case of Mrs Stein who died in Royal Perth Hospital on 14 August 1995 -

- (a) has the promised inquiry into her death by the Minister's predecessor been completed;
- (b) if yes, what were the results of the findings?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) Yes. The inquiry was finalised in December 1995. The inquiry report was then distributed to each of the five public hospitals which had treated Mrs Stein for their comment. The inquiry report and a summary of the public hospitals' responses were forwarded to Mr Stein on 29 May 1996.
- (b) The hospitals concerned are working on implementing the recommendations.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - KIMBERLEY ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE, DISPUTE OVER APPLICATION OF VISITING MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AGREEMENT

2324. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the dispute between the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service and the Health Department over the application of the visiting medical practitioner agreement.

- (a) Has the matter been resolved?
- (b) If yes, what was the nature of the agreement?
- (c) If no, what are the continuing points of disagreement?
- (d) Has the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission written to the Health Department complaining about this matter?
- (e) If yes -
 - (i) what was the nature of their complaint;
 - (ii) how did the Health Department reply?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) There is no dispute about the application of the visiting medical practitioner. Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Corporation does not have a VMP arrangement with the department. Aboriginal Medical Services in the Kimberley are seeking to renegotiate a contract for services.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Kimberley AMS are seeking to renegotiate a contract with the department for the provision of services. The renegotiation has not yet been finalised. The outstanding areas of concern are services to be provided and the price to be paid for those services.
- (d) No. However, the WA Equal Opportunity Commission has sought information from the department on this matter.
- (e) Not applicable.

JANDAKOT WATER MOUND - GOLF COURSES, POLLUTION THREAT; KEN HURST PARK
PROPOSAL

2325. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) In regard to the protection of the Jandakot water mound, does the Government acknowledge the potential for pollution from golf courses?
- (2) If not, on what basis?
- (3) What threat would a proposed golf course extending to the Ken Hurst Park pose to underground water?
- (4) If so, would the Minister outline how the Government would constrain such a proposal?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) Golf courses are recognised as having potential to cause elevated concentrations of nutrients, herbicides and pesticides in ground water. Golf courses are an unacceptable land use within the Jandakot underground water pollution control area in areas classified for priority 1 or priority 2 source protection.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Ken Hurst Park is located outside the Jandakot underground water pollution control area. A golf course at this location does not pose a threat to any existing or proposed public drinking water sources. The proposed golf course would not pose an unacceptable pollution risk to wetlands, waterways or private bores used for irrigation.
- (4) Not applicable.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL - ISSUES ADDRESSED

2328. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Women's Interests:

- (1) What issues have the Women's Advisory Council addressed each year since 1993?
- (2) Which issues have been referred to it by the Minister?
- (3) What recommendations, if any, of the council has the Government acted on?
- (4) Has the council, or will the council, address issues for women related to -
 - (a) community based child care;
 - (b) abortion;
 - (c) the impact of workplace agreements on working conditions for women?
- (5) If not, would the Minister consider referring these matters to the council?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) A wide range of issues has been considered by the Women's Advisory Council over the last three years. They include promotion of women into decision-making roles, personal safety, women and economic independence, superannuation, childcare and dependent spouse rebate, technology and women, breast cancer, women's health, Bandyup self-care units, children's access visits to mothers in prison, training needs of women, worker's compensation, needs of women in regional areas, gender bias in law, menopause, domestic violence, public transport, housing in regional communities.
- (2) De facto relationships and property settlement, gender bias in law, marriage and family counselling in rural and remote areas, housing and waiting lists for Aboriginal people following eviction.
- (3) All recommendations from the WAC are taken into account in the development of public policy relating to women and broad issues impacting significantly on women.
- (4)
 - (a) Yes. The council has considered this issue and continues to monitor developments in the provision of community-based childcare.
 - (b) Yes. Issues relating to abortion have been discussed by the WAC and the range of community views acknowledged.

- (c) Yes. As part of its examination of economic independence for women, the WAC has taken into account workplace reforms.

(5) See (4).

HOMESWEST - EVICTIONS; HOMELESS PEOPLE, RENTAL ACCOMMODATION APPLICATIONS

2329. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Homeswest tenants have been evicted in -
- (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1996 to date?
- (2) How many applications for rental accommodation does Homeswest currently have from people who designate themselves as homeless?
- (3) How many families are currently under threat of eviction?
- (4) If possible, could this data be provided by region or by metropolitan/non-metropolitan?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) (a) Not available - Homeswest commenced keeping records in 1994.
 (b) 75.
 (c) 101.
 (d) 74 to 31 August 1996.
- (2) Homeswest does not keep these statistics.
- (3) There are 93 live court orders against families for breaches of their tenancy agreement; in the main, for non-payment of rent. Most breaches are rectified; however, approximately 10 per cent proceed to eviction.
- (4)

| Region | Court Orders |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mirrabooka | 61 |
| Fremantle | 8 |
| Cannington | 8 |
| Albany | 1 |
| Bunbury | 4 |
| Kalgoorlie | 3 |
| Geraldton | 2 |
| South Hedland | 4 |
| Broome | 2 |

ABORTION - LEGISLATION; MODEL CRIMINAL CODE PROPOSALS

2330. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What position will the Western Australian Government adopt at the Standing Committee of Attorneys General meeting on the proposals outlined in the discussion paper (chapter 5) of the model Criminal Code on abortion?
- (2) Why, in 1996, are laws relating to abortion embedded in the Criminal Codes of the States?
- (3) Will the Government -
- (a) seek to repeal relevant sections from the code; or
 - (b) legislate by amendment to the Health Act 1911, or related legislation?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) Not yet considered.
- (2) There have always been, and always will be, circumstances in which abortion should be prosecuted as a criminal offence.
- (3) No legislative changes have been considered, and none are intended at this time.

