

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 23 November 2000

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**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 9.00 am, and read prayers.

## **BILLS - RETURNED**

Acts Amendment (Iron Ore Agreements) Bill 2000.

Industrial Relations Amendment Bill 2000.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

## **“FYi FEMALE, YOUNG + INDEPENDENT” BOOKLET**

*Statement by Minister for Women's Interests*

**MRS VAN DE KLASHORST** (Minister for Women's Interests) [9.04 am]: Last weekend the Government launched an information package which will help fulfil one of the aims of the Government's two-year plan for women; financial independence for women. The publication called “FYi female, young + independent”, is aimed at teenagers and women in their early adult years who are starting out in life. This is a particularly important resource as research carried out in the United States has shown that 90 per cent of all women will have to take care of themselves economically to some extent. Furthermore, it has been said that women who do not start preparing for their economic future by the age of 16, play a lifelong game of catch-up.

The guide, and eight accompanying supplements, contain financial facts, tips and hundreds of suggestions on starting out in the world. The chapters are on learning, employment, self-employment, career advancement, managing money, investment, community involvement, balancing work and life, relationships and finance.

Education is seen as the first important step towards economic security with excellent opportunities for well-educated young women who now compete equally with men for higher paid skilled jobs.

Employment includes the traditional areas in which most women are employed such as retail, health and community services, property and business services, and education. There is also the issue of balancing work and family commitments.

Self-employment is particularly important for women who make-up 36 per cent of business operators which is expected to increase to 50 per cent in the near future. A 1997 survey found that young women saw financial security as giving them safety, choice and a voice. Of those surveyed, 56 per cent measured success and accomplishment in terms of owning their own business.

Career advancement is seen as preparing for a series of jobs and occupations rather than a job for life, with the skills and experience gained at one job being used to obtain further opportunities.

Managing money includes budgeting and managing debt while investment looks at saving, investment, superannuation and making a will.

Community involvement considers the advantages of voluntary work in terms of developing contacts and acquiring skills. Balancing work and life includes job sharing, home-based work, flexitime, reduced hours, career breaks and leave options.

Finally, relationships and finance explores the financial precautions that need to be taken when entering a relationship.

The guide has many contacts of government and non-government organisations where further information is available.

“FYi female, young + independent” will be sent to schools, university, youth groups and libraries. It is available from the parenting information centres around the State and the Women's Policy Office, which spent a year developing the publication. The office will develop a similar resource on health and wellbeing for young women.

I commend the guide to the House and table a copy of “FYi female, young + independent”.

[See paper No 545.]

## **CITY OF SOUTH PERTH - INQUIRY REPORT**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [9.07 am]: My statement relates to an inquiry into the City of South Perth appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Local Government under section 8.3 of the Local Government Act 1995.

The executive director determined that an inquiry was warranted after considering several allegations and concerns regarding issues involving the council. Mr Gary Martin was appointed to undertake the inquiry and to report on aspects of the City of South Perth, its operations and affairs in the period 1 January 1999 to 15 September 2000.

The 12 terms of reference relate to termination of the employment of the previous chief executive officer, the creation of the general manager position, its subsequent redundancy and the appointment of the former general manager as the CEO of the city. Other terms of reference deal with the payment of redundancy amounts, the role of the council, mayor and elected members and the adequacy of record-keeping in the city.

The conduct of the council, the mayor and the councillors, with some exceptions, and the CEO Mr David Moylan is of grave concern. Mr Moylan's behaviour in relation to the calling of the inquiry and its conduct was threatening and inappropriate. It is of concern that the mayor and a majority of councillors apparently sanctioned such behaviour.

Mr Martin's report indicates a range of matters of concern and concludes that -

. . . the operation and affairs of the City . . . are not being conducted in an acceptable manner and that there is little prospect that the Council has the will or ability to return it to a reasonable standard . . .

Mr Martin concludes that -

. . . the avoidance of proper process has allowed a serious breakdown in accountability . . .

It continues -

. . . the failure of the majority of elected members to properly fulfil their role, provides potential for a major breakdown in local government . . .

The inquiry has made findings of improper conduct against the current CEO Mr Moylan and finds that the mayor and eight councillors failed in their duties on a range of issues.

The inquiry report and subsequent advice to me from the executive director identify courses of action available to me in dealing with the report's recommendations. I have not taken a decision on a course of action and will consider the possibilities.

In accordance with advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office, I table the "Report of the Inquiry into the City of South Perth", and I move -

That publication of the report be authorised.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 547.]

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

### *Organ Donation and Transplantation - Report of Standing Committee*

**MR MINSON** (Greenough) [9.10 am]: I present for tabling the twenty-fifth report of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements, titled "Organ Donation and Transplantation." It is with some pleasure that I present this report. I will give members the history of how a committee that usually deals with the somewhat drier subjects of uniform legislation and intergovernmental agreements came to look at organ donation and transplantation. The committee was approached about 14 months ago by Hon Barbara Scott of the upper House. She is interested in this matter and asked whether there was a legislative barrier in this State that would explain the low rate of organ donation in Western Australia. After a cursory inquiry, it quickly became obvious that it was a complex issue; however, at the same time, it was one that desperately needed to be looked at. The committee ran against a problem in that it started to delve into a matter beyond its terms of reference. Members may recall that the committee came to the House a few months ago and asked for an expansion of its terms of reference, to enable the committee to widen the inquiry. The committee asked for that expansion because it had already got a fair way down the track with the inquiry and realised that, because Parliament was drawing to a close, if the committee did not inquire into the matter, it would be another two years at least - if at all - before Parliament could reasonably look at the matter in-depth. The committee thanks the House for allowing it wider terms of reference.

Transplantation of organs from human to human is now common. Most people in this place would know somebody who has received a transplant or knows someone who has a friend or relative who is the recipient of an organ donation. It is about 35 years since the first kidney transplant occurred in Western Australia. Transplantation has since become common and widespread. As everyone knows somebody who has received a transplant, it is obvious that those transplants were successful. Demand for transplantation is growing. As technology grows and anti-rejection drugs improve, more and more clinicians and patients are seeking organs for transplantation.

When transplants first began, people who are old enough will recall that dire predictions were made that the receiver would start to take on the characteristics of the donor and all sorts of weird and wonderful things. Those fears are now gone. Although it is hard to be absolutely accurate, about 80 per cent to 90 per cent of people approve of organ

donation and transplantation. Interestingly, all the religions of which I am aware, and all the denominations of those religions, support organ donation and transplantation. It seems that few people have strong objections to transplantation.

The value of transplantation is worth a mention. There is the dollar expression of its value - it is often assumed that it is very expensive to provide transplant procedures. In fact, from memory - it is in the report somewhere - it costs about \$50 000 a year for someone to be on full dialysis treatment. The problem is that dialysis can only do a certain amount. A person is tied to a machine and cannot go far without one. Even though there are now transportable dialysis units, those units still do not do the same job as a kidney. From a physiological point of view, a kidney works every second of the day - one's bodily fluids and electrolytes are balanced continuously to keep the body in a state of homeostasis. With dialysis, a person must be at rest. A catheter, or needle, is inserted, and blood is circulated through a machine, which takes impurities from the blood in the same way the kidneys would have done had they been working. Instead of this occurring continuously, it is done a couple of times a day or week - whatever is required. The point is that the body is not kept at an optimum level at all times. That leads to a number of problems, one of which is that over a period, a person's health deteriorates, despite the best efforts of dialysis clinicians and so on. Morbidity increases the longer a person is on dialysis.

There is also a quality of life issue. For example, parents cease to be proper functioning parents. People who worked can no longer function and becomes a burden to society. They receive social services and lose their self-respect because they believe they should contribute to society. Consequently, the dollar value of a transplant operation and the drug therapy that is required to stop rejection have to be considered. When that is weighed against the cost of dialysis, transplantation is economical. Added to that, if a person receives an organ that is compatible and the drug therapy is good, he or she once again becomes a functioning husband or wife, a functioning parent and a functioning member of the work force and of society. I do not want members to underestimate the value of transplantation. Those who know people who have received transplants will know what I am talking about.

I do not have a lot of time and I do not want to detain the House; however, I will mention a few recommendations contained in the report. The most important one and perhaps the one that is mildly controversial - although it makes extremely good sense - is recommendation four, which I will read to the House -

The Minister for Health should raise at the next meeting of Australian Health Ministers Conference the adoption of a national organ donation and transplantation model based on "presumed consent" and Western Australia should be ready to adopt the model as soon as possible.

As members are aware, DonateWest was recently formed and is doing a terrific job in raising awareness in the community about organ donation and trying to raise the number of people who are prepared to tick the organ donation box that was on driver's licences. However, a new national Medicare system, in which organ donation is registered, was launched a couple of weeks ago.

There are shortcomings in that system as it is known that 80 to 90 per cent of people support organ donation and transplantation; however, only 20 to 30 per cent are prepared to tick the yes box when the crunch comes. One can only speculate about the reasons for that. There are a variety of reasons. A lot of the time people put off a decision because they find it uncomfortable to think about their own death. Only a small part of the population is prepared to be a donor. That contrasts with the number of people who, when interviewed, say they are prepared to be donors. The committee looked at various models around Australia and the world. The most successful model is the Spanish model. A number of countries have adopted variations of the Spanish model. Spain operates on a model of presumed consent. In other words, instead of requiring people to state that they will be a donor, it is presumed under democratic principles - because 80 to 90 per cent of the Spanish population approve of organ donation - that everyone is prepared to be a donor unless they state otherwise. At first glance that may indicate that the State owns a person's body. I want to put that idea to bed. If people have an objection, they have every right to register their objection in one of two ways. They could have their names placed on a register. A Medicare register model would be suitable to record the names of people who do not want to be involved in organ donation or transplantation. People can remove themselves from the process in that way. The next of kin will not be contacted for permission to retrieve organs should a person be involved in an accident. It is everybody's right to opt out if he or she wishes. Even when people tick the yes box in the current opting in system, the next of kin are always consulted. If the next of kin does not agree to organ removal or transplantation, his or her wishes will be respected by the clinicians and no further action will be taken. In the presumed consent model, the second way that people can opt out is to make it known to the next of kin what they want to happen. As my colleague the member for Cockburn has often said, the advertising campaign will encourage people to make their wishes known while they are still alive. The campaign will not necessarily encourage everybody to become a donor. Any suggestion that there is a compulsion associated with presumed consent is erroneous. It is not the case. The idea of compulsion was held by many people whom the committee consulted. The model that the committee recommends is used by two countries, one of which is Belgium. It has a soft opt out option. There is presumed consent but people can say no before their death and their next of kin can veto any organ donation or transplantation. Belgium and Austria have donation rates respectively of 25 and 24 donors per million of the population. Neighbouring countries such as Germany and Holland - which have an opt in model similar to Australia's - have donation rates of 12 and 11 per million. In other

words, a rate that is slightly less than half those of Belgium and Austria, even though the countries are closely located in Europe. Although there are some cultural differences, the figures clearly point out the value of the presumed consent model.

The committee recommended the adoption of a code of practice that DonateWest should develop. The committee found a somewhat ad hoc approach is taken in the State's hospital system to maximising organ donor opportunities. Whether car accidents or cardiovascular emergencies provide a lot of donors depends on how switched on are the staff on duty at the relevant hospitals. The committee believes it is time that DonateWest developed a code of practice to be used in all the State's hospitals so that as many organs as possible can be transplanted and used to cut the waiting lists and morbidity rates.

Recommendation 11 refers to the number of intensive care unit beds in the hospital system. The committee did not imply that there are not enough ICU beds. It said that as the DonateWest campaign begins to bear fruit, if the committee's recommendations are adopted, there will be an increase in the number of donors and transplants. As a result, there will be a need to review the number of ICU beds. If there is, for example, a multiple car accident, several donors may become available at the same time. The system will need staff and equipped ICU beds to maintain the patients for a period so that their organs can be retrieved. The 20 to 22 people who might benefit in a best case scenario also need to be prepared for transplant operations. They will also need to recover in an intensive care unit. The committee is not stating that there are not enough beds, either physically or staffed, as it is not a matter on which the committee can comment. If donation and transplant rates increase, there will be an urgent need to review the number of such beds.

The final two recommendations of the report, numbers 12 and 13, deal with education. I will deal with a matter that gives me no great pleasure. I was extremely disappointed in a member of the Parliament who has taken it upon himself - and who is unable to make a contribution in any other way - to make a practice of examining the travel movements of members of Parliament. I am referring to Hon Norm Kelly. I know it is not the practice to mention members of the other House in a derogatory way; however, on this occasion I seek the Assembly's indulgence. I will acquaint members with the facts. Hon Norm Kelly contacted the Legislative Assembly annexe and asked about the committee's trip. The Clerk rang me and asked me what he should do. I said that we had nothing to hide and I asked the Clerk to give Hon Norm Kelly a briefing. A complete briefing was given. Hon Norm Kelly was told what the committee intended to do and where it proposed to go. My understanding is that he was very satisfied and said the trip was a worthwhile thing to do. He saw me several times after that but made no further comment. He saw me at lunch and in the bar and the subject was never raised. Six hours after I got on the aeroplane he raised the matter in the upper House.

Mr Cunningham: He is a coward.

Mr MINSON: I do not want to use unparliamentary language. Members can draw their own conclusions. I was extremely disappointed. The member has seen me several times since I got back. I have said nothing to him because I do not think that is my place, and he has not raised the matter with me. This Parliament will do much better without members like that. Those who cannot find useful things to do would be much better out of this place so that they do not hinder the work of those who wish to make a positive contribution. I intend to say no more about that matter, but I have a feeling that a couple of my colleagues may. This report is a valuable one.

The SPEAKER: It is not my intention to prevent members from defending their reputations. I remind the member of Standing Order No 92. When a member comments on another member's actions, it is wise to steer away from too much personal reflection.

Mr MINSON: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. This report is a good one. Its recommendations are meaningful. If the Government adopts these recommendations, it will lead to a rapid increase in the rate of transplantations in Western Australia, particularly given the excellent work done by DonateWest. I commend the report to the House.

[See paper No 546.]

**MR THOMAS** (Cockburn) [9.31 am]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to follow the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements, the member for Greenough, in commending this report to the House. Australia has one of the lowest organ donation rates in the western world. Western Australia has the lowest rate of donation of all the States in Australia. People who could benefit from, and in many instances have their lives saved by, the donation of an organ - most commonly a kidney, but also a heart or other organs - miss out altogether. In some cases people spend many years on a dialysis machine, and have a substantially reduced quality of life, before they eventually receive a suitable organ; that situation should be changed.

There is nothing inherently different between Australia and the countries that have a higher rate of organ donation. The committee sought to find the reason for that difference and to make recommendations to change that situation.

The chairman of the committee has outlined the key recommendations of the report and there is no need for me to repeat them. The first matter considered by the committee was the law. That is the easiest matter for members of

Parliament to change because it is done by Acts of Parliament. The most dramatic of the recommendations to change the law is to change from opting in to opting out, or presumed consent, as referred to by the chairman. It would be presumed that a person is prepared to donate organs unless he had indicated otherwise. On the face of it, that is a substantive change; however, it does not make a great deal of difference in practice. In countries that have presumed consent, a donation does not take place unless the nearest of kin consent to it.

The law must be used to improve the rate of organ donation and to bring about a cultural change. The culture must be changed in two ways: First, among the community. The consent of the nearest of kin determines whether a person will be an organ donor. People must make their wishes known to their nearest of kin, friends and family so that if a request is made for a person's organs to be donated, those wishes will be known. It is easy to imagine the trauma of the situation in most instances of organ donation, when a person has died from an accident or a stroke. Those incidents are almost invariably unanticipated; therefore, the nearest of kin is dealing with the shock of the unexpected death of a loved one. Hospital staff would not feel comfortable asking those people, when they are going through one of most traumatic events in their lives, to donate the organs of their loved one. Staff need specialised training for that.

In the past, the take-up rate of organ donations in Australia has been low although, in many cases, the organs could have extended the lives of other people. A culture must be created in this country in which the question of organ donation automatically arises in the event of premature death. We all hope we shall never be in that position, but if the situation arises that matter must be considered. The nearest of kin should be able to address the issue. It should become routine for people to make their wishes known to their spouse and family.

Secondly, the culture within the medical profession must also be changed. Hospital staff have to approach the nearest of kin in the most traumatic of circumstances and, firstly, tell them that a loved one will die or is already dead and, secondly, ask whether the organs can be removed for transplantation. The culture of the medical profession and the community must change. It is important to change the legislation. Public opinion polls indicate that most people are prepared to be organ donors; however, most of us do not plan to die in an unanticipated manner. Most people probably intend to fill in a form consenting to organ donation, but do not get around to it.

Great changes are already occurring. DonateWest was launched a couple of weeks ago to provide a systematic process of transplant coordinators to work in the health system. Those coordinators know the staff at the hospitals and will be able to network with them. They will be able to solicit donations and organise them better than has been the case in the past. With cultural, organisational and legal changes, we should be able to emulate practices of countries that have a much greater take-up rate.

I will now refer to the comments made in the Legislative Council by Hon Norm Kelly. The member criticised the committee for visiting countries that have a much greater rate of organ donation than Australia. He used the argument that most members of the committee will retire before the next election; indeed, today is our last day. The member said that we should not have been involved with the committee and that, rather, people who will serve in future Parliaments should have been involved. I totally reject that argument. I said to Liam Bartlett on the ABC radio program and the other journalists to whom I spoke, that the report would be completed in the life of this Parliament and will be considered in due course.

It would have cost us at least six months, probably more, if we had waited until the new Parliament had been elected, and committees constituted. People on waiting lists for organ transplants need them as soon as possible. They cannot wait six months. Most of the reports considered in this Parliament are not written by members of the House. Reports are received all the time from officers who report to Parliament, such as the Auditor General, and they are considered by the Parliament. It is a matter of almost no significance that the people who write the report are not members of the House considering that report. It is fatuous for Hon Norm Kelly to say that consideration of the report by this House would be diminished because the members of the committee who wrote the report will not be in the House when that happens. It is a cheap stunt by someone desperate to obtain the 16 per cent of votes necessary to be re-elected to the Legislative Council. I certainly hope he does not get that. I thank the other members of the committee, with whom I enjoyed working very much, their spouses who were with us much of the time and contributed positively to discussions, and the staff of the committee, Melina Newnan and Peter Frantom, who did an excellent job overseeing the organisational aspects.