OBSTETRICIANS - BOOKING FEES

2331. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that some obstetricians charge patients a booking fee?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that since the former federal Labor Government provided an \$800 maternity rebate some doctors have raised that fee to \$800?
- (3) If so, what is the basis for this charge?
- (4) What other medical specialists charge so-called booking fees?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) While obstetricians employed in the public sector do not charge a booking fee, I am advised that some private obstetricians may charge booking fees.
- (2)-(4) The regulation of fees and the determination of Medicare rebates are issues over which the Federal Government has sole jurisdiction. The basis and quantum of charges levied by medical specialists in the private sector are issues for the consulting specialist and their patient.

HOSPITALS - ARMADALE

Budget; New Building Commencement; Beds

2332. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What budget has been provided to Armadale Hospital this year?
- (2) For what purpose?
- (3) When is the new hospital building due to commence?
- (4) How many beds will be provided?
- (5) What specialties will be catered for - for example, geriatric, surgical, obstetrics?
- (6) Which services will be private and which publicly provided?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The hospital indicative budget for this year is \$16 256 400.
- (2) For the purposes of providing health care services to the public within the Armadale-Kelmscott Health Service catchment area in accordance with contracted arrangements.
- (3) The commencement of the new hospital building has not yet been determined. The May budget allocated \$2.4m spread over two years for documentation and to continue the project up to the tender stage.
- (4) 120 beds.
- (5) The same specialties will be provided but at an expanded or higher level of service.
- (6) The provision of services will continue on a public provider basis.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - RITALIN AT HOSPITAL PHARMACIES, BUDGET

2333. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Health:

What budget has been provided each year since 1993-94 for Ritalin at hospital pharmacies at -

- (a) Armadale
- (b) Osborne Park
- (c) Fremantle
- (d) Princess Margaret?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| (a) | 1993-94) | Ritalin was provided from within the operating budget and was not |
| | 1994-95) | budgeted separately until 1995-96 |
| | 1995-96 | \$104 000 as per contract |
| | 1996-97 | \$104 000 as per indicative contract |

- (b) Nil.
- (c) 1993-94 \$52 983
1994-95 \$50 266
1995-96 \$49 966
- (d) 1993-94 \$68 518
1994-95 \$110 837
1995-96 \$134 443

These figures include expenditure for the State Child Development Centre.

HOSPITALS - BUNBURY

Land, Future Use; Nursing Home Consideration

2334. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is to be the fate of the land on which the current Bunbury Hospital is located?
- (2) Would the Government consider locating a purpose built nursing home, with respite beds, suitable for the care of people with senile dementia and acquired brain injury at this site?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) A decision has not yet been made.
- (2) The Government is considering the future use of the site and the question of a nursing home has been raised in that context.
- (3) Not applicable.

WATER QUALITY - LOT 19, WARTON ROAD; LOT 1, HYBRID COURT, BANJUP, BORE WATER TESTS

2337. Dr WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

What are the results of examination and analysis of water taken for testing in June at -

- (a) Lot 19, Warton Road, Banjup;
- (b) Lot 1, Hybrid Court, Banjup?

Mr MINSON replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) (a) A bore water sample was obtained from Lot 19 Warton Road during the week commencing 10 June 1996, however, the sample was not submitted for laboratory analysis as sufficient information was already available from bore water samples obtained from adjacent lots. Therefore, no chemical analysis of bore water from Lot 19 Warton Road can be provided.
- (b) The laboratory analysis of a bore water sample obtained from Lot 1 Hybrid Court Banjup on 14 June 1996 is shown in the table below. All chemical components analysed are within guidelines for raw drinking water quality.

Table Water quality analysis - Lot 1 Hybrid Court Banjup (14 June 1996)

| Parameter | Result | Health guideline for raw drinking water supplies |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|
| pH (field) | 7.61 | 6.5 - 8.5 |
| Electrical conductivity (field) | 27.4 mS/m | not applicable |
| Ammonia as nitrogen | 0.1 (mg/L) | not applicable |
| Nitrate as nitrogen | 0.04 (mg/L) | 11.3 (mg/L) |
| Nitrite as nitrogen | 0.02 (mg/L) | 0.9 (mg/L) |
| Total phosphorus | 0.05 (mg/L) | not applicable |

*National Health and Medical Research Council 1996

The bores were sampled as part of a project undertaken by consultants engaged by the Water and Rivers Commission to investigate the impact on ground water quality of dog kennel subdivisions. Information from all of the bores sampled in the area will be supplied to the land owners when the consultant's report is completed.