**MR McNEE (Moore) [9.42 am]:** I add my support to the remarks of the members for Greenough and Cockburn. This is a vitally important question. When the committee was first charged with considering this issue, I had reservations, because I had never thought seriously about organ donation. When I was a child during the war, my uncle had a very serious accident, and had to have his spleen removed in a small country hospital. There was no ambulance, and no fuel to run it even if there had been one, so the operation had to be done right there in the little hospital. Our whole family was tested to determine whether we could be blood donors. I was shaking with fear, but they did not take any of my blood, either because it had turned to water, or I was shaking so much they could not find the vein. That is my total experience of organ donation.

I advise all people to think very seriously about this issue. Recently, I had the good fortune to attend the launch of DonateWest, where I met a little boy, Travis Hall, aged six. I was impressed. That young boy had been almost at

death's door, being fed through tubes. However, on that Sunday a few weeks ago, as a result of a successful transplant, he was running around joyfully, as any six-year-old should. It was a tribute to his own courage, his family's support and to the skilled professional people in this State who helped him back to health. Later we were invited to inspect the offices of DonateWest, and on the notice board was a photograph of 70-year-old Burracoppin farmer, Ernie Lambert. I knew Ernie slightly; he was always willing to help the people around him. Even after his death, he donated his corneas to help someone else. If I had any reservations, experiences like those completely obliterated them, illustrating to me the necessity for people to think seriously about organ donation.

About 85 per cent of Western Australians support organ donation. I have made a practice of asking people directly, and those I ask all find no problem with it. Like me, most of them have never thought seriously about it. They may be young people who consider themselves tough and healthy, and never think of health issues like organ transplants. I do not blame people for thinking that way. What a misery life would be if they thought any other way! When a person reaches my age, he considers himself ready for the scrap heap, and then he does not think about donating organs. One of the things the committee recommended in its report is presumed consent. I had some reservations about that, because I was not about to work all my life and then hand my body to the Government. Presumed consent is a commonsense way of handling the issue. I have no objection at all to people who do not agree with organ donation, and wish to use the mechanism for opting out. I urge families to discuss the issues, while they are all here on deck. People should make their intentions known, and so avoid that traumatic experience when they hear a loved one is in intensive care, and are approached about his or her organs. We should get that out of the way early. I hope that sufficient funds and resources are allocated to DonateWest to facilitate that process.

It was an enlightening experience to meet highly skilled people from various countries and to discuss these issues with them. As a layman, along with all the other members of the committee, it was with some trepidation that I approached those people. It was enlightening to be able to talk to people like Dr Alistair Millar Forbes and Dr Bryant Stokes of DonateWest and get the benefit of their knowledge, and then to run things past them again when we returned. It gave me confidence, because there are always questions about relating overseas experience to the local scene.

Along with the member for Cockburn, I extend my thanks to the staff of the committee and all the people who helped us. I urge all people to contact DonateWest and make clear their wishes. They will find Dr Forbes and his colleagues will receive them in a friendly, caring way. I wish DonateWest all the best in its endeavours. I hope that Governments now and in the future will provide sufficient funds for DonateWest to carry out its work. This should be looked at, not as a health cost, but as a health plus. We must always consider the dollar cost, but organ donation is a positive contribution, not a drain on resources. I thank the other members of the committee and commend the report to the House.

**MR CUNNINGHAM** (Girrawheen) [9.49 am]: The Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements has been investigating the subject of donor organ transplantation for the past 16 months. This is the most important committee that I have served on in my 13 years in this Parliament. There will never be a more critically important report than this committee's report. We could not possibly have put this report together without visiting the countries on our itinerary. No Internet search could possibly substitute for a hands-on approach.

As previously stated, the genuine work carried out by a committee such as this can be hampered from within the Parliament. I will go gently on this, but I want to place on record my dismay with two members of this Parliament. One is a member of the Legislative Council who is considered by many people in the community to be an agent of death; that is, the Australian Democrats representative for the East Metropolitan Region, Hon Norm Kelly. The other member is the member for Southern River who claims she was misquoted. The member for Southern River could easily redress this. The member can stand in this Parliament and dissociate herself from those press reports, which this committee had to live with on a daily basis. Hon Norm Kelly has a fetish about three members of this Chamber who are retiring at the end of this parliamentary session. He does not believe that retiring members of Parliament should be a part of this investigative committee, because the Premier could have called an early election. We all know that if that occurred the Government could appoint an honorary royal commission. Each of those retiring members would be extremely proud to serve this State in retirement with no remuneration on the basis that we may save lives. This important process has previously been put into place .

Hon Norm Kelly used this Parliament in a most disgraceful, cowardly and unprofessional fashion. He waited for the four members to leave the country before he made his grandstanding press statements. Hon Norm Kelly can eat his heart out! The basis of this report is that out of death, life may be preserved. The contribution that Hon Norm Kelly makes to life, generally, leaves a lot to be desired.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I remind the member of Standing Order No 92, which deals with these matters. It is not appropriate to reflect personally on people. However, it is reasonable, in the circumstances, for people to protect their reputations.

Mr **CUNNINGHAM**: Mr Speaker, you can see that I am extremely wild; and I should be.

The **SPEAKER**: I understand your anger, but contain it.

Mr CUNNINGHAM: No committee with such responsibilities can be successful without its dedicated staff. Melina Newnan, Peter Frantom, and Patricia Roach are all dedicated and competent staff. The member for Moore and I were tested on a daily basis. We were subjected to Peter's SAS training programs! Thanks, Peter! The success of this committee is a credit to both Melina and Peter whose expertise, guidance and professionalism were the key to delivering this most successful report today. I thank my parliamentary colleagues, the chairman and member for Greenough, the deputy chairman and member for Cockburn, and the member for Moore for their friendship, mateship and kindness. We worked together so well, and at the same time were devoted to this critically important subject of donor organ transplantation. As previous speakers have already stated, Australia and especially Western Australia have a very low rate of organ donation compared with other countries in the western world.

The report has 24 findings and 17 recommendations. The standing committee acknowledges that the establishment of DonateWest will provide this State with a coordinated approach that will benefit the whole donation process. Although DonateWest is still in its infancy, and is in the process of developing procedures, it has appointed donor coordinators. It is hoped that the initiatives will be developed to ensure that its stated benefits will be realised and its potential progressed.

The most important message in all countries was that more community discussion along with a more upmarket and streamlined approach to an educational program was essential. In Western Australia that should be raised through a coordinated approach through, naturally, DonateWest. The standing committee believes that Western Australian universities should include as part of their medical courses a significant module on organ donation, transplantation and identifying potential organ donors and that module should be developed in consultation with DonateWest.

I agree totally with the member for Greenough that the most important facet of this report is to be found in paragraph 3.9 under the heading "Education." It is important to structure education to ensure that we have a culture in the community about organ donations. We have an urgent need for a controlled community education promotion about organ and tissue donation and transplantation issues. The most successful educational promotional campaigns have a number of elements in common: They are targeted at a specific population group, have a clearly identified aim, and use the most appropriate medium of that group. As the member for Greenough stated, recommendations 13 and 14 are classic examples of that premise. Recommendation 14 states that the high school syllabus should include information on organ donation and transplantation to assist that undertaking and to raise awareness of the issue.

The Spanish model of organ donation is the international best practice. Spain has consistently increased its organ donation rate. In the first eight years of operation, Spanish donation rates increased from 14.3 to 31.5 per million of population. In 1995, the South Australian Minister for Health visited Spain to see how the Spanish model worked and to understand the role of transplant coordinators, whose main aim is organ procurement. Spain has 38 centres that carry out kidney transplantations. They maintain a professional outlook. The European Economic Community has recommended that its member countries adopt the guidelines of the Spanish model. It is my view, and that of the committee, that the Spanish model is far superior to any of those we saw on our investigative tour. One of the committee members stated that the issue is close to home to someone in this Chamber. Bill Warnock had a kidney transplant 25 years ago, and he is a fit man today.

We met some wonderful people while we were on tour. John and Margaret Evans are a delightful couple whom we met in Horsham, Cambridge. They became a donor family after losing their son David, when he was 20. John and Margaret were the driving force behind the British organ donor society, better known as BODY. They organised a memorial service - the millennium commemorative and thanksgiving transplant service at Guildford Cathedral in Cambridge - just before the committee arrived there. A touching poem was part of the service. I promised John and Margaret that I would mention this beautiful poem in the Parliament, and thus it would be recorded in the *Hansard* of the Western Australian Parliament. The poem is by Robert N. Test and is titled "To remember me". It reads -

The day will come, when my body will lie upon a white sheet, neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress, located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying. At a certain moment a Doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that for all intents and purposes my life has stopped. When this happens do not call this my death bed. Let it be called the "Bed of Life", and let only my body be taken from it to help others lead a fuller life. Give my sight to the man who has never seen the sun rise, a baby's face, or the love in the eyes of a woman. Give my heart to a person whose heart has caused nothing but endless pain. Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of a car, so that he may see his grand-children play. Give my kidneys to one who depends on machines, to exist from week to week. Take my bones, every muscle, every fibre, every nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk. Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells if necessary and let them grow, so that some day a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat, and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window. Burn what is left of me, and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow. If you must bury something let it be my faults of which there were many, my weaknesses and all prejudice against my fellow man. Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God. If by chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed, or word to someone who needs you.

*If you do all I ask, I will live forever.*

**RETIRING MEMBER, PHOTOGRAPH***Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): I have been approached by the media to allow a photograph to be taken of one of the characters of this House who is retiring. I have given approval on the grounds that it is to be a photograph of that person only and that a person from *The West Australian* will be allowed to take the photograph. Other requests to bring in television cameras and so on have been refused because footage of the proceedings of this House is provided. I advise members that someone will be in the gallery with a camera. It is for one purpose, and it has been authorised by me, using the discretion I have in these matters.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE***Accountability and Not-For-Profit Organisations - Forty-ninth Report Report of Standing Committee*

**MR TRENORDEN** (Avon) [10.02 am]: We just heard a speech from one of the characters of the House. It is good to see that that member carries passion all the way through to his last day of sitting of the House. The member was never more effective than the night he used his shoe phone. That was the pinnacle of his political career.

Mr House interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: Absolutely. He got an answer on the shoe phone, and it would not stop ringing, which was a bit of a problem. Nevertheless, it was a very high moment in this Chamber.

I present for tabling the forty-ninth report of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to "Accountability and Not-For-Profit Organisations", and the related transcript of evidence.

[See papers Nos 548A and B.]

Mr TRENORDEN: This report has been some time coming, and it was not without a little pain that the Public Accounts Committee progressed through this matter. The committee undertook the inquiry because of a recognition, particularly with the not-for-profit organisations, that the national competition policy and contracting out was causing some pain. However, the national competition policy is not the reason for contracting out in the social welfare areas. For these organisations, contracting out has been taking place for a couple of decades. Nevertheless, national competition policy sped up the process, and throughout Australia and the western world outsourcing is now very much a way of life for welfare services.

As a result of this shift, a substantial burden has been placed on not-for-profit organisations to meet the contracting and accountability mechanisms. The problem is that these organisations range from exceedingly small organisations, often located deep in the rural areas of Western Australia, to very sizeable organisations in the metropolitan area. Their views differ. The committee advertised widely for submissions from interested people, but was disappointed with the number of responses it received. The committee did not receive enough responses to meet its needs. Therefore, it cast its net wider and carried out a substantial review of all States, of the federal mechanisms and of matters relating to not-for-profit organisations. I quickly make the point that the fact that the committee did not receive a large number of submissions was countered by very substantial research carried out by the committee, particularly by its staff. We rounded up a large amount of information. This report is not easy to read because it is packed with detail.

The committee is of the view that the poor response could be attributed to differences among government agencies and the way they deal with not-for-profit organisations and, on the other hand, the way the not-for-profit organisations deal with government. The variation about which I spoke a few moments ago is very real. Some of the big organisations in this welfare area say that these changes are excellent. They give them the capacity to put systems into place. They deal with the agencies, they have everything down pat, and the system is excellent. On the other hand, small organisations say that these changes are outrageous, and they do not have the capacity or the resources to meet the accountability demands. They lose too much of their grant in trying to meet the specifications. The committee heard both of those comments, which were in stark contrast, about a similar program. The important factor for the committee - the committee made this point in the report - was that the last thing it wanted was to lose those small not-for-profit organisations, because that would impact heavily upon the voluntary aspect of community services. That is an important consideration. There are more than 2 000 not-for-profit organisations in Western Australia, and they deliver a wide spectrum of services. As I said, their mode of operation varies enormously.

The major issues faced by not-for-profit organisations include - this is not meant to be an exhaustive list - the use of scarce resources for carrying out administrative procedures - I have just mentioned that; the lack of knowledge of the important role that volunteers play - that is a major issue and one that all of us continue to echo back to agencies to make sure they are not killing off voluntary activity; and a lack of collaboration between government agencies and not-for-profit organisations in the determination of benchmarks and the development of uniform standards of practice.

The committee found, among other things, that there is no standard approach to formulating service agreements or service contracts between the agencies. The report refers to the seven major agencies. Each of those approached the task of contracting out differently. Of course, some of those not-for-profit organisations deal with more than one

agency. Therefore, that activity needs to be pulled together to make sure it is more uniform. It must be remembered that this is the area of community and human services.

In the House in the past decade we have talked about outcomes and performance audits - all those bits of jargon that are now a major part of our communication. However, it is pretty hard for agencies to establish sound performance and outcome auditing formats.

I believe, and I am sure the other committee members believe, that that process is far from perfect and must be amended to allow not-for-profit organisations and agencies to interact with the outcome specified in the program. Members know that the Auditor General has a key role in this area and that he is still working on this issue. He also released a report on this issue about six months ago.

The tendency for not-for-profit organisations to rely on estimates to determine the total financial cost of meeting accountability requirements is unacceptable. The total financial cost relative to accountability should be expressed as an actual cost, but it is usually done as a guesstimate or an estimate. It is hard to run fixed programs if agencies are relying on guesstimates and estimates. It is like putting one's hand in a bucket of water.

Extensive work must be done in this area. However, the committee does not want to see that done without due caution and care. In many cases we are dealing with volunteers, and voluntary efforts must be valued highly.

I extend my appreciation to members of the committee. Serving as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of this Parliament has been a very fulfilling exercise. The members who have served on the committee over the past four years have been outstanding in their delivery of service to this State. I do not say that lightly. We have received praise from as far away as the eastern States, Canada, South Africa and the United Kingdom for some of our reports and activities. In fact, during the course of this Parliament, the committee was invited to Canada, which has a parliamentary system very similar to ours but a very different public accounts committee arrangement. Members might be interested to know that in one State - I will not name it because I do not want to embarrass anyone - the public accounts committee is chaired by the Minister for Finance and in 1998 it was dealing with the 1994 agenda, which was run by the same minister. That is dramatically different from the structure of any Australasian Public Accounts Committee.

I thank the deputy chair, Larry Graham; Ian Osborne, who has spent most of the past four years of this Parliament serving on the committee; Monica Holmes, Alannah MacTiernan and Chris Baker. They have been very diligent and capable members. Each committee member is an individual and each, with his or her own strong personality, was prepared to serve the committee and to make the committee function. I appreciate that very much because it made my job much easier.

As usual, the staff of the committee has been outstanding. I have great admiration for the past and present staff. Andrew Young served the committee early in the life of this Parliament and carried out his duties with great distinction. Kirsten Robinson, Stefanie Dobro and a number of other people have all been outstanding. Hopefully, Stefanie will be back some time next year. Dr Janet Preuss was appointed to the very demanding position of senior research officer. Amanda Millsom-May has been the only long-term staff member serving the committee, so Janet's task was very difficult, and she has done it with distinction. Amanda is a rock and an outstanding performer for the committee. She is the conscience of the committee; she is always asking us about the consequences of our debates, and we all appreciate that. Liz Kerr has recently joined the team and has been very quick on the uptake. She is a valuable member of the staff. I feel that I can denigrate Alf Opie a little because he is currently sailing from South Africa to Fremantle, which would be an outstanding experience and I feel jealous of him. To be fair, I must point out that this report was his baby; he put in a considerable effort and had to deal with the usual problem of members picking it to pieces. Nevertheless, his was an outstanding effort. I commend the report to the House.

#### **BILLS - RETURNED**

Land Administration Amendment Bill 2000.

Stamp Amendment Bill (No. 3) 2000.

First Home Owner Grant Amendment Bill 2000.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

#### **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, VALEDICTORY SPEECHES**

##### *Motion*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [10.18 am]: I move -

That this House extends its appreciation to all retiring members both for their service to the people of Western Australia and their contributions to this House.

As is often the case at the end of the parliamentary session when an election is imminent, a number of members decide to conclude their parliamentary careers. Eight members of this House have announced their retirement. That number of retirements from a House comprising 57 members will lead to a significant change in the representation in this

Chamber. The members for Girrawheen, Kimberley, Eyre, Cockburn, Wagin, Greenough, Perth and Innaloo have all indicated that they will not be seeking re-election.

This motion is very simple and I hope moving it becomes common practice in this Parliament so that retiring members now and in the future will have an opportunity to make a valedictory address at a time when it can be witnessed by other members, the public, friends and members of their families if they so desire. It is appropriate to move such a motion at this time and that members show appropriate respect to retiring members by allowing them to reflect on their parliamentary careers and to make whatever observations they might wish to make.

All members recognise that being a member of Parliament - or, as the public labels us, "a politician" - brings with it much satisfaction and many opportunities and unique experiences. It also places a member and his or her family and friends in the public eye and often subject to a degree of public scrutiny, criticism and insensitivity.

I believe that all members in this House, despite political differences, are committed to serving this Parliament, their constituents and the people of this State. All members of Parliament appreciate that the work that all of us do helps literally hundreds and thousands of people within our constituencies. This is not a motion designed for the rest of us to make speeches - my brief comments have allowed the member for Girrawheen to return to the Chamber. It is an opportunity for those retiring members, if they so wish, to make valedictory addresses. I remind members that there will be an adjournment debate towards the end of the day, which will allow others within this Chamber to say whatever they wish in thanking staff and their colleagues. I commend this motion to the House. As I said, I hope it becomes common practice for this House in the future.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [10.20 am]: I support the motion and commend the words of the Leader of the House. We clearly see this as an opportunity for those members who are voluntarily retiring to make a final speech to the House. Given the contribution made by the members who are retiring, I think it is fitting and proper that they should be given that opportunity. Clearly, the Leader of the House is a little concerned that other people who are not voluntarily retiring might use the opportunity to make a speech. That is certainly not our intention, but we understand a large number of government members may be retiring involuntarily, and if they wish to make arrangements with the Leader of the House to make speeches, we would not object to that. We support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

**MR CUNNINGHAM** (Girrawheen) [10.21 am]: I stand here today with many of the same feelings I had some 12 and a half years ago when I delivered my first speech in this House. On that day in 1988 I was filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and humility. I stood here proudly representing the seat of Balga after a very tough by-election campaign; yet at the same time it was a truly humbling experience as I dwelt upon the trust that had been placed in me by both the electors of Balga and the Australian Labor Party. It was a trust that was to be bestowed on me for a further three pre-selections and three general elections. I went on, as history records, to represent the electorates of Marangaroo and Girrawheen.

I was privileged to follow one of the most remarkable politicians of our time. It was upon the resignation of my good friend Brian Burke, as both Premier and member for Balga, that I was endorsed with his support for the Balga by-election. Brian Burke was a master politician. He was charismatic, an excellent communicator, a genuine and effective local member and an excellent grassroots politician. Having won the Balcatta by-election by a handful of votes, Brian Burke built up his margin to some 10 000 votes. Unfortunately, his personal following was not passed on to me at the Balga by-election, when a 22.5 per cent swing saw that majority reduce to 2 500 votes. This set me a huge challenge. Undaunted, I, together with my electorate officer, Carmel Macri, have worked hard in the local community to build that majority back to just over 6 000 votes. Like my predecessor, I have prided myself on being a hardworking local member, always ready to assist those in need. I have tried at every turn to represent my electors to the very best of my ability.

At this point I express my gratitude to Brian and Sue Burke, Terry and Luci Burke and all the Burke family for their support and friendship over many years. I am extremely confident that my successor, Margaret Quirk, an outstanding candidate for the Australian Labor Party, will further increase my margin.

We are all fortunate people to be members of Parliament, and I have never taken my position for granted. It is indeed a great honour to be elected to represent those people who put trust in me. I believe that I have fulfilled that trust, and I am grateful to the people of those three electorates.

Nearly 13 years as a member of Parliament has brought many highs and many lows. The highs are memories a member will always appreciate and treasure, and a member will try very hard to forget the lows. Next year will be my forty-fifth year as a member of the Australian Labor Party. When I joined the Labor Party in Toowoomba, Queensland in 1956, the party was in turmoil. We are fortunate today to have such fine leaders as my dear friend and the federal leader, Kim Beazley, Dr Geoffrey Gallop, Bob Carr, Peter Beattie, Steve Bracks, Jim Bacon, Mike Rann and Clare Martin - a far cry from the mid 50s, when I first joined the ALP.

No member of Parliament can be successful without loyal and supportive staff, friends and family. I have indeed been very much blessed to have had that support. The sayings "when fortune is fickle, the faithful friend is found" and "one can do without people, but one has need of friends" are so true. The most important saying that I cherish is "without

friends, the world is nothing but a wilderness". There is a question that is often asked in politics: Is there such a thing as a real friend? I believe there is. When one's world is about to collapse, a true and faithful friend will stand up and be counted and will attempt to keep any darkness at bay. There are many friends to whom I am indebted. I have always considered staff, ALP branch members and the many faithful advertisers in my pride and joy - *The Leader* - a part of a group of friends that has made my position as a member of Parliament so much easier. Many people have been instrumental in assisting me in the electorate of Girrawheen, such as those wonderful supporters who continue to advertise in my community newspaper, *The Leader*; people like Con Jury; Sonny Hua; Danny and Vicki Kapinkopp; Jerry and Katie Gastev from the Princess Road Tavern; Tony Naughtin from the Satterley project, the "New North"; Tony and Vicky Calabro from the Girrawheen Tavern; Brett and Annie Clugston; my long-time friends, Bob and Slavka Tanasoski; Joseph Stojanovski of Sunshine Pest and Weed Management; and John and Lois Hooper of Westin Fitness Warwick. These are only a few of the advertisers who have given me great support. Bob Tanasoski and Batong Pham have also been exceptional in their loyalty, support and assistance in my electorate.

To those loyal supporters who have assisted me since my by-election in 1988, I am forever grateful. A very special and dear friend who was one of those supporters was Maria Liau, as well as her mother Pat and sister Cheryl. They have been a delightful family and have given me much assistance. I will always appreciate their kindness and loyalty. I also thank Jenny Gately, a dear friend whom I know I can call on any time to assist; Keith Mynard; Laurie and Bryce Hills; Cam and Virginia Gilmour; Jack Victorian; Brian and Chris Fisher; Sam Macri; Marino Salinas; Dennis and Barbara Cooley; Seamus and Natasha Cassidy; David Willett; Rudy Francis; Billie Callaghan; Evelyn Greenwood; Greg and Valma Watson; Darren Klarich; Billie Loo and Maria; Mike and Pauline McMullan; Max and Mayette Renwick; Dr Roger Wearne and Nancy Wearne; Brian Christie; Emi Barzotto; Martha Zedlak; Con Anastissiou; Tony Dyson; the Marcello family; Vic and Elizabeth Mitrevski; the Naumchevski family; Roger and Jackie Stanton; Phil and Sandra O'Neil; the Mooney family; Ann and Tom Robinson; Frank and Theresa Vincekovich; Hilda and John Deardon; the Pham family, a wonderful family in Ballajura; Jim Apostokdovski; Cane and Peter Rasmovski; Chris Necovski; Wayne Nelsen; Taffy Banfield; Paul and Kerrie Allen; Graham Madigan; Bill and Judy Barrett; and Neville and Patricia Catchpole.

From the trade union movement I give special mention to people like Paul Kelly and Jock Ferguson; a special thanks also to Mike Dean from the Police Union, who has been a good supporter of mine. I give special thanks to Pastor Rex and Faye Gabrielson, Bruce Miller, Paul Price and Alan Hlaing from the Girrawheen Baptist Church; to Reverend John Ramsbottom of the Girrawheen Uniting Church; and to Philip Baker of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Thanks also to Father John Jegorow from the Ballajura parish, Father Tom Gaines from Our Lady of Mercy Girrawheen, Father Don Sproxton of the Balga and Mirrabooka parishes and Pastor Bruce Mumm from the Assemblies of God.

I give special thanks also to City of Stirling Councillors June Copley, John Italiano, David Boothman and, especially, to the hardest-working mayor in Western Australia, Councillor Tony Vallelonga, and his delightful wife Mary. Special thanks go to the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Stirling, Mike Wadsworth, and to City of Wanneroo Councillors Maureen Grieson, Alan Blencowe and Judy Hughes, and from the Shire of Swan, Councillor Maria Haynes.

A special thank you is also given to my extended family - my brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces. I will mention only their Christian names because I will take too long if I add their surnames, although 90 per cent derive from the Matias family. They are Tom, Bing, Susie, Jomar, Maila, Mena, Lillet, Richard, Gualberto, Karen, Doris, Joanne, May, Marites, Julian, Madeleine, Llewellyn, Ricky and Tony - they have been a very special family.

Mr Pental: No wonder you got the majorities you did! You are setting a very high standard.

Mr CUNNINGHAM: To my brother John, his wife Jill and their wonderful family, to my sister Veronica, her husband Eddie and my dear niece Teresa, thank you for your encouragement and support. These people, and so many more, have been great foot soldiers. They have been my inspiration.

I have been fortunate to meet so many young people from different walks of life - some politically, many through social justice, others through drug awareness and some through Young Vinnies and Cry for Life. I met a special young person two years ago - Clare Pike - who will one day grace this Parliament or Federal Parliament. This young lady is the most exceptional person I have ever heard speak on the front steps of Parliament House. During the abortion debate - at the age of 19 - she spoke publicly with passion, feeling and authority. The Clare Pikes of this world are very scarce. I will continue to encourage young people like Clare Pike.

One of the highlights of my parliamentary career was my selection as Opposition Whip in 1997 - it was a great honour. I thank my colleagues on this side of the House for their trust. I have no doubt that the next Labor Speaker - sorry, the next Labor Whip - I saw someone who wants to be Speaker and got mixed up - will sit on the opposite side of this Chamber, on the government benches.

Mr Ripper: Hear, hear!

Mr CUNNINGHAM: Another highlight of my parliamentary career was the opportunity to have an hour-long meeting with the Governor of Arkansas and his wife Hillary, with the members for Stirling and Warren-Blackwood, the former

member for Bunbury and Doug Carpenter, the Deputy Clerk, during a visit to Little Rock, Arkansas, with the Select Committee on the Right to Farm in 1991. Sixteen months later, Governor Clinton became one of the most successful presidents of the United States. It was also a highlight and great honour to be selected to visit China in 1992 with former Speaker Mike Barnett, the current Deputy Premier and the member for Greenough. I have many personal stories to tell from both trips; however, time will not permit me to share them with the House. In some respects, I could be a very lucky person that there is little time. I thank the member for Collie and the Deputy Premier because I had a small problem, which became a large problem, while I was away.

Another special forum that I was fortunate to attend was the second World Congress of Families in Geneva in 1999. At that event I represented the Western Australian Leader of the Opposition, and Madame Acting Speaker, the member for Carine, represented the Premier. The member for Carine and I prepared a joint statement - I think it is the only one to have been done in this House - that was accepted and appreciated throughout the wider community. The member for Carine and I have made contacts with many family organisations since our report was published. I reiterate the remarks I made in this Assembly in November 1999 that I appreciated the professional assistance of the member for Carine, which helped produce that excellent report. I do not seek to embarrass dear friends, or to embarrass Madame Acting Speaker at all; however, there is a belief in the wider community that members of Parliament from opposite sides of politics cannot be good friends. Earlier this year I was deeply honoured by the member and her husband Kerry when they approached me to be the godfather of their beloved son Carl, through confirmation. Both my wife Julie and I are proud to count the member and her family as part of our family and as very dear and special friends.

Mr Court: You have been very gracious in those comments - before and now.

Mr CUNNINGHAM: I will always be gracious in regard to the member for Carine.

That World Congress of Families brought home some telling points. The sad truth is that many families live in less than peaceful circumstances. They live with tension - sometimes work pressures can keep them apart. All members have experienced those pressures. Peaceful families are created in a positive, caring and accepting environment. Members of Parliament sometimes unwittingly and unintentionally neglect their beloved families because of the pressure of commitments. Some of us are busy looking after other people's problems and neglect our own. The pollies' prayer can be, "May your family so live in peace, that from you peace may spread throughout the whole human family."

The most important parliamentary committee that I ever served on was the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements, which reported on organ donation and transplantation less than one hour ago. Two extremely important issues which were always at the forefront of my parliamentary career and which involved the preservation of life were the drug and abortion issues, in which I was extremely proud to play such an important role.

My greatest success was undoubtedly the naming of drug dealers in this Parliament 16 months ago. At that time, our community was awash with drugs. At a recent breakfast I was told by one of the assistant commissioners of police - who criticised me at the time - that, in retrospect, I was probably correct. I will never doubt that had I accepted the advice of the police and left the matter to them, nothing would have been accomplished. Girrawheen, Balga, Koondoola and Mirrabooka still have many problems with drug leeches who peddle filth to youth. The scale of those drug problems in my electorate is less today than it was 16 months ago; however, we should never give up on those leeches who kill our youth.

My greatest disappointment came during the abortion debate, when pro-life members from both sides of this Parliament could not convince this Assembly with their arguments. It is a disappointment that some of the scars from that debate still exist, although only slightly.

Many initiatives were accomplished while I was a government member. These included the truancy program, the off-campus program, the automotive skills program, the Marangaroo and Dryandra Family Centres, the Ballajura Family Centre, the installation of traffic lights at Marangaroo Road, Wanneroo Road, Mirrabooka Avenue and Marangaroo Drive, and the many roundabouts throughout my electorate. My success with the installation of roundabouts in my electorate earned me the fond nickname Roundabout-Ted.

I recall the various problems that have existed in many parts of my electorate from March 1988 until today. Many improvements are due to the "new north" development. I have been very happy with the continuing progress of Nigel Satterley's "new north" program under the brilliant leadership of Tony Naughtin and his understudy, Robert Wallman. The "new north" program has put so much pride back into our suburbs. I am very thankful and appreciative that the Government selected the electorate of Girrawheen. I am also delighted that Nigel Satterley was selected, instead of the developer the Government had in mind. If it were not for the member for Nollamara and me, a different developer would have been chosen for Girrawheen, Westminster and Balga.

I now say thank you to the wonderful staff of Parliament House. I say thank you to the officers of this Chamber. They are very professional and dedicated staff. I thank the switchboard staff - Cathy, Marilyn, Rosalie and Leslie. They are the life of this Parliament. They are a most competent group of professionals. Many thanks go to the library staff. They are a dedicated, respected and helpful group of people. Many thanks to the dining room and bar staff under the

leadership of Andrew Gardos. Many thanks for all the assistance given to my guests and me. The staff are a great credit to the Parliament. A very special thank you to the security staff for the assistance they have shown to my many visitors and guests. Thank you for a job well done to the groundsmen who tend the Parliament's beautiful grounds. A special thank you to two extremely professional people, one of whom is still with us and one of whom has left Parliament: David Klemm and Sheila Mills from the Parliamentary Education Office. David is still with the Parliament. He is a brilliant education officer.

In my 13 years in this Parliament there are no people that I have appreciated more than the Hansard staff. These brilliant people make some members look as though they are geniuses. Most of us are not. I am a person who has always known his own capabilities and I greatly appreciate their able assistance. I always knew that I would not reach genius status. Thanks a million to the Hansard staff.

I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues, especially the member for Bassendean, who is a Whip's dream and can speak at a minute's notice. He is a true professional. Special thanks to my very loyal Deputy Whip, the member for Rockingham. He has a great leadership future but he has to bide his time. I have been very fortunate to make so many friendships. I have always listened to the member for Nollamara and opposition Leader of the House; I have always respected his judgment. I appreciate his and his dear wife Stephanie's support. A million thanks go to the Leader of the Opposition and member for Victoria Park and his dear wife, Bev; to the member for Peel and his beloved Ros; to the member for Midland and her wonderful husband, Greg; to Hon Bob Thomas and Carol; to Hon Ed Dermer and Sylvia; to Hon Nick Griffiths and Rhonda; and to all my parliamentary colleagues on this side of the House for all the assistance they have given me. The next Parliament will see a Gallop Administration; I have no doubt about it. It will be the most professional and caring Government for the new millennium.

I am in much debt to Senator Jim McKiernan and his staff, especially Sue Reid, who have given my office staff tremendous assistance in federal matters over the past twelve and a half years. Many thanks go to my very good friend Stephen Smith, the federal member for Perth. Stephen and I go back 20 years. We have been in many scraps together. I hear on the grapevine that we will continue to be in further scraps. Be assured, I will not fade away.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the impartiality of the Speaker and his dedication to making the Parliament a place to which all members are proud to bring their guests. I wish the Speaker a pleasant and happy retirement. May the members for Greenough, Wagin, Perth, Eyre, Cockburn and Kimberley also enjoy their retirement in health and happiness.

In conclusion, there are always very special people who must be acknowledged on the record. I have thanks to five very special people to place in *Hansard*. They are wonderful people to whom I want to say a special thank you: First, to my very dear loyal friends and wonderful supporters, advisers and workers, Bob Tanasoski and Batong Pham. They have been loyal and supportive for many years. I owe them very much. My special thanks go to each of them. A special thank you goes to my very dear special friend and confidante, the member for Midland. She always listens and gives me brilliant advice. I will always treasure our friendship and will always remember our early political meetings many years ago in Victoria Park. Special thanks to my ever efficient secretary, Carmel. She has been a faithful and talented partner in our role of looking after our constituents. We worked together and my success as a local member is her success. Without a good secretary members are nothing. I wish Carmel much peace and happiness in her retirement, which starts at midnight on election night.

Special thanks go to the most important person in my life, the person who has assisted me so much in my political and parliamentary career, the person who is always there. That very special person is my very dear wife, Julie. It is easy in this occupation to take people for granted. Julie has been a godsend to me and each day I give thanks for her presence in my life. Julie is a very special person, a great inspiration, and has educated me so much about life. I look forward to our retirement together. A very dear friend and former leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and a former Deputy Premier, Ian Taylor, describes Julie as a living saint who one day will be canonised because she has had to put up with me for 34 long years. Some people get only six years for murder! To all the wonderful people who have been of such great assistance to me for nearly 13 years, I give my heartfelt thanks. To my colleagues on both sides of this Assembly, I say thank you for your friendship. May you all have a peaceful and happy Christmas with your loved ones.

**MR BRIDGE** (Kimberley) [10.47 am]: I have been a member of Parliament for almost 21 years. During that time, things have not improved all that much. Last night it was planned that I would speak at about 11.30 am. Consequently, I planned for my family to be here for that time. I find that I am now speaking without their being present. However, I will not hold up the proceedings of the Parliament.

During my maiden speech 20 years ago, I went through all the thankyou's that I was excited to give as part of that speech. Now, 20 years later, I am going to revisit the things that interested me in a career as a member of Parliament. I will reflect in a positive way on the support that assisted me through the many years that I have been an advocate for the people of this State as a member of Parliament. Without a doubt, my family heads the list of people I want to acknowledge. They have given me absolute and continual support. My family and I have shared a career. It was clearly understood that it needed to be shared.

The electorate of Kimberley stood strongly behind me through those 20-odd years. That was borne out graphically in the last election when I stood for the first time as an independent candidate and was returned with a good majority. For that I thank the electorate of Kimberley. I also thank the Labor Party because without it I would not have had the privilege of serving as a member of Parliament. I would not have achieved some of those magnificent goals and outcomes that I now reflect upon with great pride and purpose. It is often the case that people come into a political environment through the agency of a major party and then, for reasons that emerge in subsequent years, find time to contemplate criticism of that party. I feel that is wrong. We must always remember that despite the circumstances that might have evolved in recent times, the grassroots of our position must always be factored into the position of the party. The party gave us the opportunity to enter into politics. I put on the record my appreciation of the Labor Party and my thanks to it.

Some major issues confronted me and the Labor Party that required management skills of the highest level to ensure that the outcomes were well managed. A major degree of maturity and responsibility was shown. Sensible management of these issues was factored into the outcomes. In this context, none was greater or more difficult to deal with than the day I made it known publicly that I would leave the Labor Party. That was a big decision on my part and no doubt it was a shock to the Labor Party. The management by Mr McGinty, the then leader of the party, and me of the events that preceded my announcement was outstanding. The fallouts and the viciousness that can follow such situations did not occur, and I will never reflect harshly on the Labor Party. The member for Fremantle managed the decision I made in a constructive way. He recognised that he could not change my way of thinking.

That was one of the great outcomes of which I have been a part. We were able to manage the situation so well that I look at the members of the Labor Party today and know we are all friends. I do not need to look back over my shoulders and wonder how they feel about me. I know how they feel about me - we are all mates, and that has not changed. Similarly, I have made good friends with the members of the Government over the years. There have not been too many times that we have felt unfavourably towards each other. A logical view has been taken about our disagreements; that is, the Government understood that my interests in this House have been a reflection of those of the community. The issues that I felt were important needed to be highlighted, reflected upon and stated in Parliament. Through that process I gained the Government's respect.