HOMESWEST - ABORIGINAL HOUSING, HEADLEASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH AGENCIES

2339. Dr WATSON to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Which agencies have entered into headlease arrangements with Homeswest for housing certain Aboriginal families?
- (2) What are the responsibilities for the agency and for Homeswest in such arrangements?
- (3) What are the implications for each?
- (4) What finances are required by the headleasing agency and for what purposes?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Manguri Aboriginal Corporation (Cannington), Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation (Bunbury) and the Murray Districts Aboriginal Corporation (Pinjarra).
- (2) The agency is responsible for ensuring the tenant abides by the terms of the Tenancy agreement, pays rent, maintains suitable property standards and lives in harmony with the neighbours. Homeswest retains the responsibility of landlord.
- (3) For both Homeswest and the agency, the implications are a continued and successful tenancy which in turn creates less homelessness and lessens the burden on other agencies, eg health, education, welfare and the justice system.
- (4) The agency is expected to have the capacity to adequately manage the tenancy in aspects such as homemaker support and financial counselling.

WORKPLACE AGREEMENTS - AND AWARDS, DIFFERENCES ASSESSMENT

2347. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Further to question on notice 1996 of 1996, can the Minister explain the steps the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements, or one of his staff, takes in carrying out a 'preliminary assessment' on the differences between the workplace agreement and the relevant award?
- (2) Why did the Minister refuse to specifically answer questions (2) to (10), (12) and (13)?
- (3) Will the Minister now answer each of those questions in the order in which they are asked?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) The preliminary assessment carried out by the Commissioner of Workplace Agreements or one of his staff will vary depending on the content of each agreement. The nature of the assessment is dependent on other relevant factors and known information which go to overall outcomes for the parties. This is done in the case of each agreement to the extent that it is necessary to determine genuineness.
- (2)-(4) The answer provided explained the factors taken into account in determining registration. This response answered questions (2) to (13) as the detailed analysis suggested is not necessary in all cases. The information sought by the commissioner's office is based on overall outcomes but, if necessary, information is sought which relates to take home pay, hours, penalty rates or other conditions.

HOMESWEST - COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY, DISCUSSIONS

2351. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Minister or any of his departments or offices had any discussions with the Federal Government on the Federal Government's public housing policy?
- (2) Have any discussions been held with the Federal Government subsequent to the federal Budget?

- (3) Has the Federal Government given any indications of the changes it would like to see in public housing provision?
 - (4) Have there been any discussions or communications about public housing tenants being given a housing subsidy in the form of a voucher or cheque?
 - (5) If not, are any discussions scheduled or proposed?
 - (6) Has the State Government informed the Federal Government that the State -
 - (a) would not accept;
 - (b) opposes,
 the housing subsidy being paid in the form of a voucher or cheque?
 - (7) Have any discussions been held between the two Governments on market rents being charged for public housing properties?
 - (8) Has the State Government received any advice or indication from the Federal Government that it (the Federal Government) would like to see market rents charged for existing public housing properties?
 - (9) If not, has any communication or discussion taken place between the two Governments on this matter?
 - (10) If so, what is the nature of that discussion or communication?
 - (11) Has the State Government assessed the impact on low income earners and social security recipients of any proposed federal government public housing policy?
 - (12) If not, why not?
- Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4)-(6) A detailed proposal has not been provided by the Commonwealth.
- (7)-(8) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) Discussions in broad terms around the long term housing reform proposals.
- (11)-(12) A taskforce is being established to examine and assess proposals for long term housing reform across Australia.

POLICE SERVICE - MULTANOVAS

2355. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Are Multanovas used to gather revenue?
- (2) Are Multanovas used in what might be called 'hot spots'?
- (3) What criteria is used to classify 'hotspots'?
- (4) Who is responsible for the classification of hot spots?
- (5) Who is responsible for allocating the designated areas in which Multanovas are used?
- (6) How many accidents or other road traffic problems have been encountered on -
 - (a) Wanneroo Road between Hepburn Avenue and Marangaroo Road;
 - (b) Hepburn Avenue between the Freeway and Wanneroo Road;
 - (c) the Freeway between Hepburn Avenue and the city?
- (7) What was the rationale for placing Multanovas in these locations?
- (8) How do these locations fit the criteria?
- (9) How many accidents in these locations resulted in death or injury?

(10) How many infringement notices have been issued as a result of Multanovas being placed in these areas?

(11) What is the total amount that has been raised?