Being made a cabinet minister was by far the most important highlight and the most significant period of my time in Parliament, not only because historically I am the only person of indigenous descent who gained that position - that in itself is nice because it is a historical achievement - but also because it gave me that ministerial decree to drive many things - and drive many things I did. The Water Authority of Western Australia in those days did not like it, but I enjoyed it. During that time I was boss of that portfolio. As a result, many projects happened in the bush. The Minister for Primary Industry is nodding. Approximately 180 bronze plaques in the bush capture that period of success in this State's history. The big difference was that we were in control of what we wanted to happen. I hope that in future other ministers will understand the importance of that. At the top one has the ability to drive action and to make determinations; and one must take advantage of it. It is not always necessary to seek the indulgence of so-called advisers and professionals in one's attempts to execute a course of action.

I was involved in the exciting further dimensions of the development of the Ord scheme. As a consequence of that extension and further progress, progressing to the other stages of the Ord scheme will be achieved. The one regret I have is that I did not stitch up the Kimberley pipeline plan. Sadness surrounds the fact that, in my judgment, I was 12 months away from pulling it off when the people of this State, in their wisdom, decided to throw us out of government. They might have had good reasons to do so, but it was a tragedy for the State that I was not given the opportunity to at least start that project. That project would have meant more to this State in the future than all the other projects combined. It would have opened up the interior of the State. Who knows; some projects may well have been developed and supported by this Government and the public because they were seen to be right and working. That did not happen and one can only reflect on how it might have been different had that extra period of time as a Minister for Water Resources been made available.

I have always stood for ordinary Australians; in other words, the battlers. Whenever I have had half a chance in Parliament, I have made reference to the binding obligations placed upon us as politicians to remain strong. As I leave and other members enter the Parliament, I hope that members will remember these words: Never let go of the obligations we have to look after the interests of ordinary Australians because they make up Australia; they are Australians. Not only are they Australians, but also we are all Australians together.

My final plea to the members of this Parliament is never to lose sight of that reality and their obligation to fight for that cause. We should be doubly careful that we do not sell those virtues lightly, as we are inclined to do now, particularly in the way we are trading off the wonderful assets of this country. We are doing some very damaging things in pursuit of the dollar. Considering those beautiful assets of this country that are no longer owned by us, it is questionable whether that is the right course of action. I do not question it, I say it is wrong. The Government should be very careful about going too far with corporatisation. It is hard to find any way in which corporatisation supports the values of the ordinary Australian. My hope, as I conclude my time in Parliament, is that those of you who remain, and those who

enter Parliament at the next election, will remember to keep Australia as it is, and keep Australia for Australians. I will conclude with a song -

I'm a dinky-di Australian, and I sing an Aussie song  
I sing about this country, the land where I belong  
I don't sing that Yankee stuff, with its southern drawl  
I sing good old Australian, and let that music roll

Just take the song about this pub and the spider on the seat  
The helicopter ringer and many similar beats  
We don't sing that Yankee stuff, with its southern drawl  
We sing good old Australian, and let that music roll

I'm a dinky-di Australian, and I sing an Aussie song  
I sing about this country, the land where I belong  
I don't sing that Yankee stuff, with its southern drawl  
We sing good old Australian, and let that music roll

I went up to Tamworth, and at the judges' panel sat  
And the few that sang Australian style, to you I lift my hat  
At least you tried to be yourself, of that you must be proud  
The rest were half-baked rockers, and their music far too loud

I'm a dinky-di Australian, and I sing an Aussie song  
I sing about this country, the land where I belong  
I don't sing that Yankee stuff, with its southern drawl  
I sing good old Australian, and let that music roll  
Yeh, I sing good old Australian, and let that music roll

**MR GRILL** (Eyre) [11.04 am]: Life is so unfair. Why do I have to follow the member for Kimberley? It is with mixed feelings that I stand here today to make my valedictory speech. The Labor Party, the people of my electorate and the people of Western Australia gave me the great opportunity to serve them, and I am pleased to have had that opportunity and a little sad about leaving here today. When I made my maiden speech, nearly 24 years ago, I made a traditional speech, thanking my predecessor and drawing attention to the mining industry, and thanked the loyalty of the electors of Boulder-Dundas. That seat changed from time to time during my political career, but parts of the electorate always remained the same and stayed constantly loyal to me throughout that period. I was right to make that traditional speech. I never dreamed I would be here for 24 years. I told my assembled heads of department and staff that, when I became a minister, it would be short, brief, wonderful and heroic, but I would not be around for all that long. I was wrong on that, and many other scores.

I look back on my predecessor, Tom Hartrey. He came from that wonderful Irish orator school of lawyers - fierce and flamboyant, classically educated, intelligent and articulate. He is a goldfields legend, and it was a great honour to follow him into Parliament. Hartrey's predecessor, a minister in the Tonkin Government by the name of Arthur Moir, decided, after a long and illustrious career that, at the age of 68, he really should retire and make way for a younger man. Tom Hartrey was 69 when first elected. He had six good years and was probably the shortest-serving member for the seat that took in Boulder and its surrounds. Others, like Philip Collier, who was Premier for many years, went before him. I was also correct in referring to my electorate, because, although the electorate boundaries have changed, I have experienced an unbelievable loyalty from my constituents. I went through a few dark periods during my career in politics. For eight years I was under constant investigation. My homes and my offices were raided on more than one occasion. During that period I came under some flak from the media, who suggested that I should stand down from Parliament altogether. I did stand down from my ministerial position, but I did not stand down from Parliament. The more people in the media called for me to resign, the more the people of my electorate rallied behind me.

I remember giving advice to Mark McGowan, a new member coming into Parliament for the first time. I told him that whatever happens during his time in Parliament - I think it will be a long time for him - he must never forget the grassroots. I hope I have not forgotten them, as they have never forgotten me, and they were always very loyal. Some ill-informed people will say that people in my electorate are rednecks, even racist. The people in my electorate, and ordinary Australian working-class people in general, are among the fairest-minded people in the world. Years ago an old union official told me that I should never lose faith in the ordinary working people of Australia. Many members know this person. He suggested that, if I did lose faith, perhaps I should give the game away. I have never lost that faith, and I have a high regard for ordinary Australian working people. They are kind, considerate, and terribly fair-minded.

The goldfields generally has been kind to me; just as it has been kind to so many other people before me and after me. I went to the goldfields with nothing, except my law degree and my fiancée, who later became my wife, and it has treated me extremely well. The goldfields of Western Australia in a historical sense has made this State. That is where the big populations were, that is where the big migration took place and where the great wealth upon which our State was

founded was made. The one factor that marks out those people is that they are the risk takers in our society. They were the pioneers and the hard workers. They were also, and still are, the hard players. We sometimes say that this is an entrepreneurial State in which people take risks and gambles. That culture came from the goldfields and the brave people who populated the goldfields before the turn of the century and since then.

I was right 24 years ago to have praised the mining industry and the people in it. It is the economic backbone of our State. I have watched the booms and recessions of that industry, and the people in the mining industry go through those booms and recessions with fortitude and endurance. I have always admired that. I have admired the prospectors. My brother is a prospector, and I have done a bit of prospecting. When the first prospectors went to the goldfields they risked their lives. Many of them lost their lives, because they perished in the bush. For instance, in the great retreat from Siberia, which is part of our history today, many of these pioneers perished in the bush and now are in unmarked graves.

The miners who have worked in the big mines in the past, and who work there now, risk their life and limb every day of the week. Many of them have been taken in rock falls. Nearly all of them in the early days were affected by the persistent diseases in those industry - tuberculosis, silicosis, and pneumoconiosis. They worked on those terrible machines - the widow-makers; the high speed drills that in those days operated without water and ultimately killed nearly every one who worked on them. Those widow-makers are not part of the industry any longer, but they were being used not that long ago. Everyone who went underground knew that their lungs would be irrevocably damaged as a result of working on them. Over the years I have represented many women who have been made widows by the mining industry. Those widows exhibited all the fortitude that their husbands have exhibited over the years.

I now mention another group of people; that is, the risk takers in terms of finances. I suppose Claude de Bernales springs to everyone's mind as one of the most flamboyant and well known, but there are many others. They are in the industry today risking not only their life and limb, but also their fortunes. I refer to the gold and nickel industries and the other great mining industries, but especially to gold. Gold is the great hope of the battler. Some people would say that in many respects gold is the battler's last hope. I know of many people who came to the goldfields with very little - just as I did - and walked away with a lot of money and a lot of respect. They have made a really great contribution to society as a result of the wealth they have won in the goldfields that I love.

It is one of my laments that the mining industry is no longer fully understood in the city. The links between country and city are not as strong as they once were. Many city people do not understand the way in which their economies and their fortunes are tied to the fortunes of that mining industry. I look back over the past 24 years with a lot of pride at the achievements we were able to garner during that period. I started to add them up and make a list at one stage, and I surprised myself.

I would like to thank some of the people who have made those achievements possible. The first person I acknowledge is my wife; she is present today in the Speaker's gallery. Many members of Parliament and people in politics have partners who support them, but not all of them have partners who support them in their political lives, or who are prepared to get right down into the political fray. Luckily, I have a wife who was prepared to do that. She got into the political fray, quietly and with dignity, but nonetheless she did all the jobs that needed to be done by a good organiser, which she is. She ran all my campaigns very successfully, as an adviser and as my right hand. I have been very lucky because of that. My wife suffered terribly during the eight years of that incessant investigation by the police and others; the raids on her homes; the indignities of all of that; and then the occasions when she had to front up to the police to explain matters. I might add she did that very well, and once they heard her side of events they had to drop the cases. Nonetheless, she had to go through that. She appeared in court with me; she did not have to, but she did. She was always by my side. My children Siobhan and Shannon had to endure both public and private indignities and denigration, as a range of people have had a go at me behind my back but in their presence. They always defended me bravely and fearlessly, so I have a great regard for them as well.

The boundaries of my electorate changed dramatically over the years. It is a very big seat. At one stage the boundaries extended to the Warburton group of Aboriginal communities and Esperance, out to Eucla, and took in the Southern Cross region. It always took in the heart of the goldfields, although never the core - Kalgoorlie. Nonetheless, it took in Boulder and parts of that area. We have had to maintain three houses during much of the period I was in Parliament - at Esperance, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Perth. My children and my wife were shoved from pillar to post, following me around the electorate and helping me with my parliamentary duties.

Parliamentarians get a lot of denigration. I would like to place on record, because it is probably not well known, that a number of people in politics, like me, left professions to come into this place. We were doing reasonably well in our professions, and when we became members of Parliament we took a pay cut. I do not think that is always recognised. I have been accused of many things while I have been in Parliament. Prior to becoming a minister during the Burke Government - I must admit I thought I would become the Minister for Mines, but that never happened to me and was not my luck - a colleague and I controlled a publicly listed company and some subsidiaries. I sold all the shares in those companies and did not buy another share for 10 years. I would also like to place on record that despite the image of pork-barrelling and snouts in the trough, which sometimes epitomises politicians, that image is wrong. For instance, never once have I ever applied for a parliamentary trip overseas, or taken one. Never once have I travelled overseas, or

interstate even, with any parliamentary committee on which I was serving. That does not mean I did not go overseas. I went overseas representing our State as a minister, and I have taken some study trips. The image that is promoted at times in the media is unfair. I wanted to put a couple of those things on the record.

I also thank my staff, especially my staff when I was a minister - both the public servants who were under my jurisdiction and the people who were not public servants who came onto my staff. I had a big staff, and I was criticised for it. However, during the period that I was a minister there was so much on the boil that one needed to have a big staff. Many of those people were thought to be misfits in certain ways, but they were extremely talented. I will mention just a few of them.

First, I mention Professor Rodney Vaughan, the son of one of the doyens of our party. He came out of the University of Newcastle and travelled across to Western Australia while I was the Minister for Transport. He designed that part of the Kwinana Freeway with its bus lanes and counter-traffic lanes. The sad thing is that Rodney died of cancer at a very young age, shortly after completing that work.

I also mention Ernesto Sirolli. Even my staff could not understand why he was working for me. They said, "Why do you keep that fellow on here? Why do you let him go down to Esperance so often? What is he doing down there?" He had a new theory about employment creation, and we gave him the opportunity to promote that theory. There is now a testimony to the work he did, because this State has a whole range of business enterprise centres. They are now in place, and they are a monument to him. He is now a successful consultant in the United States. However, he was considered very much a misfit in those days.

I also mention Professor Peter Newman, who came onto my staff. He was a great supporter of the reintroduction of the Perth to Fremantle railway line, and he did a huge amount of work on that. He and Ralph Hoare from Fremantle together formed the nucleus of the team that revamped Fremantle at the time of the America's Cup. They did it with such sensitivity and such flare that we have a lasting monument to them in that place.

Lois Anderson is well known in the Labor Party. She was the assistant secretary for some years. Currently, she is still an organiser. When someone had to go down to Bunbury, she was the one who went. She went there to live, and she managed the Bunbury 2000 program from Bunbury. If one goes to Bunbury today, one realises what a success it has been. If people can remember what Bunbury was like before that process commenced, they would not recognise the place; it is so different and so much better.

Peter Middleton works for one of the ministers at the current time, and some members will recognise him. What a wonderful public servant he is. He is dedicated, even-handed and neutral. He always offers good advice. When he worked for me, he worked until nine o'clock, 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock every night. Some members will testify to that.

Peter McKerrow is one of the greatest operators the Labor Party had. He worked on my staff and helped many of us win our seats. He is a selfless person. He never stood for Parliament, but he would have made a wonderful parliamentarian. He has now gone to Victoria.

I also thank my electorate secretaries. Donna Plumber now works well with the party. Cheryl Bird was an older woman. However, she went back to school and got her leaving certificate. She learnt shorthand and typing. I was told not to employ her because she was too old; nevertheless, I put her on. What a success she has been. She has gone from being an electorate secretary to running a very big business in Perth. Those sorts of things happen. I thank Cheryl Bird, Jenny Roth and Charmain Cragan, who is one of the most efficient electorate workers I have ever seen.

I also thank Nigel Higgs, who was my press secretary when I was a minister. If anyone could keep a person out of trouble - I needed a bit of that - Nigel Higgs was the man.

I also thank the public servants. Some of my colleagues had problems with their public servants. However, I never had problems with any of my public servants. The heads of my department were excellent. I never had to shift any of them on. I do not want to go through their names now - it is an illustrious list of names - because there are too many of them and I am worried I will miss out somebody. However, I thank them for some of the proudest moments of my life. We achieved a lot during that period, and the way they went about doing their jobs was wonderful.

I am not a great one for restructuring. We did a lot to make the railways a lot more efficient and productive. However, we did not restructure a lot of things. If I can give any lesson to parliamentarians going into a ministerial job, it is to be careful about restructuring. One can demotivate one's staff, and the Public Service generally, by restructuring. At times, restructuring, as we all realise, is inevitable. However, people should be very careful about it, because I have seen some restructuring go absolutely astray and demotivate departments for a long period.

I will now mention a few of my political friends. Not all of them are in vogue these days. The first is my old political friend, colleague and comrade, and a person with whom I have gone into many fights, Graeme Campbell. I have fought against Graeme and with him - mainly with him. He is a very fearsome opponent indeed. In politics these days he is seen very much as a maverick - he is out of politics. However, Graeme is one of the most successful politicians I have known. He needed a 10 per cent swing to pick up the seat of Kalgoorlie at the 1980 election. He picked that up, with not much to spare, and then turned that into the safest Labor Party federal seat in Western Australia. When I first went into politics, the Labor Party did not have a seat north of Kalgoorlie or Geraldton. With Graeme, Ernie and a few

others, the Labor Party went forth and won all of those seats to the north - every one of them. We picked up three of the five upper House seats, and that area became the jewel in the crown for the Labor Party. A lot of the glue that kept all that together can be attributed to Graeme Campbell. He might be a bit out of favour these days, and he may not be in my party, but I lament the fact that he is not in my party. He will always be a friend of mine, and I know that at heart he is very much a Labor person.

In the early days, Graeme and I had a couple of friends in Perth - one of them was here just a while ago - Stephen Smith and John Cowdell. These days it would appear to be a fairly unlikely linking together of personalities, but back in those days they were the young Turks in Perth. They were the Perth end of the Axis, as we called it, and Campbell and I were the Kalgoorlie end. Strangely enough, Graeme Campbell would not have got into Parliament if it had not been for Stephen Smith and the number crunching done by Stephen and John at the Perth end. It was a strange sort of relationship, but it was a very close relationship for a long time. Although we are probably not as close as we used to be, I pay tribute to Stephen for that period in our lives, because it was a wonderful time and we did a lot of good things together.

I also pay tribute to another one of my colleagues who is no longer in our party, Mark Nevill. I first met Mark when he was a young geologist in Kambalda. He was highly idealistic and we got on together very well. He was then a very successful geologist, as most people would appreciate. We had the unenviable job in 1983 of winning a large part of the Esperance seat, which was really tiger country for the Labor Party in those days. Mark performed superbly in that role. We ended up winning about 45 per cent of a seat in which we had never picked up more than about 20 per cent before and in which we currently pick up only about 9 per cent. I pay tribute to Mark for that and for all those great years we had together as comrades in the Labor Party.

I also pay tribute to somebody else who is a little out of favour with the community and perhaps with the party as well - Brian Burke. Brian demands loyalty from a number of people - Norm Marlborough, the member for Peel, on my left; Ted Cunningham, the member for Girrawheen, who has already spoken; a lot of other people and me. He demands loyalty because he gave loyalty. I believe that history will treat him a lot more fairly and better than recent history has. Brian had the clearest vision of anyone with whom I have dealt about where Western Australia should be going. He was the one who really understood that Western Australia was a financial colony of the eastern States, and he tried to do something about it. He was the one who understood that we needed to do something about downstream processing and value adding. We all chant that mantra these days, and there has been some success in that arena, but not a lot. For all the flak we received for it, we went closer to getting a petrochemical industry back in those days than we have since. Brian understood many things, which have become better understood since then. When people talk about cronyism during that period, it was not cronyism; it was Brian Burke and others saying that they would support local industry, local companies and local people against the big overseas companies. There was a period when Sir Charles Court was in power that he thought it was essential to woo the big overseas companies. I do not criticise him for it; he did it, he was successful and the Pilbara blossomed as a result. Brian tried to ensure that the local companies blossomed. It was not cronyism or favouritism in that sense; it was simply an attempt to ensure that local businesses got a fair share of what was happening in this State.

My old friend Peter Dowding and I went to law school together. He is one of the most charismatic people ever to enter Parliament. He is very talented and a brilliant lawyer. He is an enigmatic figure in many ways. At the end of the day, I do not believe he had the financial and commercial expertise to handle the maelstrom into which he was thrown in 1988. He might well handle it much better today, but in those days he did not have the necessary commercial experience. To some extent he and others - including myself - were wanting.

I also pay tribute to an old friend - an old campaigner - and the greatest Minister for Finance this country has ever seen. I refer to Peter Walsh. He has always stayed loyal to the working class and to his roots and principles. He is a bit tough, but a wonderful person. I pay tribute to his son-in-law, Gary Gray, who was one of the greatest organisers the Labor Party has ever had. He was certainly the best fundraiser this country has seen. He was a great political strategist and had great rapport with business. He is a huge loss to our party.

Ian Taylor and I worked together very well in Kalgoorlie. I also mention my friend to my left Norm Marlborough. In many ways, he represents the human face of our party and the connection to the old working class, which I hope we never leave behind.

I could have said much more today. However, I will conclude by saying that we parliamentarians are cruel to ourselves. Our workload has increased dramatically since I first stood for election in 1973-74. In those days we did not have electorate offices or electorate secretaries. I ask members to try to imagine how they would get by without an electorate secretary, a research officer and an electorate office today. Almost in inverse relation to that increased workload, our status has diminished. That is partly because we have been conned by the media into viciously attacking each other. I believe we can do our job without doing that. There is room for us to be much kinder to each other. Members should consider the political arena in the United States. Even at the worst times - such as during the nadir of Clinton's period in government - the media and fellow legislators always treat the President with respect. Perhaps we should emulate that situation. That is how it was when I first came into this place, and I hope we revert to that. I believe we have much more scope to be kinder to each other. Unless we are, we will not attract good young people into Parliament. We are

lucky to have the quality members we have today. At the behest of Mr McGinty, I have been involved in encouraging people to stand for election on behalf of the Labor Party. He knows how hard it is to get high profile people to agree to stand, even when they are offered a safe seat and a direct path to a ministry. The reason they do not want to participate is that they do not want to see their families attacked in the way in which we have seen families attacked in the past few years.

Finally, I want to thank my mother, who is in the gallery. I thank her for her advice, vitality, support and inspiration. I also thank her for coming along to all those rotten court cases. Thanks, Mum! It was not fun and I very much appreciate her staying at my side during that period.

I wish my party luck. I believe it will win government under the guidance of Geoff Gallop and Eric Ripper, and I hope it enjoys a long and prosperous period in office. I also thank my colleagues opposite. They have been generous and I have had a good time. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**MR THOMAS** (Cockburn) [11.36 am]: I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak today and to reflect on the occasion of what will be my last speech as a member of this House. Being a member of this place has been the greatest honour I have achieved in my life. It is a wonderful institution and it is worth nurturing. It can make great contributions to the governance of the State. I will make some observations about how it operated in the past, how it operates today and how that can be improved.

The essential nature of the Legislative Assembly is that its members are elected from single-member constituencies. That is the difference between this place and the Legislative Council, and it is the defining aspect of our role in the Parliament and in the governance of this State. Sometimes members are described as “members of Parliament”. There is no such thing as a member of Parliament - one is either a member of the Legislative Council or a member of the Legislative Assembly. Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected by territorial constituencies and require a majority vote of 50 per cent plus one. That means we must be answerable to and represent a broad cross-section of the public. It is not possible to be a zealot and continue to be a successful member of this House; one must be balanced and able to look at a broad range of issues from a wide range of perspectives. That is a very desirable quality for a House in which the Government is formed.

One of the primary functions of this House is to be an electoral college. After the election is held, the most important task confronting this House is the formation of the Government. Once that is done, unless the numbers are very close, government legislation is unlikely to be amended in this place. That role of forming the Government is very important and it should be undertaken by a House that comprises members elected from single-member constituencies, not through proportional representation.

I will make a few comments about the Legislative Council and the way it operates. Since I was elected, the Parliament has been transformed by the introduction of electoral reform involving proportional representation in the Legislative Council. When upper Houses were created, the notion was that they would bring a different perspective to bear on legislation from that of the popularly elected Houses. They were designed to represent wealth and privilege and to ensure that the popularly elected Houses did not do too much to dismantle the privileges and wealth of those who enjoyed them. As years went by, that became unacceptable. The upper House in this State moved to adult franchise and it effectively became a duplicate of the lower House. Members were elected from single-member constituencies and, for the most part, the votes reflected those in the lower House. Except for the fact that the gerrymander was more enhanced in the upper House, it was very much a mirror of the lower House. There was no point to its existence because it offered no different perspective on legislation.

The introduction of proportional representation has changed that remarkably. It transformed not only the Legislative Council but also the Parliament as a whole. It is now possible, and likely in some cases, that government legislation will be defeated in the upper House. That is desirable. If the distribution of political sentiment in the community remains as it is now, or similar, in the years to come no major party will have a majority in the upper House. Upper Houses accommodate not only members of the major parties but also members of groups such as the Australian Democrats, the Greens (WA) and so on. Various groups take advantage of the electoral opportunities that now exist as a result of the introduction of proportional representation. As a result, the upper House becomes the House of ideas. Legislation should be subjected to scrutiny in an environment that allows those ideas to be canvassed and given greater attention. Single-issue parties will be elected to such a House to represent a proportion of the population. However, members of those groups will not be elected to this House. That is also appropriate, because the House that forms the Government should have that breadth of perspective that is likely to be conducive to good government. Members of those groups do represent a certain proportion of the population and they will not be elected here. It is desirable that they not be elected here, because what we want in a House in which the Government is formed is that breadth of perspective that is likely to be conducive to good government. Houses that are elected from proportional representation, such as the Legislative Council, are a desirable part of politics, because not only can minority parties be elected but also major parties can put people there whom they would not want in an electorate because they might have ideas that may

not be sufficiently popular to allow them to be elected in lower House electorates. Nonetheless, they can make a very important contribution to politics and to governance in general.

I will quote two examples, one of which was mentioned earlier by the member for Eyre during his speech. The two examples to which I refer involve two people whom the Labor Party in Western Australia sent to the Senate, John Wheeldon and Peter Walsh. When I first became involved in politics, John Wheeldon was a senator from Western Australia. He was prepared at that time to campaign in opposition to the Vietnam War. That was not a popular position then. Had he been representing a seat in the House of Representatives - a lower House seat - it is unlikely that he would have been able to adopt that position and campaign as he did, or, if he did, he would have lost his seat, and that would have been counterproductive. Who could say now that it would not be desirable for someone like Wheeldon to be around to advance that point of view? The point of view that he was advancing then is now accepted as having been the truth; yet it would not have been possible had it not been for a House with proportional representation.

Peter Walsh was mentioned by the member for Eyre. I have an enormous degree of admiration for Peter. When the Labor Party was in power federally, he brought to government a degree of stringency, which, everyone would agree, was highly desirable in financial matters. Peter Walsh probably would not have been elected in a lower House constituency. If a deputation of constituents wanted a covered assembly area at a primary school, he was the sort of person who would give them a lecture on why they should not want it and send them away. If he did not do that, he would adopt a different attitude from the one which contributed so much to the Government. There are other examples I can think of.

It is very helpful to have a bicameral Parliament, of which one House is elected by proportional representation. It is also very desirable to have a House like this, which represents the broader perspectives of the community, rather than the narrow-interest groups, which form the Government.

There should be some constitutional reform in this State. During the early times when I was in Parliament, a committee, chaired by the Leader of the Opposition, was set up to review the Constitution in this State. Putting aside the major issue of one vote, one value - we could talk about that for a long time and not get anywhere - a number of areas of constitutional reform should be undertaken. Possibly the easiest, but one of the most necessary, is to have a Constitution that people can read and understand. If one wants to know what is the Constitution of this State, one will find that there are two Acts of Parliament and numerous amending Acts, and a lot of them contain what are known as the constitutional fictions; they say things but do not really mean them. If one picks up the Constitution of Western Australia and asks what is the Parliament of Western Australia, one would see that the Parliament comprises the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council and the Queen. We all know that it does not mean that; the role of the monarch is notional and her representative should act upon the advice of her ministers. Whole areas of the Constitution are simply fictitious. For example, there is no mention in the Constitution of the office of the Premier. If schoolchildren or people who are interested in politics were to ask where they could read the rules on how the Government of Western Australia operates, they would find that it does not exist; no document sets that out. That is most undesirable and is relatively easy to fix. The United States and most places in the world have Constitutions that people can read and understand, and we should have that too.

I mentioned the issue of one vote, one value. I will not speak at any length on that, other than to say that it is constitutional reform that is unanswerable; everybody's votes should have equal value. We have put up with the converse of that. One vote, one value went against the interests of the Labor Party for a long time and is against the interests of the Liberal Party; indeed, the only party that benefits from it is the National Party. Only a relatively small group in Parliament benefits from it. The reason that situation has been tolerated is that it has not made a difference to the outcome of the election. One of the major functions of this House is to be an electoral college from which the Government can be derived. When the election is held, and if the results of the electoral college are different from what would have been the case had there been one vote, one value, I predict there will be overwhelming public pressure for reform and one vote, one value will be introduced. That is what happened in South Australia in the late 1960s, when Dunstan should have been, but was not, elected because of the system that prevailed then. The public pressure was such that the State had to amend its Constitution to realise the will of the people. That will happen here should the will of the people be frustrated by the lack of one vote, one value in the choice of which Government should be formed.

Another reform that should be introduced to the operation of the Parliament generally and its relationship with the Government is a reduction in the size of the Cabinet. The Leader of the Opposition has indicated that the incoming Labor Government will have a Cabinet of 12. That is a vast improvement on the current situation and a vast improvement on the situation that prevailed earlier. I was cabinet secretary for four years, and it is my view that Cabinet was probably twice as big as it needed to be. We could easily have micro-economic reform and reduce the size of Cabinet substantially, although there would have to be corollaries to that to make public administration practicable. The United States is governed by a Cabinet of fewer than 10 people, and there are 250 million Americans!

Mr Riebeling interjected.

Mr THOMAS: Possibly so; in that case, we could probably get by with even fewer. The point I am making is that for this Parliament to operate as a Parliament and for this House to operate as a House of Parliament, there should be a

change in the ratio of ministers to members. While Cabinets have numbers of 15 or 17, the number of people who are not in Cabinet becomes an absurd imbalance in having Parliament exercise some sort of oversight over government. Most people on the government side who are not ministers want to be, so there is a tendency for the Government to want to transform the House into a cheer squad for the Government. Consequently, the proper scrutiny or supervision of the Government that the House should exercise is absent.

I applaud the decision of the Leader of the Opposition, whom I am confident will be Premier in a few months, to reduce the size of Cabinet, and I suggest that he could take it further. That means that fewer members of the House will be ministers. They will be people who have been elected and who have an interest in the Government of the State, and ways must be found for them to make a creative contribution. That requires leadership on the part of the Premier. I have no doubt - in fact, I know from conversations I have had with members opposite - that there is an almost invariable tendency for ministers to want to hold matters close to them and not delegate and not allow other members to share in the decision making and the parliamentary oversight of the public sector.

A member came to see me when I was cabinet secretary and asked whether he or she - I will not give any identifying information - could take responsibility, through a parliamentary secretary role, for a body that was responsible for film in Western Australia, in which the member had an interest. I put the proposition to the minister, but he said no, because he did not want to share that responsibility with someone else in Parliament. I suppose the minister felt threatened that somebody, who was not directly answerable to the minister as would be a public servant, would get in the way. That is wrong and that tendency must be overcome, if necessary, by leadership from the Premier. There are heaps of opportunities through parliamentary secretary positions, the operation of the committee system and so on for members to make a contribution to administration without necessarily having to be a minister.

The size of Cabinet should be reduced. I also agree with Laurie Marquet that there should not be any ministers in the Legislative Council. If the Legislative Council is the House of Review, members should not have that role. Career opportunities for members of the Legislative Council should be in parliamentary rather than executive positions. That would be encouraged if there were no ministers in the upper House. Those are the observations that I wished to make on the manner in which Parliament should be improved. I hope that the incoming Government will take the opportunity to review the Constitution. I note the member for Nollamara is here now - he too had a role in that process. That is a job that should be undertaken. Possibly the House could overcome politically controversial matters such as one vote, one value by putting those matters to one side and doing a sensible review of other parts of the Constitution.

I pay honour to some of the members of this House with whom I have served and who have contributed to the Parliament and Government in this State. I will mention one or two who are, or were, in this House and who played an important role. The first, who unfortunately is not present, is the Deputy Premier, Mr Hendy Cowan. He is one of the most distinguished parliamentarians of this State. I cite his role in the electoral amendment debate of the late 1970s. The only members of the House who were here then, and who are here now, are the member for Eyre and the Deputy Premier. Members will be aware that following the election in which the current member for Kimberley was almost elected, the then Government introduced an electoral amendment Bill which sought to disenfranchise Aboriginal people. I was active in politics at that time, but was not a member of Parliament. I was in the gallery when the matter was debated. That State Government actually introduced legislation that was deliberately designed to disenfranchise Aboriginal people. That is as bad as it gets. It was Deep South of the United States type of stuff - the stuff that one believes happens in other places. The legislation was defeated because of people like Hendy Cowan, Matt Stephens, Tom Dadour and the then Speaker, Ian Thompson, who exercised his casting vote from the Chair to defeat that legislation. That was one of the great moments of this Parliament. Normally, because this House is elected by single-member constituencies, the Government has a majority and it is expected that legislation will be passed. It is an unusual event for government legislation to be defeated in the Legislative Assembly. However, on that occasion, community outrage was great and some principled people on the conservative side of Parliament did not support the Government as expected. That event is to the credit of those members and to the institution in general. I named those members from the conservative side of politics who played such an important role in defeating that legislation, but, of course, they only defeated it because the Labor Party was already voting against it. Credit should go to the member for Eyre and the other opposition members who were here at that time, who voted against that legislation. In my view, it was the finest hour in the history of this Parliament - at least of the times of which I am aware.

I reflected on the member for Eyre and the Deputy Premier who are the longest-serving members of this House. The Deputy Premier will continue to serve following the next election, subject to his electorate, while the member for Eyre is retiring. There is a good crop of members coming in. At the last election a good crop of new members was elected, in particular the members for Rockingham, Willagee and Thornlie. They are part of the infusion of talent that the Labor Party received at the last election. If it is to form Government, the Labor Party will have another 10 or so members coming into this House. It will be a different, but talented, team. In the past the Labor Party has had people like the member for Eyre here. He will be an enormous loss to this Parliament. He has areas of expertise and knowledge that no-one else in this House has - or indeed anyone in this Parliament. He will be a difficult act to replace. However, no-one is irreplaceable and I am sure that from within the group of people who are already here, and the group that will come after the next election, the Labor Party will put forward a good team.

This House can operate only with the consent of electors. I was elected in 1986 as the member for Welshpool, succeeding Colin Jamieson who was the member for 32 years. When I made my maiden speech I looked up the maiden speech that Colin Jamieson made 32 years before to find out what he had talked about. In his speech he said that there was a need to widen Albany Highway. He was a member of Parliament for 32 years, including a period as minister for roads, but Albany Highway was not widened during his time as a member. In my maiden speech I also mentioned the need to widen Albany Highway - of course, over the 32 years since Colin Jamieson first made the comment in the early 1950s, that need had become much greater. But I ceased to be the member for Welshpool and moved to Cockburn, and Albany Highway still had not been widened. I am pleased to note that it has since been widened, but the Labor Party cannot claim credit for that. I served as member for Welshpool for three years, but most of my time in Parliament has been as the member for Cockburn. I pay tribute to my predecessor, the member for Peel Norm Marlborough, who is here today, and his predecessors Clive Hughes and Don Taylor, who represented that area well for many years.

The redistribution that saw me go to the electorate of Cockburn separated Cockburn from Kwinana. It should have been done earlier in the communities' interests as they are, in some respects, distinct communities. Cockburn is an area where, for most of the time that I have been the member, there have not been any local issues. It is an area that has tended to vote Labor. People have not given it a lot of attention. Only in the past three or four years, with the proposed industrial developments, has it had controversial local issues. It is rare for the area to have a local issue, but it has issues there now. The matters are being debated and are the subject of legislation in this Parliament. I am sure that the Labor Party will continue to hold the area in the future, but it will have to address issues in a way that is quite different from what has been done in the past. I am sure it will. I am sure that a breadth of view will be achieved - it is something members of the Parliament should strive for, as opposed to the viewpoints of single-issue zealots. I believe the people of Cockburn will be well served.

The City of Cockburn includes all the electorate of Cockburn. During my time as the local member I have enjoyed good relations with the City of Cockburn. I want to pay tribute to the three mayors during my time as the local member. They were all good. They may not agree with that assessment of each other. Because of the nature of politics, they have been opponents and rivals at different times. I want to pay tribute to Don Miguel, Ray Lees and John Grljusich as mayors of Cockburn. In their own ways, they have all done a good job. I believe John Grljusich was very unfairly dealt with in an inquiry earlier this year. It is a tragedy. John had transformed the City of Cockburn in many ways. He modernised its image, management and operations. The way he has been treated is most unfortunate. I hope he is successfully able to re-enter local government.

I want to thank the people who have worked with me over the years. I say with, rather than for, as that is the nature of the relationship. Whatever members of Parliament do is, for the most part, a result of the fact that we have staff who are able to do the many things we do not have time to do. I have been very well served by my electorate staff and the staff I had when I was Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet. I would like to thank Carol Burns, whom I inherited from Colin Jamieson. She worked for me for a year before going to the staff of Ian Taylor. Other staff include Marcelle George, Ruth Kerr, Helena Ball and Pauline O'Connor. Helena and Pauline have served longest; about 12 years between them. I would not have been able to achieve what I have without their help. I am extremely grateful to them. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet I was well served by the political staff and the public servants attached to the office. I believe some of them, including Leslie Finch, are still there. Public servants and people who work in government generally are, for the most part, very competent. Members of Parliament owe them a debt of gratitude. I echo the sentiments of other speakers earlier today that the people who work for Parliament and those who work for the Assembly give a high standard of service. Without them the Parliament would not be able to work and function as well as it does.

I also want to thank my wife. It has been said that none of us could do what we do in this job without support from home. The support I have received from my wife over the past 15 years has made it possible to do what I have done.

[Applause]

**MR WIESE** (Wagin) [12.04 pm]: Like all members who are leaving the Parliament, I have mixed feelings. It has been a wonderful 14 years for me. I came in on a by-election after Campbell Nalder suffered an untimely death. I have seen a lot done in that time. It has been a tremendous privilege to be a member of the Parliament and part of the governing process. Nearly half the time I have spent in Parliament has been in Opposition. I have no regrets and I would do it all over again if I were given the chance.