Mr WIESE replied:

In response to questions (1)-(10) I am advised by the Commissioner of Police as follows -

- (1) No; speed cameras are used in an effort to reduce the instances of speeding motorists and road crashes, in an endeavour to save lives and avoid serious road trauma.
- (2) The term "hot spot" is not used in relation to road crashes. I suspect the member may be referring to "black spots". If he is, speed cameras are used at speed related crash black spots in accordance with the Auditor General's report. They are also deployed to areas where complaints are received relating to speeding motorists.
- (3) Black spots are identified by using the information from Main Roads Western Australia statistics.
Speed Related Crash Spots
Areas of Complaint
Discretion of Commander (Traffic and Operations Support) in relation to special traffic campaigns and events
- (4) Main Roads Western Australia and the Western Australia Police Service, in conjunction with the Speed Camera Review Committee.
- (5) Main Roads Western Australia and the Western Australia Police Service, in conjunction with the Speed Camera Review Committee, Traffic Camera Section and relevant District offices (i.e. Joondalup, Fremantle, Midland, Perth, Mirrabooka and Cannington).
- (6) Full year 1995
 - (a) 81
 - (b) 75
 - (c) 432
- (7) To modify driver behaviour to reduce speed and road crashes.
- (8) These locations constantly carry heavy volumes of traffic and have been identified as speed related black spots locations.
- (9) Full year 1995 - death, 1; injury, 138.
- (10) Full year 1995 -
 - (a) 430
 - (b) 810
 - (c) 785
 - Total 2 025.
- (11) This information is not available from the WA Police Service. This question should be referred to the Attorney General.

ECONOMIC GROWTH - AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1995-96

2357. Dr GALLOP to the Treasurer:

With reference to the Treasurer's statement in the Legislative Assembly on 19 September 1996 that the rate of growth for Western Australia in 1995-96 was 6.3 per cent -

- (a) what was the rate of growth for Australia in 1995-96;
- (b) what was the rate of growth for the other Australian States and Territories in 1995-96?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a) 3.8 per cent.
- (b)

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| New South Wales | 2.8% |
| Victoria | 4.4% |
| Queensland | 3.1% |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Western Australia | 6.3% |
| South Australia | 4.7% |
| Tasmania | 1.9% |
| Northern Territory | 5.8% |
| Australian Capital Territory | 3.1%. |

HOSPITALS - SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER

Advertising and Filling Positions Complaints

2359. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of concerns being raised about the advertising and filling of positions at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital?
- (2) If yes, what is the nature of the complaints?
- (3) Have the complaints been examined by the Office of Public Sector Standards?
- (4) If yes, what conclusions were reached?
- (5) If no, were they examined by any other body?
- (6) If they were -
 - (a) what was the body;
 - (b) what conclusions did it reach?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) I am aware only of an anonymous letter sent to the member, the editor of *The West Australian*, the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Sector Management Office and the Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation, a copy of which was also sent to me.
- (2) Given the member has a copy of the letter, the nature of the complaint and the fact it was an anonymous complaint, I do not believe it is appropriate to repeat the complaints.
- (3) I am advised that they have been referred to the Public Service Standards Commission by the PSMO.
- (4) I am advised that the PSSC has not yet determined what will be done with the anonymous complaint.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.

HOSPITALS - MT HENRY

Land Sale; Owner

2364. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the Mt Henry Hospital and ask -

- (1) has any land been sold;
- (2) if so, how much, and what was the sale price;
- (3) who is the new owner and what is intended for the land?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

HOSPITALS - LOTTERIES COMMISSION FUNDING

2365. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to lottery funding of Western Australian hospitals and ask what amount the Lotteries Commission has given to Western Australian hospitals in each of -

- (a) 1992;
- (b) 1993;
- (c) 1994;
- (d) 1995;
- (e) 1996?

(2) Historically, how and why did lotteries funding of Western Australian hospitals come about?

Mr PRINCE replied:

(1) Year ending 30 June -

| | | |
|-----|------|---------------|
| (a) | 1992 | \$54 387 000 |
| (b) | 1993 | \$45 974 000 |
| (c) | 1994 | \$49 623 000 |
| (d) | 1995 | \$58 074 000 |
| (e) | 1996 | \$63 375 000. |

The above represent contributions made through the Hospital Fund trust account and exclude grants which may have been made to individual hospitals by the Lotteries Commission.

(2) Under the Lotteries Control Act 1954 and in latter years the Lotteries Commission Act 1990, the Lotteries Commission has provided funding for the benefit of the Western Australian community. The provision of hospital services has always been a major part of service and benefit to Western Australian communities. Since the enactment of the Lotteries Commission Act 1990, hospitals have received 16 per cent of moneys received in respect of lotteries and games of Lotto, and full proceeds from soccer football pools after the deduction of prize moneys and expenses attributable to the conduct of soccer football pools.

FINES ENFORCEMENT - CONTRACTORS ENGAGEMENT

2366. Mr D.L. SMITH to the Minister assisting the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Which private contractors are presently engaged by the Ministry of Justice, and/or the fine enforcement agency, to serve warrants and/or collect money on its behalf in country Western Australia and which areas do each of them cover?
- (2) How and when were each of these contractors engaged?
- (3) If they were engaged after tender, what are the payment provisions of that tender?
- (4) When does the tender expire?
- (5) For each quarter since each contract was let, could the Minister advise how many warrants have been referred to each of these contractors and advise how many of these have been served?
- (6) For each quarter since each contract was let, how much money has been collected by each of these contractors and how much has been paid to each of these contractors?

Mr MINSON replied:

- (1) Mr Arthur Richard Dall - South West Region centred on Bunbury; Mr Gary McNamara - Southern Region centred on Albany.
- (2) Following the tender process, the contracts began on 10 October 1995.
- (3) \$54 and \$85 per warrant respectively.
- (4) 9 January 1997.
- (5) Mr Dall - 299 warrants, 48 executed; Mr McNamara - 261 warrants, 53 executed.
- (6) October-December 1995: Dall collected nil - was paid \$4 158; McNamara collected \$3 165 - was paid \$6 205.