Two nights ago I was driving home and listening to ABC radio. I heard a story on the radio that made me think about the Parliament. It was that Pamela Anderson had been given an award in the United States by a toothpaste manufacturer for having the most attractive smile. I thought that was interesting. It crossed my mind that the great majority of people would never have thought of Pamela Anderson as having an attractive smile. They probably looked at all her other attributes that are more eye-catching. It seemed to me to be analogous with the Parliament. The obvious parts of the parliamentary process are the things that get all the publicity; they are in the public eye. Debates, disputation and question time are parts of the parliamentary process that, in some ways, do not really represent what Parliament is about. They are the things that catch the public eye and are given public presentation. The reality is that the Parliament works extremely well and its real achievement is all its not-so-public aspects. The Parliament achieves

an enormous amount and, on a great number of occasions, the Government and Opposition work together to ensure the passage of legislation. Amendments from backbenchers and the Opposition are incorporated into legislation when something has been overlooked or something worthwhile is brought up. That is the side of the parliamentary process that is a bit like Pamela Anderson's smile. It is the side that we never look at or put in the public eye.

It crossed my mind that there is another similarity between the Parliament and Pamela Anderson: It is the shell that contains the persona or, in this case, the building. As she ages, Pamela Anderson needs some maintenance and reconstruction to keep her structure and keep her body right so she is able to continue doing what we expect her to do. Some might say that she has had more maintenance, upkeep and rehabilitation than has this Parliament. I do not want get into that argument. There is a similarity between her and this building. This building is old and is ageing, and it needs some maintenance, upkeep and restructuring. It needs major work - as, no doubt, Pamela Anderson will at some stage in the future. It has been terrific to see some of the improvements and changes made to the building over the past six to eight years, as well as those occurring now under the guidance of the Speaker. Some very significant improvements and changes have been made to the building. We have got rid of nearly all those dreadful cubbyholes that filled the corridors. We have also upgraded some of the furniture, equipment and carpets. The real major structural changes this Parliament has desperately needed since I have been a member, and for a long time before that, have still not been tackled, and they must be tackled. Every time I go to a Parliament in another State I have seen how they have addressed the same problems that we have; that is, an old building that has an inadequate capacity for the requirements of this age. When I come back and look at this building I think it is time we spent some money on it. Parliament must bite the bullet and tackle the issues of rebuilding and putting in place better accommodation to meet the current needs of this Parliament and for the coming century. It is disgraceful that the committee officers and personnel work across the road in Hay Street. They should be a part of this Parliament. They should be readily accessible for members because they help us to do the work of Parliament. While we have a lack of facilities, they are not able to work as effectively as they could. It has been a disappointment to me because we considered and discussed upgrading Parliament when we came into government. It was to be one of our major projects in the second term; yet, we still have not tackled it. That is one of the few disappointments I have had during my time in this House.

I address some of the issues that have been addressed by all members in Parliament. Without the help of electorate staff and ministerial staff - during the time I was a minister - none of us would be able to perform our jobs. I pay tribute to my electorate officers and the ministerial staff I had during my time as Minister for Police. They do a fantastic job and have been an enormous support to me, as have the other electorate officers to their members, who could not do without them. I also pay tribute to those party supporters who have been part of the strength behind me at the branch, district council and state level. They do an enormous amount of work without any thanks, pay or recognition. They are, in many cases, the sources of and driving force behind some of the initiatives, changes and ideas that are brought into Parliament. Other members and I owe them a lot. It is not only the party people who have been an enormous help; the supporters with no party affiliations have also given my family and me a huge amount of support. Without naming them - I cannot compete with the member for Girrawheen - they are fantastic and we owe them much. I pay tribute to them for all the help they have given us.

I thank other ministers and especially their ministerial staff. Many problems are brought to members of Parliament and we endeavour to tackle all of them. We achieve a great deal of success in our efforts to help those people who come to us, and we do that with the help of ministerial staff. Whether in Opposition or Government, all those people have been a great support and help to me as a member of Parliament and, I am sure, to all other members. Again I thank them and the departmental people who get much criticism and not a great deal of praise. They do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to help members of Parliament and ultimately to help our constituents who come to us looking for our assistance.

Like other speakers before me, the privilege of serving the Parliament and the people as a minister is something that I can never forget; it is fantastic. The Police portfolio had its moments. It is a challenging portfolio as many ministers before and since have found. I am sure that has always been the case. Even people from overseas who have served in the same position tell the same story. I suspect that the challenges of the portfolio do not change from one State to the other or from one country to the other. When I entered the Police portfolio, I was confronted with several problems facing the Police Service. Members will recall that it was the time of Eucla and Argyle, from which many issues arose. At that time, the Police Union (WA) was almost bereft of funds as a result of the legal costs it had previously incurred defending its members, which is its role. It had no repayments from the Crown for many of the costs it had incurred in rightfully and properly defending its members. I grappled with that problem for a couple of years. I am glad that the Government was able to provide assistance and recompense the union, which it rightfully deserved and expected.

The Police Service was suffering from the taint of corruption and allegations were made about it. Morale was desperately low, the working conditions and equipment were poor and there was a range of ongoing salary issues. No-one can overestimate the extent of the changes that have occurred since then and which commenced during the first four years that I was the Minister for Police. I did not do that on my own by any means. I was extremely lucky to be the minister at that time because I had enormous support from the Government and my cabinet colleagues. I especially pay tribute to the Premier for his help and support during my time as the minister. I appreciated it - probably even more so

in hindsight because I was too busy with my nose down and my tail up working my heart out at the time. Without all that help, we could never have done what we did during that time.

Very early in my time as the Minister for Police I confronted the tragic death of Stephen Knight. What followed was a learning experience about the Police Service and how it operates and functions which I will never forget. It was an insight into the psyche and culture of the Police Service. At the time, I was moved not only by the death but also the ceremonial police funeral which followed; it had an enormous effect on me and I will never forget it or what it revealed of the Police Service. I will never forget the strength of Marie Knight and her young family. The experience gave me an enormous insight into the service. In that time I also saw the terrific support and work done by Police Legacy to assist the Knight family and the other families of police officers who had lost a family member either in doing their job as a member of the Police Service or in their everyday lives. The organisation does a fantastic job.

The police organisation was an extremely difficult organisation to work with on many occasions. It is a self-contained and closed structure. It has a culture of its own, which no-one should forget or ignore. That culture is part of the strength of the service, but it is also a great weakness, preventing police officers from coming forward and giving evidence against their colleagues, even when they are sure those colleagues are way out of line or even corrupt. I was able to work with both the hierarchy and the grassroots of the Police Service in bringing about some major changes in the organisation.

The Delta program was initiated when Brian Bull was Commissioner of Police, but Bob Falconer and his senior command colleagues really drove the program and made it work. The Delta program turned the Police Service from what it was into what it is today, and it is still having a significant effect. The Delta program brought about the building and equipment programs. The equipment program caused some problems, because the Police Service thinks it alone knows how to spend money, and believes that the Government should not interfere. I was able to direct some of that funding into equipment, which had to be useable by the officer on the beat. The Delta program also brought about the enormous recruitment and training program. When I became Minister for Police the average age of police graduates coming onto the beat was about 20 years. Most had joined the service as cadets, aged between 16 and 18 years, then went through 13 weeks of training. By the time they assumed normal duties, they had spent two to three years in the force, working in police stations alongside veteran police, learning all the bad habits. The last group that I graduated had an average age of 26. Nine or 10 had tertiary qualifications and all had been in the work force. That in itself led to enormous changes in the type of personnel coming into the service, and needs to continue.

Some of the less obvious parts of the Delta program were the organisational changes taking place. The commissioned officers' retirement program was significant, as was merit-based promotion, and the changes to the salary regime. The emphasis on training was greatly increased, and the professional standard portfolio was established. That brings me to the issue of how the Police Service deals with its own officers who transgress or who are corrupt. It is a difficult problem for any police service. It is very difficult for the police hierarchy, and I can say from experience that it is also difficult for the minister of the day. During my time, nearly 40 police officers were removed, all under section 8 of the Police Act. It will be a tragedy if the ability of the commissioner to remove police under section 8 is removed.

Bob Falconer's appointment was controversial at the time. He was the first Commissioner of Police to be appointed from outside Western Australia. When I first met Bob Falconer and his wife Sylvia, after the selection process, he had a very serious back problem and was due to have surgery the following week. Two or three weeks later I travelled to Melbourne to go through a briefing process with Bob Falconer, and to hand him the results of a major scoping survey, which was the beginning of the Delta proposal. During the discussion, over an afternoon, Bob Falconer was on his back on the lounge room floor, as he was recovering from his recent surgery. Had I known then what I know now, perhaps I would have taken a bit more advantage of the position he was in that day! I know some will disagree with me, but I found Bob Falconer a great person to work with. We did not always agree, but he was a very positive, forceful person, and he was the person for the times, and drove a change process through the organisation that lesser men may not have been able to do.

I mention also one other person - Les Ayton, who was appointed as Bob Falconer's deputy. There are mixed feelings about Les Ayton both within and outside the Police Service. He was seen as an idealist and a zealot, and sometimes very hard to get along with. I got on very well with Les Ayton, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. Tensions between him and Falconer led to Ayton's resignation. I was disappointed that he left, but it was time for him to leave, given the situation that existed at the time. Les Ayton was a very strong, dedicated fighter for integrity in the Police Service. He hated corrupt police officers, and did everything he could to get them out of the organisation. He did that job, and served the State very well. I doubt that Les and I would be on the best of speaking terms right now, but I want to place on record my respect for him. I also worked with some terrific officers in the police senior executive, such as Bruce Brennan, Bob Kucera, John Standing, to name just a few. I still have many friends in the Police Service, and have great respect for the job they do. I was touched very recently at a valedictory dinner for me at Narrogin, when Mike Dean, the president of the Police Union, and Chris Cassidy turned up and, totally off the schedule and without any notice, presented me with a plaque from the Police Union. They made some very gracious comments in making that presentation, and I express my sincere thanks for their very positive relationship during my time as minister

I have spent most of my time talking about the Police Service, but I will make a brief mention of the Emergency Services section of my portfolio. That area also had huge problems when I came into the job. There was a huge gulf between the hierarchy of the organisation, the firemen, the union, and the volunteers. The organisation was split from top to bottom. There were nearly as many dramas in the fire service as there were in the Police Service, although somehow it did not get the public and media exposure that the Police Service did. The fire brigades section of the portfolio went through a huge process of change during my four years there. There were huge changes in equipment, equipment upgrades and better death insurance for permanent and volunteer firefighters. We pioneered and put in place the collocation process that is still going on. It has been a successful initiative and will continue into the future. One of the matters of which I am most proud relates to the fact that when I went into the portfolio, not one piece of major equipment was manufactured in Western Australia. I had to fight with the fire brigades hierarchy to get tender documents to a Western Australian firm that was interested in tendering for the manufacture of a piece of fire brigade equipment. I am pleased to say that the majority of equipment is now manufactured in Western Australia. Some of it is manufactured in regional areas like Narrogin and Collie. An industry in Western Australia has grown as a result of the changes made in that area, and I get a great deal of satisfaction from that.

By the time I left the Emergency Services portfolio, we were near the end of the process of bringing together all the organisations involved in this area. There had been a total lack of confidence in and communication between the volunteers and the permanent officers in all sections of the organisations. We brought the permanent fire brigades, volunteer fire brigades, the whole of the bushfire organisation and the State Emergency Service under one umbrella - the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. That was nearing completion when I left, but was achieved afterwards. It was a great achievement for this State.

The other matter I comment on quickly is the gun debate. After the Port Arthur tragedy, all police ministers came together to try to initiate the regime that John Howard announced, without any consultation with anybody, virtually immediately after that tragedy. Western Australia was in a terrific position, because most of the things that needed to be done had been in place in this State for many years. In the second or third of those meetings between the police ministers and John Howard, Western Australia presented a proposal for the re-manufacture of all semiautomatic shotguns. Our proposal demonstrated that all semiautomatic shotguns could be re-manufactured to the equivalent of single or double-barrel shotguns and could be retained in the hands of the existing firearms owners. John Howard rejected that proposal totally out of hand, virtually without listening to it, on the basis that it was his political judgment that the people of Australia would not accept that sort of change. I was disgusted with that. It was a dreadful mistake. I estimate it could have saved the Australian community between \$100m and \$150m, because those firearms could have been re-manufactured, and there would have been no need for the buyback scheme to apply to them. It could also have resulted in the firearms organisations being onside with the Government, instead of being totally opposed to its initiatives. That firearms debate led to the start of the One Nation organisation. If that issue had been handled differently, perhaps the political spectrum in Australia would be different today.

I owe an enormous amount to my family, and especially my wife, Chris. She is a fantastic person. She has been a fantastic support behind me in this position. She is a wonderful person. She has a gift for listening to people and of relating to everybody. She was an enormous asset to me; she did the job far better than I did. Without her I could never have done the job, and I want to publicly record my enormous thanks to her for the person she is and for the fantastic job she has done over my 14 years in this place. I also say an enormous thank you to my family - to my boys Mike, Tim and Anthony for the terrific support they have given me over the years.

[Applause.]

**MR MINSON** (Greenough) [12.35 pm]: When I first came into this House I thought that in my final speech I would get up and say all sorts of things. That time has come. I made some notes, but they look like an unconnected series of events. However, I will tackle the issues.

I have not read over my maiden speech, but I recall mentioning the issues of rural health, roads and the narrow base of industry in the area I represent. In a sober way I tried to make a judgment about whether anything had changed. I can say that there are some positives. Kalbarri and Dongara have the only two purpose-built multipurpose health centres in Western Australia. If they are not the only two, they were the first two. I was pleased to see them operating in my area. I understand that planning is under way for a new mid west regional hospital in Geraldton, and that will not be before time. A lot has been done in the area of roads, and transport is considerably better in the region.

The sad part, from my point of view, because I had a particular interest in this, is that not a lot has changed in respect of secondary industry. The problem with the area I represent is that it is heavily based on farming and fishing. That is terrific, except they are traditional occupations that are virtually closed industries. It is difficult to see much increase in employment in either fishing or agriculture, because we have run out of land, and machinery is getting larger and more efficient. If anything, fewer people will be employed in those areas.

Some members who have been in this place long enough will remember that I invited them to come to Geraldton and visit a sand patch about 20 or 30 kilometres north of Geraldton where I said there should be a greenfield industrial site. It was my dream that a deepwater port and the Oakajee industrial site would be built there. It was not my idea, but one

that had been mooted in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and one I felt was desperately needed. We are much closer to achieving that. Unfortunately, I have not seen the commencement of such an industry. I sincerely hope that Kingstream Steel Ltd will be able to commence its steel mill there soon, and that the Government will take a long-term view of Oakajee and put in place permanently all the approvals that are required. This nonsense of giving approvals for two years for projects that will take many years to get up is silly. If an area is judged suitable for industry, deepwater ports and the like, it should be a matter of course, to enable proper planning, to mark the planning zone on a map, so that everybody knows the land use for the area, even if it takes 20 years to happen. In looking back at the reasons I came into this place, I can say that things have changed, and they have improved in some areas. However, it is my great regret that, largely due to the economic downturn in Asia a few years ago, we have not seen the two or three large industries that everything will hang off get started at Oakajee.

While I am talking about Oakajee, I will say that I am almost passionate about seeing the industrial base in Western Australia broadened. It seems to me that there could not be a better time than right now to do it. This State has all the raw materials and expertise, and the value of the dollar makes it extremely favourable for people to come in from outside, finance an industry, set it up and export from it to areas where the currency values are much higher. We have a reformed labour market. Since I was a child, it has been said that the strength of the union movement and the sometimes pig-headed approach to industrial relations of both unions and management meant that it was not a good idea to go to Australia to set up an industry because eventually one would be held to ransom. Australia is politically stable. I do not mean that Governments do not change; rather, we have managed to find a way to change Governments in an orderly fashion, without shooting each other. All those matters lead to the conclusion that if we really get aggressive about it, particularly given the current economic climate, meaningful industry can get started in this country, particularly in Western Australia. It is my view that it would not be too long before our dollar value will start to creep up.

In talking about those matters, I should say that there is a very unfortunate side effect of the WA Inc years; that is, Governments across Australia are now almost fearful of helping an industry for fear of being accused of making some sort of deal with the private sector. Most of our industries of note would not exist if government had not contributed in some way or another. The best way for government to contribute is to put in infrastructure. I shudder to think where Western Australia would be now if the public had not funded the Fremantle port and the Kalgoorlie pipeline. All the things that have hung off those two developments alone -

Mr Pandal: It is the good side of public debt.

Mr MINSON: Of course. Both of those projects were completed before federation. When one looks at the fiddling with the finances since federation, one will probably see why Governments are a bit loath to commit to those sorts of projects. However, if we aggressively go about creating infrastructure - I am referring particularly to roads, ports, airline access, power and water - industry will follow. There is no question about it. However, we are living in a dream world if we expect an industry to come over the hill and spend \$1b establishing itself and, on top of that, spend another \$1b putting in power stations, ports, roads and so on, because I do not know of any other country that expects that to happen. I commend the Minister for Resources Development particularly for the work he is doing in that area. There are opportunities for Western Australia, especially since the value of the dollar has fallen. Now is the time to become very aggressive. Every other aspect of our commercial life has been reformed. Our dollar has been floated. If anything, the currency is slightly low. Our labour market has been reformed, as I said. This country is stable politically, and it is a nice place to live. It is the sort of place to which all people from the western world would like to come to live.

We have an opportunity to poach industry. The very successful agricultural machinery manufacturers at the moment are to be found mostly in North America. However, the sad fact is that Australian farmers will not be able to afford to buy any of their equipment shortly because, despite the fact that the falling dollar means they get more for their produce, it is a double whammy when they buy fertiliser and machinery. If the Government becomes proactive and talks to companies like John Deere Ltd and Massey-Ferguson (Australia) Ltd, it can begin to poach secondary industry from other countries. I have spoken with industry representatives overseas. They have a preference to come to Australia rather than go to Asia. Traditionally, they have gone to Asia because there they get help from Governments. However, they are operating in a foreign environment, and their executives do not necessarily want to live there. They have to finance their children's education outside of those countries. Opportunities exist in this country.

My experiences since coming to this place have been interesting. After I had been here for a short time, I remember Bob Pike asked me how I was settling in. I said that it was great. I told him that I gave a very hesitant maiden speech, with a quavering voice, and everybody listened intently and applauded at the end of it. I thought that was pretty good. The next time I got to my feet I nearly got ripped to bits, and I had not even opened my mouth. I said to Hon Bob Pike that every time I got to my feet, three or four people were in the Chamber, and after a couple of minutes they walked out. I said that it was not just me because it happened to everybody. He said, "Young man, what is this place called?" I said, "It is called Parliament." He said, "That means a place for speaking. If it was meant to be a place for listening, it would have been called something else." I think that explains many of the things that happen in this place.

Another thing I found was that as soon as I became a member of Parliament, people somehow expected me to have been dealt a double portion of the wisdom of the great monarch Solomon. Suddenly, I became a new species and was supposed to be able to do superhuman things, and the people wanted to call me to account if I was not able to deliver. I talked to Hon Clive Griffiths about this matter, and I said that I regretted that members of Parliament were held in low esteem - that was many years ago and things have not improved. Hon Clive Griffiths said something that was very insightful; that is, that Parliament is supposed to be a mirror of society, and society is made up of all sorts of people. He said, "If you look at Parliament, it is a mirror of society, and what is happening is that society is looking into the mirror and it does not like what it sees." Perhaps that also explains some of the things that happen here.

In my time in this place I have been up near the top, down near the bottom and back in the middle. I have enjoyed the process. I admit that I have had two major problems. One is that I am a bit slow on the uptake. Although I usually work something out correctly in the end, everybody else has moved on and does not notice. Another thing is that I am extremely naïve - I admit that. In fact, I confess to the House that I am so naïve that I became deputy leader and was then kicked out before I even knew who Noel Crichton-Browne was. Therefore, members will see that not too many people here are more naïve than I am.

When I came into this place, I must admit that I expected all the members on the other side of the House to have a pair of horns that stuck out and a spiky tail, and I was sure that either in the boot of their car or in their office they had one of those little sharp pitchforks. I thought they hid it pretty well because I could not see it. As time went by, I realised that some members had those attributes. However, I was also naïve enough to think that all those on this side of the House did not have those attributes. After a little while I realised that quite a few members on this side share those attributes.

One thing that has disappointed me, particularly on the part of members of the media - this has spilled out into the wider society - is the continual ascribing of ill intent to members of Parliament. In my time here, regardless of who has horns and pitchforks, most members have tried to do the right thing most of the time. We make some terrible mistakes, and occasionally the odd person does the wrong thing for the wrong reason. If society continues to tear down its leaders, we will reap a terrible reward. That is beginning now. Some of those under 25 years of age have no respect for the Parliament or the people in it. Part of that is our fault and part is the fault of other people.

I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of the sitting.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued at a later stage.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on page 3865.]

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

*Statement by Member for Perth*

**MS WARNOCK** (Perth) [12.51 pm]: I will take this final opportunity to make a member's statement. In doing so, I celebrate the work of volunteers in my electorate of Perth and in the community in general. Their work is the glue that keeps our community together and the oil that makes our society run as smoothly as it does. I will celebrate one volunteer in particular today - Julie Jones. On 25 November, Julie celebrates 19 years of work for the Daughters of Charity opportunity shop in William Street, Northbridge.

I met Julie when I was doorknocking in 1992 at the start of a 13-month campaign that ended with a very narrow victory. Julie was already a well-known identity in the area and was living just a stone's throw from the op shop in one of the many inner-city lodging houses found in Perth at the time. Gentrification, backpackers' accommodation and tunnel demolition have accounted for many of those houses. Julie now lives in East Perth, but she is still a regular at the op shop. She is one of hundreds of people from very diverse backgrounds who make Perth such a wonderful and interesting electorate to represent in this place. She and many other volunteers give their time - our most valuable commodity - to improve the quality of life of their fellow human beings. Working in an op shop, like working as a visitor in a hospital, in a school canteen or coaching young sporting teams is very valuable work, and it should always be recognised as such by the community. I am happy today to celebrate Julie Jones and thousands of other community volunteers like her who make Australia such a great place to call home.

## NEW PACKAGING FOR FRUIT LEATHER

*Statement by Member for Collie*

**DR TURNBULL** (Collie) [12.52 pm]: This Parliament has been discussing packaging - Pamela Anderson's packaging. I want to show members a much slimmer packaging success than Pamela Anderson. I have here some peach, plum and nectarine snacks that are beautifully packaged. They are slim and exciting. I have samples for all members and I ask them to try this product. In fact, I would like to table this magnificent package!

Mr Court: Can I have one, too?

Dr TURNBULL: The Premier can have three to take home to his daughter.

This product is the result of fantastic business energy in Donnybrook. Six years ago, Steve and Sue Collis started sun drying a pulp made of reject fruit. They have been so successful with this fruit leather that they are moving into the Asian markets, including Japan. The packages I have distributed to members are targeted for Japan and Australia. For those members who did not manage to catch one of the samples, I will open another package so that they can try them.

Steve and Sue Collis should be congratulated for transforming a small business into a thriving business and value adding reject fruit here in Western Australia.

### **ROE ELECTORATE, CHANGES**

*Statement by Member for Roe*

**MR AINSWORTH** (Roe) [12.53 pm]: That is a hard act to follow!

I talk very positively about the next four years in my electorate. As a member of next year's re-elected coalition Government, I will look forward to major changes in my electorate - particularly in the eastern shires of Ravensthorpe and Esperance.

We need an accelerated road upgrade because of what is happening in the area. Of course, we will see the accelerated upgrading of the rail system as a result of Portman Mining Pty Ltd's expansion from a small operation to one that exports eight million tonnes of iron ore from our port. The deepening of the port is taking place now. It will be capable of taking 160 000-tonne capesize vessels. Its capacity for vessels will make it the biggest port south of Dampier. Our region will need increased power at the right price. We will need an industrial area. Two nickel mines are starting up at Ravensthorpe and when the second nickel operations starts, the population of the Ravensthorpe Shire will double.

Marine research projects are also starting at Esperance, and a very active committee is working on building a discovery centre, which will be a multimillion-dollar interpretive centre to help present all the attributes of the region; not just Esperance, but north to Norseman and west to Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. That will increase dramatically the already buoyant tourism industry. It is a very exciting time for my electorate, particularly the eastern part of it, and I look forward to being part of that in the new year.

### **ELECTORATE OFFICERS**

*Statement by Member for Rockingham*

**MR McGOWAN** (Rockingham) [12.55 pm]: I hope this is not my valedictory speech, but if it is, I will say a couple of words in the spirit of today's sitting. Like many members, I acknowledge in this place my electorate officers. One electorate officer, Anne Wood, has served with me for the past four years. I have had two 0.4 electorate officers, Julie Armstrong and, formerly, Amy Farrell. I have no hesitation in saying that without any shadow of doubt I have been privileged to have the best electorate officers in the Parliament. My electorate officers have worked extra hours, weekends and nights. They are the most accomplished people on information technology one could ask for. They have endless amounts of patience for people who come in with problems and concerns. They provide immense amounts of assistance to me, and no-one who comes into my office is ever a problem to them.

All our electorate officers are angels, and the jobs they perform are above and beyond the call of duty of any form of employment or occupation that one could think of. If a popularity contest were held in my electorate, my electorate officers would probably be far more popular than I, and I thank them.

### **BUSSELTON AND CAPEL SHIRES, GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

*Statement by Member for Vasse*

**MR MASTERS** (Vasse) [12.57 pm]: In the past four years the Busselton and Capel Shires have experienced major population growth, together with significant expansions in their tourism and viticultural industries. This growth has strained all existing state and local government services and facilities.

I take this opportunity to thank the Western Australian Government for the support it has provided to the two shires since the last election. This support has covered virtually every area of state government portfolio responsibility, including a new police station at Dunsborough; a new police station and court house complex at Busselton; the Busselton bypass; ongoing funding for the infill sewerage program, including key areas affected by the July 1999 floods; a new primary school in East Busselton; \$1.5m for new facilities at the Busselton Senior High School; new waste water treatment plants at Busselton and Dunsborough, and I think also at Capel, together with a treated waste water recycling scheme that will benefit the Busselton Golf Club; major funding for repairs to the Mallokup Bridge in the Capel Shire; support for the Busselton Jetty's underwater observatory; assistance to enable HMAS *Swan* to be sunk as a dive wreck off Meelup; sport and recreation funding for lights at Sir Stewart Bovell Park and the Busselton Tennis Club; funding for the Busselton wetlands strategy; \$1.2m to upgrade the Busselton District Hospital; funding for St John Ambulance and bush fire brigade buildings at Dunsborough and a new bush fire brigade building at Vasse; continued major capital investment in Ministry of Housing dwellings; and a new airport for Busselton.

I assess these and other expenditures by the taxpayers of Western Australia in the Vasse electorate to be worth more than \$60m, and I commend the State Government for its preparedness to spend money wherever the need clearly exists.

**SHEA, MRS FRANCES***Statement by Member for Peel*

**MR MARLBOROUGH** (Peel) [12.59 pm]: I take this opportunity to talk about a lovely lady who passed away last Friday and whom we buried on Tuesday, my mother-in-law Frances Shea. She was born in Broken Hill in 1909 and passed away on Friday, 17 November 2000, aged 91 years. In her early childhood her mother and father, Fanny and Harry Gray, moved to Western Australia to live on a farm in Toolbrunup, overlooking the Stirling Ranges. As a result of disease wiping out all their livestock, they had to leave the farm. As a young girl, mum became very much involved in politics, because as a young woman, her father Harry Gray became the upper House member representing the Labor Party for the West Province from 1923 to 1952.

She had the good fortune to work with such people as John Curtin when he was editor of the *Westralian Worker*. She was a lifelong friend of his and worked with him very closely during all his election campaigns. In recent times she has been an invaluable historical source to the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library. She was a tremendous woman and a great mother to seven children, of whom my wife, Roslyn, is the youngest, grandmother to 26, great-grandmother to 30 and great great-grandmother to one. They have been a family that has excelled at the highest level. Presently, two of her children are professors at Notre Dame University - Professor Syd Shea and Professor Doreen McCarthy. Most importantly, she was a great inspiration to us all. She had moral values that none of us could deign to measure up to. I think that when the good Lord created the earth, he said to Frances Shea, "You are one of my moral guardians; go out there and make sure they all live to a certain standard", and she certainly did that.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm***QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****LANE, MRS MARGARET, PREMIER'S ALLEGATIONS****380. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

I refer to yesterday's baseless attack by the Premier, under parliamentary privilege, on the Labor candidate for Mitchell and Bunbury City councillor, Margaret Lane, whom he accused of failing to declare a financial interest in the Hay Park recreation centre project.

- (1) Is the Premier aware that -
  - (a) At no time did she sit on any assessment panel;
  - (b) At no time did she work on the technical details or specifications of the project; and
  - (c) Unlike Government ministers confronted with a similar situation, she declared an interest when it was clear that her husband would tender for work as a subcontractor with one of the bidders?
- (2) Given that the Premier's allegations were patently false, will the Premier now do the honourable thing and apologise for misleading this House?

**Mr COURT replied:**

- (1)-(3) Touchy! Although the Opposition raises issues of accountability in this House, it goes on the defensive when a serious accountability issue is raised. That conflict of interest was reported three months after that detail was known. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition do his homework.

Dr Gallop interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

**CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION, CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS****381. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Labour Relations:**

Is the minister aware of an article in *The Australian Financial Review*, dated 22 November 2000 and titled "CFMEU promises clean-up" and is the minister aware of the allegations of corruption within the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union to which the article refers?

**Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

I am aware of the article and read it with great interest. The article suggested that at a recent meeting the national executive of the CFMEU resolved to root out any officials and job delegates implicated in graft or corruption, to deny union sanctioned enterprise agreements to companies that use enforcers to perform standover tactics - where legally possible - and to establish an anti-corruption committee. It is amazing that the union must do this, but at least it is taking steps to root out corruption and the problems that it has identified within union ranks. It is the Labor Party's attitude that the Government must worry about. The Labor Party has said, in its labour relations direction statement, that it will get rid of the building construction industry task force. That indicates that the Labor Party supports the types

of practices that the national executive of the CFMEU has identified as those it wants to get rid of. By getting rid of the task force, the Opposition is saying that it supports that type of activity. The Labor Party should reflect on its commitment to the union movement in Western Australia. Members have heard of the 60-40 rule. Carmen Lawrence, in a recent address to the Sydney Institute, said that that rule was an unreasonable level of influence over the pre-selection process. The Labor Party must rethink its move to abolish the task force.

CONVENTION CENTRE, AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT

**382. Mr McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the convention centre project and to the Premier's claim on a radio program yesterday that the Auditor General said that he had gone in, had a look, and could find no deficiency in the process that would warrant an audit being undertaken.

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the Auditor General is disputing the truthfulness of the Premier's comments?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of the Auditor General's comments in today's *The West Australian*? The Auditor General said that -

We are not in a position to provide any assurances on the process because we haven't done any real audit work.

He has written to the Opposition to similar effect.

- (3) Is the Premier so desperate to defend this project that he has resorted to telling untruths about the Auditor General?
- (4) Will the Premier now apologise to this House and to the Auditor General for those untruths?

**Mr COURT replied:**

- (1)-(4) The Opposition is touchy about this convention and exhibition centre project, which it is determined to destroy. It is a great project, which is going through a proper process, and will be a huge benefit to this State.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Armadale!

Mr COURT: These were my comments about the Auditor General -

"The Office of the Auditor General is closely monitoring the issue and, to date, have not established any particular deficiencies warranting audit action.

The Office of Auditor General staff have been meeting with and interviewing people - "

Dr Gallop: He hasn't done an audit.

Mr COURT: I did not say there was an audit. The Leader of the Opposition knows what I said. Hon Tom Stephens received a letter that clarified the position of the Auditor General. The letter stated -

- (a) My Office has been briefed in relation to the framework of the process proposed and did not see any fundamental or 'in principle' deficiencies.

The letter goes on to say that -

- (c) In the absence of fundamental or 'in principle' deficiencies being indicated, I would not consider it appropriate to initiate a specific audit of the . . . process prior to the Task Force finalising the process within the framework it has . . . established. This is in recognition that external audit is essentially an after the event review process. The Task Force is the body responsible for the effective finalisation of the process.

Dr Gallop: Read the last sentence.

Mr COURT: The last sentence said that -

In these circumstances Audit is not, at this point in time, in a position to provide assurance regarding the . . . process.

That is exactly what I said. I do not know why the Leader of the Opposition is clutching at straws. As I said, the Government does not have a problem - the probity auditors have overseen the process. However, it is interesting that the Opposition will not let up. The Opposition is determined that this State not have an exhibition and convention centre. It is something that this State needs and that it will get. It is going through a proper process. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition take a look at the internal workings of the Labor Party across this country, if he wants to see processes that are not working.

*Point of Order*

Mr McGOWAN: The Premier did this same thing the other day on a question - talking about something that was totally unrelated. I asked a question that related to the role of the Auditor General in the convention centre process, not about the Labor Party.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr COURT: It is about accountability. It is like the Labor Party signing up a 15-year lease with a government agency for a property in Canberra. The Labor Party will receive \$4.7m in rent this year, which is 270 per cent above the market rate. That is a corrupt Labor Party in action. I hope the Leader of the Opposition gives a commitment not to take any of that dirty money for his next election campaign.

Dr Gallop: No-one is listening to you.

Mr COURT: I will repeat it - the Labor Party did a corrupt deal in Canberra and this year received \$4.7m. The Labor Party did a deal on a 15-year lease where the rent automatically goes up 9 per cent each year. How would anyone like that for a deal? The Opposition was in Government for 10 years and sent this State broke. The Government does not mind having a debate on accountability and proper process every day of the week. The Opposition moved a private member's motion on accountability yesterday. The Leader of the Opposition did not bother showing up and hardly any Opposition members bothered showing up.

That shows its commitment to accountability.

## GAS AND ELECTRICITY CHARGES, INCREASES

**383. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Energy:**

On 31 October 2000, the Leader of the Opposition addressed the WA Division of the Association for Independent Retirees. In the address he stated: "We know however of the 12 per cent rise in gas prices and the 11 per cent rise in electricity". Can the minister comment on the accuracy of the figures and the relationship to inflation?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Until he gave me prior notice, I had not known about the comments. I accept that the member for Vasse is correctly reflecting the Leader of the Opposition's comments. I make the observation that the electricity tariff for households during the course of this Government increased in one year, 1997, by 3.5 per cent. It was for residential customers only and there were no other increases. There were no increases for business customers. The gas tariff increased during one year, 1997, by 3.4 per cent for small business and residential customers. There have been no other increases in the price of electricity or gas. The GST is a tax that applies to goods and services and, therefore, applies to electricity and gas. As such, it is not an increase in gas and electricity prices. The fact is that the federal GST applies to electricity and gas. The Leader of the Opposition failed to inform people of that distinction. He also got the arithmetic wrong. To even the effect of the GST, sales tax and the like were removed. The net effect is an increase of 9.3 per cent, not 11 or 12 per cent. The Leader of the Opposition failed to explain that properly and the distinction between a tax and a price. His figures are wrong.

## SENTENCING ACT, AMENDMENTS

**384. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:**

- (1) Can the Premier explain why the sentencing legislation will allow the most serious criminals in the State to be released earlier from prison - in some cases, years earlier?
- (2) Will the Premier recall the Sentencing Act amendments that allow early release and make amendments that will ensure that serious criminals do not benefit from changes to sentencing laws?

**Mr COURT replied:**

- (1)-(2) What hypocrisy from the member for Fremantle to come into the Chamber after the Labor Party threw out the sentencing matrix!

Dr Gallop: Knock, Knock! Negative, negative!

Mr COURT: I will tell the member what is negative! The Government created a sentencing matrix that would have given the Parliament the ability to increase minimum sentences. The Labor Party rejected it and yet it has the audacity to come into the Parliament saying that it wants legislation that will result in those changes. What a nerve! The member knows exactly what is in the sentencing legislation and what the Labor Party did with the sentencing matrix. The member is pretty good at twisting things. We have not had any questions from him this week. The Government was wondering whether he would pop his head up on the last day. I am told that he has been pining a bit this week: Is that right? I was wondering why the member has been so quiet this week.

SENTENCING ACT, EARLY RELEASE PROVISIONS

**385. Mr McGINTY to the Premier:**

Will the Premier explain why the sentencing legislation will enable the State's worst criminals to get out of jail earlier?

**Mr COURT replied:**

The member is assuming that he knows what the behaviour of prisoners will be. He knows exactly how the legislation will work. He knows that the Labor Party sabotaged the attempt to put the sentencing matrix in place. It would have enabled the Parliament to increase sentences.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! We are all a bit touchy on the last day.