January-March 1996: Dall collected \$1 222 - was paid \$2 052; McNamara collected \$1 754 - was paid \$5 270.

April-June 1996: Dall collected \$234 - was paid \$2 646; McNamara collected \$1 398 - was paid \$1 020.

BURSWOOD CASINO - DISPUTES/COMPLAINTS AGAINST, GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR
ATTENDANCE

2370. Mrs HENDERSON to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) In relation to Burswood Casino, have there been any policy changes affecting the rights of members of the public being able to request the presence of a government inspector to attend a dispute between that member of the public and the representatives of the operator of the casino?
- (2) If so, what changes?
- (3) What right or rights do members of the public have in relation to having an independent government inspector attend to any complaint against the operator of the casino?
- (4) In relation to the Burswood Casino, has there been any assignment to representatives of the casino operator of the government inspectors' discretionary right to decide whether those inspectors will attend to a complaint made by a member of the public?
- (5) If so, what assignments have been made, under what conditions, and why were they made?
- (6) In relation to industrial matters at Burswood Casino, when government inspectors did previously attend upon request of a person, and especially in light of the criminal penalties applying to industrial matters subsequent to the amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 1979 and other Acts of Parliament, have there been any changes denying, prohibiting or otherwise preventing a government inspector being requested to attend a dispute between a duly authorised union representative, with rights of entry under a state award, from so attending?
- (7) If so, what changes?
- (8) Is it the responsibility of a government inspector at Burswood Casino to answer a request from a member of the public to attend in relation to a complaint about the operator of the casino, or is it permitted by the Government for a representative of the operator of the casino to answer such a request?
- (9) If the answer to (5) above, is that a representative of the operator of the casino can lawfully provide such an answer, then how can members of the public be assured that their requests for a government inspector have been duly made to the inspectors?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response -

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Government inspectors are on duty at the casino 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Casino patrons may contact a government casino inspector directly or ask a representative of the casino operator to contact a government casino inspector on their behalf.

On 24 December 1985, directions were issued to the casino licensee of the Burswood Casino pursuant to section 24 of the Casino Control Act 1984 in respect of various aspects of the casino gaming operation. The direction relevant to patron complaints states:

- 12.1 If a complaint received from a patron cannot be resolved by or on behalf of the Casino Operator, the Casino Operator shall cause a Government Casino Inspector on duty to be advised immediately.
- 12.2 A Government Casino Inspector may at any time consider the complaint of a patron who is dissatisfied with, or aggrieved by, a decision of the Casino Operator.
- 12.3 Licensed Casino employees shall at all times co-operate with Government Casino Inspectors in the furnishing of information relating to a patron's complaint, and the Casino Operator shall ensure that the employee does so.
- 12.4 Upon consideration by the Commission of the unresolved complaint, the Casino Operator shall give effect to the Commission's decision.

- 12.5 The Casino Operator shall make available to a duty Government Casino Inspector any information pertaining to patron complaints against Casino personnel when that information is obtained.
- (4) As the above direction 12.1 states, the casino operator is required to advise a government casino inspector of any complaint received from casino patrons.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) If a dispute between the casino operator and another person, not a casino patron, does not relate to the maintenance of the integrity of casino gaming operations but rather to an industrial relations issue between the casino operator and another person or persons, a government casino inspector is not expected to investigate and adjudicate upon the matter.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BUDGET (STATE) - IMPACT OF COMMONWEALTH BUDGET CUTS

557. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's agreement four months ago with Prime Minister John Howard that commonwealth grants to the States would be cut. In light of the confusion besetting all levels of government, I ask -

- (1) Can the Premier now indicate what the total impact of the Howard Government's cuts will be on the state Budget?
- (2) As the Premier has said that he has identified the savings to be made, will he now take people into his confidence and tell us where the cuts will be made?
- (3) Which assets is the Government proposing to sell to cover federal government cuts in grants to Western Australia?
- (4) Has the Government been advised which specific purpose grants will be cut or abolished, and will the Premier now provide details to the people of Western Australia?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) The Government gave a commitment that it would find savings of \$60m in relation to this year's Budget. As I have mentioned to the House on previous occasions, a month or two ago the Government identified savings of \$40m among a wide range of agencies. The Opposition has asked where the savings are to be made, and the Government has explained that it is quite normal when a Government makes its budget corrections throughout the course of the year for various chief executive officers to be asked to find those sorts of savings. Members opposite do not like the fact that the Government is able to find those savings. A CEO has responsibility for a number of areas and most of the savings are being found in simple administration areas, such as travel.

The question referred to asset sales. In only one area do those savings of \$40m relate to asset sales; namely, \$5m savings in the Police Department relate to those proposals. Members opposite do not seem to understand that with a budget of \$7b, changes must be made in all departments during the course of the year. Also they do not comprehend -

Dr Gallop: We understand only too well that we have a Liberal Government in Canberra.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition cannot understand that we have been able to -

Mr Ripper: It is the pea and thimble trick.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COURT: There is no pea and thimble trick because this Government has been able to deliver three balanced Budgets, and at the same time it has reduced debt.

Mr Brown: You are not answering the question.

Mr COURT: I am answering the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morley.

Mr COURT: It is quite within the Government's means if it puts its mind to it, to find savings of \$60m during the course of a financial year.

Mr Brown: Do you know where it is?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Brown: Do you know where it is?

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

Mr COURT: I am absolutely amazed at the comments of members opposite. I advise them that the Government is well down the track towards completing next year's Budget. The Government is working on a rolling budget.

Mr McGinty: Why not tell us about this year's?

Mr COURT: The Government has already released this year's Budget. It is already telling members about it.

Mr McGinty interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr COURT: Treasury has advised me that we are well and truly on track with expenditure to again deliver what we have in previous years; that is, a balanced Budget. That can be done only if we are disciplined and controlled with expenditure, and we are. Members opposite did not have that discipline and control and they cannot understand how we can achieve a balanced Budget.

BUDGET (STATE) - IMPACT OF COMMONWEALTH BUDGET CUTS

558. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) What was the total impact of the federal Budget on the state Budget?
- (2) Which of the specific purpose grants will be cut? If the Premier cannot provide those specific details now, I ask that this part of the question be put on notice and that he bring those details to Parliament this week.

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) I will provide what information we have on changes to the specific purpose payments. When the federal Budget came down we indicated to the Opposition that we did not have details of its specific effects on the state Budget.

BUDGET (STATE) - FINANCIAL PLAN FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS

559. Mr JOHNSON to the Premier:

Will the Premier indicate whether, in the first week of the next state election campaign, he will release a statement outlining the financial strategy for the next four years, thus assisting the voters to make a responsible decision on who will be the next Government of this State?

Mr COURT replied:

In the first week of the election campaign we will present all the figures pertaining to our financial plan for the coming four years. Something that the public will not accept these days are promises that cannot be funded. It simply will not cop that.

Mr Brown interjected.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morley again, order!

Mr COURT: The public wants to know just how those promises will be funded. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition will tell us whether he is also prepared to release the Opposition's financial details in that first week?

The SPEAKER: Order! I will accept the response about to be given, but I will not accept it if three or four other people are trying to have their say at the same time. When we give someone an opportunity to reply to a question that has been directed to him, we cannot allow others to interject.

Dr Gallop: Will you allow me to go to Treasury and have a full briefing on the state of the finances of Western Australia?

Mr COURT: I will go further than that. I said to members opposite that we are prepared to outline to everyone the full financial position of our Budget and forward estimates for the next four years. Is the Opposition prepared to provide the same information?

Dr Gallop: Will the Premier allow me to be briefed by Treasury? I want to see the books.

Mr COURT: I take it that means no.

Mr McGinty interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I formally call to order the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the first time.

Mr COURT: The Opposition may also want to tell us whether the promises made by the former Leader of the Opposition are still intact?

Dr Gallop: Of course they are.

Mr COURT: That is all we want to know.

Dr Gallop: Are you doing your figures now? Is Treasury doing your political work?

Mr COURT: We do not need Treasury to do it. The point I make is that the people of Western Australia want to know that promises will be funded with real money, not with a Bankcard or debt. The Opposition owes it to the people of this State to present, just as we will, the full financial plan of how it will fund its promises over the next four years.

COASTCARE PROJECTS - COMMONWEALTH/STATE FUNDING

560. Dr EDWARDS to the Premier:

On Saturday the Minister for Planning said he was confident that his Government would match, dollar for dollar, a federal government offer of \$549 000 for coastcare projects in Western Australia.

- (1) Can he guarantee that WA will match, dollar for dollar, the commonwealth offer?
- (2) If so, given that his Government has budgeted only \$50 000 for coastcare projects where will he find the extra half a million dollars without cutting existing programs?

Mr COURT replied:

We are considering expenditure on some proposals. I am not aware of the precise amount the Federal Government will give, but we will certainly give favourable consideration in the near future to how we allocate funding.

FISHERIES - DAWESVILLE CHANNEL, PRAWN CATCH

561. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Fisheries:

Since completion of the Dawesville Channel, Mandurah has experienced successive boom crabbing seasons and a downturn in the prawn catch. From the tourism point of view, at this time of the year locals, especially retailers, are a little apprehensive about the stock. Does the Minister know the catch predictions for this season?

Mr HOUSE replied:

I think we all agree on both sides of the House that the Dawesville Channel has been an outstanding success. It has contributed substantially to the health of that inlet. It has also, of course, contributed to an increase in the availability of fish particularly for recreational fishermen. Last season was one of the best seasons for crabs on record. Nonetheless, over the past couple of years, there has been a problem with the prawn catch. The scientific advice given to me is that the prawns are getting out of the estuary through the new channel quite quickly and therefore are not available to be caught. The predictions this year for the crab season are relatively good. Although the advice given to me is that sometimes it is a little difficult to predict, I think the people of Mandurah can look forward to at least as good a season as last year.

HOSPITALS - BUNBURY

Pathology Services

562. Mr MCGINTY to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister reconsider the decision to recall tenders to provide pathology services to the collocated Bunbury Regional Hospital?

- (2) Will the Minister acknowledge that if tenders are called and the government run pathology centre is unsuccessful, it will lead to -
- (a) higher charges for pathology services in Bunbury and throughout the south west through reduced competition;
 - (b) loss of competition, service and presence to the south west community; and
 - (c) relocation of the eight pathology centre staff in Bunbury to the metropolitan area?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) A new hospital for the Bunbury area has been a vexed issue for some time particularly in the dying days of the Labor Government. We are building a new hospital in Bunbury to be collocated with the St John of God Health Service, which will provide a very good state of the art hospital service. It will provide services that are not presently available and the buildings will be completely new. Putting out to tender the pathology services will result in the best quality for the best available price. I am not prepared to reconsider that question -

Mr McGinty: Are you not worried about what will happen if the pathology centre is taken out of Bunbury?

Mr PRINCE: I am not prepared to reconsider that question unless someone can raise a better argument than the one raised by the Opposition. We are concerned to ensure that we obtain the best quality service for the price. That is what will happen particularly as a result of the collocation.

BARTON'S MILL PRISON - FUTURE USE

563. Mr BOARD to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Justice:

I have been approached by a church and welfare group wanting to use the old Barton's Mill Prison complex for youth training. Is the Minister able to indicate the current status of that complex, who owns the land and whether there are any plans for its future use?

Mr MINSON replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Barton's Mill Prison was decommissioned as a prison in 1994. At about that time it was put under the management control of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, where it now resides. However, the Ministry of Justice still has ownership of the land. The Ministry of Justice will have appointed to it shortly a new director general. I will ask that new director general to make a final decision on the studies that are being undertaken about future uses of that site. It is possible we will find some community use, either in Justice or in some other area. Public commitments were given by the Premier and the former Attorney General that it would not be used again as a prison. I know there are problems with respect to asbestos. When we have resolved those problems and the Ministry of Justice has completed its review on future uses it might have for the land, it probably will be formally vested in the Minister for the Environment and managed by CALM. However, there is every possibility that the groups mentioned by the member could come to an arrangement with CALM. Alternatively we have other property in Justice that might be suitable for the purposes for which he has been approached.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - ATTITUDINAL MONITORING SURVEY

564. Mrs ROBERTS to the Premier:

Can the Premier explain why his taxpayer funded attitudinal monitoring survey tabled in the House shows that under his Government the number of regular users of Perth's public transport system who rate the service as excellent or very good has plummeted from 42 per cent to just 19 per cent?

Mr COURT replied:

I do not have those figures here. However, those figures are presented under three categories. The proper way of working out the figures is to combine two categories and compare it with the negative. I hope the member has done that in her figures and she is making the right comparison and not being mischievous in the use of those figures.

BUS SERVICES - COMPLAINTS; IMPROVEMENTS

565. Mrs ROBERTS to the Premier:

Does the Premier expect public confidence to collapse even further as a result of his privatisation experiment with MetroBus? Is he aware that passengers are now complaining of dirty buses and that drivers employed by the private sector are being forced not only to work longer hours for much less pay, but also to clean the buses?

Mr COURT replied:

We expect that the service will improve considerably. It has been demonstrated already that there has been a much more efficient use of the available buses. Simple rescheduling has allowed the companies to provide the services with fewer buses than was previously the case. The Opposition cannot accept that the service can be improved considerably and made more efficient and that is exactly what we are doing.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE, BUNBURY, FUNDING

566. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Health:

I congratulate the Minister on his decision yesterday to guarantee the finances of the Bunbury Palliative Care Service in the absence of assurances from Canberra that would allow the service to continue. What arrangements have been made to provide this support?

Mr PRINCE replied:

I thank the member for raising the question. The Government and I have a strong commitment to proper palliative care services for all the people of this State. Bunbury's community palliative care service was started in 1987 by a group of volunteers and is still largely, although not entirely, a voluntary service. It integrates extremely well with the other health care services in the town and the area. It works in well with both hospitals, Silver Chain and other organisations. It was funded by the Commonwealth under a program that is subject to review. I make the point strongly that it is subject to review; it has not been cut, although that is a possibility. There is, however, concern about whether the service will continue. The Government and I consider it is of such critical importance in the community because it does such a good job in that sensitive area of helping particularly, but not exclusively, cancer patients who are in the terminal stages of life that the service should be given an unequivocal guarantee of support. I was able to do that yesterday because it is the department's and my view that the service is essential and the people that provide it should be given that guarantee. That is in place. I hope the result of the commonwealth review of palliative care services will be to confirm that services such as the one in Bunbury will continue to be funded. If not, the State will.

DRUG ABUSE - ASSISTANCE MEASURES

567. Dr WATSON to the Premier:

- (1) Taking into account his statements of concern about drug use in Western Australia, does the Premier acknowledge that many crimes of violence are perpetrated by drug dependent people desperate for money?
- (2) If so, how can the Government tolerate a waiting list of 150 people who want to access the methadone program? That will take until June next year.
- (3) What avenues are available for people seeking treatment for their dependence?
- (4) For how much longer will Western Australians have to tolerate escalating violent crime at the same time as there is a growing waiting list for methadone treatment?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) I will get that information on the methadone program for the member. Drug dependency and abuse in the community is something in which I have taken a strong personal interest. It is a growing problem in the community and one that is causing a lot of pain and suffering. Last week we launched our drug awareness program, which is the beginning of what I believe will be -

Dr Watson: Why don't you deal with this issue?

Mr COURT: Liberalising the use of marijuana will not help the drug problem either. We have been able to put together some very good publications to help -

Dr Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member has asked her question. She should now be quiet.

Mr COURT: - educate both parents and young people.

Mr Ripper: What about practical measures to help addicts?

Mr COURT: If the member had bothered to turn up to the launch the other day, he would have found out about some of the practical measures being undertaken. He would have listened to parents who lost their son at the age of 19.

They explained that their son had started with marijuana and then gone on to other drugs. City Beach High School then performed a one act play that is an educational tool that will be used throughout the schools to better explain to young people the problems associated with drug abuse. Therefore, instead of knocking the work that we are doing to try to prevent people using drugs in the first place, I suggest the member support the work we are doing in this area and not go down the path her party wants to go down.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - SCHOOL BASED POLICE OFFICERS

568. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Police:

The newly appointed school police liaison officer to Coodanup Senior High School has proved to be a popular appointment. What significance does the appointment of police officers to schools have for law and order and crime prevention?

Mr WIESE replied:

The school based police officers have a very significant effect on law and order and on the relationship between young people and the Police Service by the contact they have with police officers in the school based police programs. Currently, there are 30 school based police officers scattered around Western Australia, of whom 20 are in the metropolitan area and 10 are in country areas. They provide a service to 35 senior high schools and 175 primary schools and they have contact with something like 115 000 students in those schools. They do a terrific job, both educationally and working with the children in those schools.

The school based police officers offer programs on road safety, bike safety, protective behaviour and bullying which teach schoolchildren how to become aware of that type of conduct and to look after their safety. They also promote the safety house, school watch and Neighbourhood Watch programs, and the information the children receive stands them in good stead when they finally leave school. In addition, it encourages schoolchildren to become active participants in these programs. The school based police officers also run programs on the causes and consequences of juvenile crime. They raise the students' awareness of crime and their civic responsibilities. These police officers become positive role models and that has a beneficial effect on the children with whom they work in those high schools.

Mr McGinty: You are doing better than the Premier today.

Mr WIESE: This question impacts on the previous question about drug awareness. One must be very much aware that the school based police officers do a terrific job in promoting drug awareness to schoolchildren. They actively promote the crime prevention message in schools and throughout the community. I am very pleased when we are able to allocate additional police officers to these schools; I only wish we could do it more often.

WESTERN MINING CORPORATION LIMITED - KAMBALDA WORK FORCE, CHANGES

569. Mr GRILL to the Premier:

This afternoon the Premier spoke eloquently about the south west community. My question to him is about a goldfields community. I refer to the day the Premier spent in the company of Hugh Morgan, Managing Director of Western Mining Corporation Limited, three days before the company sacked its Kambalda work force.

- (1) When did the Government first become aware that 445 WMC workers at Kambalda were to be sacked and forced to reapply for their jobs with contractors offering short term workplace agreements?
- (2) Is the Premier concerned about this attack on the job security of Kambalda workers, many of whom have been encouraged by the company to purchase their homes from the company?
- (3) What will become of the workers who are not offered employment by the contractors taking over the mining operation? I assure the Premier that there will be plenty of them.
- (4) Has the Premier asked the company to reconsider its position?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) On the day I spent in the goldfields I was in the company of a number of members of Parliament. It was a historic day and I noted the member for Eyre's comments after the event to the effect that the benefits of the gas pipeline had been oversold. I believe they have been undersold. I disagree with the member in that respect. I did have lunch with Hugh Morgan at which the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Resources Development and others were present. I have not been briefed on the details of the changes. It was mentioned at the luncheon that Western Mining intended to make changes to its Kambalda work force.

Dr Watson: What was your response?

Mr COURT: Does the member think I am responsible for private sector employment?

Several members interjected.

Mr McGinty: You might have a bit of interest in it and show some compassion.

Mr COURT: This company has spent billions of dollars of new investment creating thousands of new jobs and I think that is a pretty good start. I understand that the balance of the operation is going to contract mining and contract operations. I am not aware of the details of employment within that company nor within other companies. Members opposite would not expect me to be.

Mr McGinty: It sounds as though you don't care either.

Mr COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said I do not care. In four years more than 100 000 new jobs have been created in the private sector in Western Australia. That is a record of which members opposite would be extremely proud. There has been strong investment and employment growth in this State.

Mr Grill: They have used retrenchments as a management tool.

Mr COURT: Most of the mining companies have moved to a contract work force.

Mr Graham: That is not true.

Mr COURT: That is correct and most of the companies across this State have done that. All of Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd's operations are moving towards contract mining.

Mr Graham: No, they are not.

Mr COURT: Who does the mining at Yandicoogina?

Mr Graham interjected.

Mr COURT: This Government is proud of its employment record. The company's shift to contract labour is a decision for the company.