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

**386. Mr AINSWORTH to the Premier:**

Former Labor Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam and the member for Fremantle have both recently raised -

The member for Bassendean interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I have permitted some interjections to allow members to scrutinise questions in the interests of fairness. Members must be allowed to ask questions before receiving interjections. The member for Bassendean interjected before the question was completed. I want to hear the question and the answer.

Mr AINSWORTH: Former Labor Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam and the member for Fremantle have both recently raised the issue of one vote, one value for Western Australia. Will a coalition Government allow a situation to arise where electors in regional Western Australia would have less electoral representation than is presently the case?

**Mr COURT replied:**

The Labor Party is the last party that should be talking about a fair voting system. One has only to look at the party. Before it starts preaching about how others should handle their voting systems it should have a look at its own. It should ask the members who used to be in the party. It should ask Larry Graham, Mark Nevill, Tom Helm, David Smith, Ian Taylor, Graham Campbell and the like about the voting system inside the Labor Party. The Labor Party nationally is hardly in a position to tell people how to run a voting system.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr COURT: The Minister for Health summed it all up the other day when he put up a map of Western Australia that showed Labor's health priorities and the Government's health priorities. Why would anybody want to weaken regional Western Australia when it is already going through enough difficulties? That is the Labor Party's policy. Is the Leader of the Opposition saying it is not the policy?

Dr Gallop: No - we are going to inject an extra \$17m into Health.

Mr COURT: I was talking about the voting system.

Dr Gallop: The Labor Party believes in equal voting rights.

Mr COURT: Why would anybody want to weaken regional Western Australia when it is going through its current difficulties?

FINANCE BROKING INDUSTRY, LEGISLATION

**387. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Fair Trading:**

- (1) Why has the minister not given priority to the legislation that was promised to fix the problem in the finance broking industry, as recommended by Ivan Gunning?
- (2) Why has the minister turned his back on the important legislative changes in the same way that he did with the thousands of mainly elderly Western Australians who have lost their life savings due to his neglect?

**Mr SHAVE replied:**

(1)-(2) The Government has given priority to those changes and the Cabinet has approved such changes. It would be inappropriate to make legislative changes without waiting for the final report of the Gunning inquiry. That is the proper thing to do. Rather than criticise me I think the member for Fremantle should be worrying about his neighbours at his new holiday home who are concerned about the dead tree that people used to use as a navigation point to get into port.

## CRIME STATISTICS, OPPOSITION CLAIMS

**388. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for Police:**

On 31 October 2000, the Leader of the Opposition addressed the WA Division of the Association for Independent Retirees. In the address he stated that Western Australia has the reputation of being the crime capital of the nation and the elderly are bearing the brunt of crime. Would the minister like to comment on the statements?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

I am informed that the Leader of the Opposition said that Western Australia was the crime capital that had the highest rates of victimisation, home break-ins, motor vehicle theft and sexual assault, and that it was the elderly who bore the brunt of those offences. Any offence against the elderly is to be deplored because they are, generally speaking, more vulnerable than others. What the Leader of the Opposition said is incorrect and he ought not to peddle such untruths. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the crime rate has decreased by 5.8 per cent. Indeed, there were 7 260 fewer victims of crime in 1999 than in the previous year. The decrease is undoubtedly as a result of a number of factors, such as better information being given to the police, particularly from Crime Stoppers, targeting intelligence-based policing and things of that nature.

The figures across Australia show that motor vehicle theft in Western Australia has reduced by 8.1 per cent. It leads the nation in the reduction in car theft. The highest victimisation rates are found in South Australia and New South Wales, which have much higher rates per 1 000 population than WA. The claims made by the Leader of the Opposition about the victimisation rate for sexual assault in WA are incorrect; South Australia and Queensland have higher rates. Sexual assault in WA has decreased by 28.5 per cent and the clearance rate is 99.1 per cent. To say that the elderly bear the brunt of crime is untrue. For some time the Leader of the Opposition has been running an ambulance-chasing fear campaign about elderly people. Less than 7 per cent of robbery victims are over 65 and less than 2 per cent of assault victims are over 65. Although that is deplorable, they are not bearing the brunt.

If the Opposition gets back into power, this is what we will see. I have held up this graph before. The red line is the 100 per cent or more increase in crime when the Opposition was in power and the blue line represents what has been done during this Government's term of office. As if that was not bad enough, according to its Audit Office, not only does New South Wales have the most expensive health system in the country, it also has the highest crime rates, the slowest court system and the New South Wales police are ranked below the national average in solving crime. The New South Wales Ombudsman has received an 18 per cent increase in complaints against police officers. In Western Australia there has been a 7 per cent reduction in allegations against police officers. The Ombudsman's report shows a significant reduction from one year to the next. Why? Because there has been reform and the Police Service is working well. Safer WA and other initiatives are working and the crime rate is decreasing. If the Labor Party gets back into power, crime will increase again. The Leader of the Opposition is doing what his predecessor - who is sitting in the wings waiting to take over - did; that is, run an administration devoted to stunts and gimmicks aimed at getting cheap media coverage. The Leader of the Opposition could do better, but it is nearly too late for the member to try.

## HOSPITALS, REDUCTION IN STAFF

**389. Ms McHALE to the Premier.**

I refer to the new management structure for Perth's public hospitals, the fourth in less than eight years, and ask -

- (1) Is the Australian Medical Association correct when it states that the Government's plans to cut over 400 hospital jobs will now not go ahead?
- (2) If so, why is the Minister for Health unable to say whether these jobs will remain or go?
- (3) Does this not confirm that the Government is no longer in control of the hospitals or its own health policies?

**Mr COURT replied:**

The member should ask those questions of the Minister for Health.

Dr Gallop: He is not here.

Mr COURT: I do not know how many employees there would be in total, but it is one of our largest work forces. I cannot give the member that answer, but I can give the member the answer relating to the public health service. This Government has given priority to the public hospital system. Expenditure has been increased to be the highest per capita expenditure in this country. We are very proud of our public health system and will continue to improve it. I do not have a chart, as did the Minister for Police, but I do not need a chart to tell the Opposition that in 10 years of Government it built no new hospitals. In the past eight years this Government has built three major hospitals - the fourth will be Armadale - and we have also built the Northam Hospital. Health services, including mental health services, have been upgraded. This Government is proud of what it has achieved and plenty more can be done. I would not carp too much if I were the Opposition because its record was disastrous.

## LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT

**390. Mr TUBBY to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the recent release of the results of the state-wide literacy and numeracy assessment. How can parents of children who participated in the tests find out more about the performance of their children in these critical areas of learning?

Dr Gallop: How are your communication skills with the member for Alfred Cove at the moment?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

Pretty good.

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I was pleased earlier in the week to visit Victoria Park Primary School, which is an excellent school, and to meet some of the children and staff. I used that as an opportunity to release the summary statistics from the assessment of literacy - being reading, writing and spelling - and numeracy for years 3 and 5 students.

Members will recall that around 51 000 students were assessed. This is the third year that the assessments have taken place in Western Australia. In 1998, in broad terms, about 80 per cent of students were measured as having reached the nationally agreed benchmark. In 1999 it was about 85 per cent, this year it was 87 per cent. I would not put my life at stake over the exact accuracy of those figures because there will inevitably be volatility in movements of measurement and the like from year to year. After speaking to those who have administered the tests and assessed them, there is absolutely no doubt that there has been a discernible and significant improvement in literacy standards over the past three years. There is still a way to go, but there is no doubt that, through focusing on literacy throughout all curriculum areas, the literacy standards in our schools are improving. I congratulate the schools and teachers for their efforts. I will continue to strongly support these tests. It is important that the Government, which has responsibility for spending public money, has a responsibility to measure and assess that performance.

All of the parents of those 51 000 students will receive a report before the end of the school year showing how their sons or daughters compared on those criteria against the national benchmark. That will apply to all students in Government, Catholic and 93 independent schools that took part in the tests. The parents appreciate the direct information on their children's performance.

## LOGGING, FEATURE-GRADE LOGS

**391. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Forest Products:**

Some notice of this question has been given. Given the minister's remarkable ability to recognise specific logs, I ask -

- (1) How many feature-grade logs older than two years are currently lying in state forest or on log landings following logging operations?
- (2) What volume of feature logs older than two years is currently lying in state forest or on log landings following log operations?
- (3) To whom is each of the logs allocated?
- (4) Does the Department of Conservation and Land Management or the Forest Products Commission have a register of the location of each of those logs?
- (5) Will the minister table this register, or tell the House where people may go to view the register?
- (6) When will each of the logs be collected for milling?

**Mr OMODEI replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. If I have that ability, I notice a couple fewer logs on the other side.

- (1)-(6) Improved accounting procedures are in place to ensure that all logs delivered to consumers comply with authorised practices. Feature logs are identified and delivered on demand. Logs are delivered to successful value-adding businesses. The delivery note system ensures that there is total accountability and transparency in the process.

## POLICE, WAGES AND SALARIES

**392. Mr OSBORNE to the Minister for Police:**

Has the minister read the article in the *WA Police News* in which the shadow Minister for Police claimed that the coalition has badly let down police officers and their families? Will the minister set the record straight?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

I have read the article which appeared in the *WA Police News*. It was astounding in its inaccuracy and misstatements about the true position. Police officers in this State are, if not the highest paid, among the highest paid in the nation

thanks to the enterprise bargaining agreement that was negotiated and signed in February last year, which gave a wage increase of 9 per cent in two and a half years. That is a 27.7 per cent increase since 1993. In addition to that, police officers in charge of a metropolitan police station get an extra payment of \$2 340 and country OIC's get more.

Since 1999, the Government has increased the death and total-permanent disability benefit by 172 per cent, from \$106 000 to \$288 000, for officers permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty. The Government has legislated to provide officers with civil liability protection. The Industrial Relations Amendment Bill, which I understand passed the Legislative Council either last night or this morning, ensures that officers have access to industrial regulations through the Public Service Arbitrator. Next year, through the Police Administration Bill, occupational health and safety coverage agreed only this week will become part and parcel of the system. Merit-based promotion has come in. A new process that has been in place since July 1998 gives officers legal representation before the commencement of a legal action, and the negotiation with the union on the section 8 removals process is nearly complete. Contrast that with the budgetary position under the previous Labor Party Government. The Government has spent almost \$3b on police. Twenty-seven new police stations, posts and district complexes have been built, and an academy and an operations centre are under construction. A new communications system is being implemented. All these things bring the Police Service really up to date. It is amongst the best in Australasia, and internationally regarded as such. All we have from the opposition spokesperson is misstatements and untruths pandering to a sectional interest that would like to think that the Government has done little for the police, when it has done an enormous amount.

When the present Government came to power, the McCarrey commission said that the state of police infrastructure was appalling. That has been turned around completely in recent years, notwithstanding the debt left by the previous Government. The Police Service is now far better equipped for the future, and the Opposition will be reminded of this repeatedly during the election campaign.

#### WAGES, FEMALE TO MALE RATIO

##### **393. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Women's Interests:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that since the election of a Liberal Party Government in 1993, the female to male pay ratio has dropped from 81 per cent to 77 per cent, compared with the national average of 84 per cent?
- (2) Will the minister explain why this downward trend is occurring?
- (3) Will the minister outline what specific action her department is taking to address this worrying gap between men's and women's wages?

##### **Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:**

- (1)-(3) Several weeks ago I pointed out in this Parliament that female employment in Western Australia is at its highest level since records have been kept. This has been positive for women. Women now have a choice of working full time or part time, or to not work at all, because out in the community there are now jobs for them, which were not there under the previous Labor Government. Since 1992, women's paid employment has grown by 32 per cent, representing 100 000 additional jobs. The unemployment rate for women in this State for the September quarter was the lowest ever recorded, down from 5.7 per cent to 4.7 per cent. The overall growth in women's employment has been stronger than the growth in male employment. Women's unemployment has declined steadily ever since the present Government was elected. The Women's Policy Development Office is now looking at the gender pay gap, which does exist in some areas. It must be remembered, however, that women are generally choosing to look after families or elderly people and take part-time employment, and this could skew the figures. The Women's Policy Development Office is also looking at the growth in self-employment and small business, which women are taking up at a greater rate than ever before. I met with a group of women the other day, who are very pleased that they can take up self-employment. The Women's Policy Development Office recognises the need to consider the mix of employment and family responsibilities, and to create new career opportunities.

#### WETLANDS, INCLUSION IN RAMSAR CONVENTION

##### **394. Mr MASTERS to the Minister for the Environment:**

What is the latest situation regarding the nomination of state wetlands for inclusion under the Ramsar Convention?

##### **Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

I am pleased to be able to advise the member and the House that the Government has nominated another three areas for listing under the Ramsar Convention - Bacher Point near Rockingham, Lake Warden near Esperance and the Muir-Byenup complex east of Manjimup. It has also nominated extensions to existing Ramsar sites, at the Ord River floodplain, the Peel-Yalgorup system, Toolibin Lake east of Narrogin, and the Vasse-Wonnerup system near Busselton. All these nominations have been handed to the Federal Government for processing, and this action will give Western Australia the largest number of Ramsar wetlands of all the States of Australia.

## DAMPIER TO BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, TRANSMISSION TARIFFS

**395. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) When will the gas access regulator make a decision on the transmission tariffs to apply on the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline.
- (2) Is the minister concerned about the potential impact of this \$500m decision on economic development in Perth and the south west, and on confidence in infrastructure investment in this State?
- (3) Why has the decision been delayed for so long?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

- (1)-(3) The gas access regulator is an independent person, so it is not up to me to dictate when he will make the decision. As the minister I am very keen that the decision be made as soon as possible. It had been anticipated that it would be made around October this year. That clearly has not happened. I expect he will come out with a draft decision, I hope before the end of the year. That draft will be released for discussion and a final decision made in the middle of next year. It is an important decision, but I remind members that when the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline was privatised, regulations were put in place that brought the tariff down from \$1.20 to \$1, setting a base of an effective 20 per cent reduction in tariffs. I do not think the delay will have a great impact on development. It is one pipeline, and the tariff applies to all pipeline users, but I hope that transmission prices will be as low as possible. The key to even lower prices is the development of higher gas volumes through the pipeline. The Government is keen to extend south west gas pipelines, and to get new power generation infrastructure in place. Like the member for Belmont, I would like to have the regulator make his decision. It is a complex decision and should be made properly, in full consultation with industry, which is what he is doing.

**PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE, DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT***Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): I am concerned about the practical use of this House's capacity to confer immunity from defamation in respect of documents originating outside the Parliament. Conferring absolute privilege on a document such as an official inquiry is an action taken in the face of a conflict between the public interest in knowing the result of official inquiries, and the public interest in ensuring that reputations are not unfairly traduced.

If a report is absolutely privileged, it may be distributed without fear of any action in the courts. While it is important that official inquiries report matters as they see them, it should be remembered that reputations can be easily damaged and difficult to restore, irrespective of the truth or otherwise of the original allegations. It may be said by some that time has moved on to the point where the public interest in knowing what is in reports is paramount over the rights of private individuals to take action if they are defamed. If that is so, I do not agree. The purpose of this statement is to urge other members to consider the issues, and to think carefully before voting to confer absolute privilege on any document. I will refer now to the general issues involved and then turn to a specific matter.

Tabling a document in the House does not confer any special status on that document, except that members may freely examine it without the member who tabled it, and thereby published it to the members of the House, being open to an action in the courts for having done so. Publication outside the Chamber of the contents of that document is a different matter.

In the 1839 case of *Stockdale v. Hansard*, the United Kingdom courts determined that at common law, it was no defence to an action for defamation that the House had ordered or authorised publication of defamatory material. Importantly, the court distinguished between things the House could publish for its own use, and other types of publications. Almost immediately, the United Kingdom Parliament passed the Parliamentary Papers Act 1840 to enable a House to confer protection from court action in respect of the publication of reports where the House has authorised the publication. The principal effect is to provide immunity from a defamation action. The 1840 UK Act is reflected in the Western Australian Parliamentary Papers Act 1891 and, to some extent, further publications of the information are protected in a limited way in Section 354 (2) of our Criminal Code.

We have inherited from the UK a procedure under which the Government, in order to confer immunity from defamation, where that immunity may not otherwise apply, moves a motion in the Legislative Assembly, "That the House authorises publication of the report". That motion brings the statutory protections into effect. That procedure was referred to in the 1999 report of the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege. At paragraph 347, the UK committee noted that the procedure is used on an average of two to three times a year. That paragraph includes these words, which I emphasise -

It is only used where the public interest in publishing the report outweighs the public interest in withholding the report because of the potential damage to individuals or companies.

In its next paragraph, the Privilege Committee report notes the importance of confining an absolute legal immunity afforded by parliamentary privilege to those areas that need the immunity if Parliament is to be effective. As Speaker, I share this concern and believe the House should be very cautious in agreeing to attach immunity to publication of reports it has not seen, and about which it knows little or nothing. Allowing defamation to occur without right of redress is a very serious course of action and this House should not undertake it lightly. It certainly should not undertake it in ignorance.

In 1991, the Legislative Assembly of Queensland produced the "Report on Privilege Attaching to Parliamentary Papers." Paragraph 6.3.7 on page 13 of that report reproduced part of the submission of Mr David McGee, the Clerk of the New Zealand House of Representatives, who wrote -

What carries no special protection is a report of the contents of a document that is simply tabled in the House. And why should it be? If it contained highly defamatory and prejudicial material this could be repeated with impunity by the simple expedient of its tabling. The House should not allow itself to be used in this way to give protection to defamatory material. Simply tabling a document (which no one has had the chance to examine in advance) does not make it the House's document and it is difficult to see why this should give it any special status. The position is different if the House makes an order in respect of the document for in that case the House makes the document its own document and lends it the House's prestige and authority. I believe that the House should be discriminating in doing this, taking care to do so only where this is warranted by the importance of the document. It should not indiscriminately confer protection on documents that come before it. They should stand or fall on their own merits.

I agree with these thoughts. The central question is: Should the House act to confer absolute privilege in relation to the publication of a document it has never seen and about which it knows next to nothing?

Section 353 of the Criminal Code provides protection in relation to reports and inquiries. Section 354(4) provides protection for publication of a fair report of any inquiry held under the authority of a statute or ordinance of the State provided it is published in good faith and for the information of the public. If the person who publishes that information to others is actuated by ill will or any other improper motive, the protection falls away. Without attempting to interpret the intricacies of the law, it seems to me that there has been an attempt to afford protection to publication of reports of official inquiries, subject to some quite proper limitations. If that is inadequate, perhaps legislation should be introduced to deal with the inadequacies.

It is proper that Parliament should confer protection to allow the publication of its own documents such as reports of committees, *Hansard* and the like, but it should be reluctant to blindly comply with the wish of Executive Government to confer immunity on publications from time to time without further inquiry. Members of Parliament should know whether any such publication warrants the special protection the House can confer.

If the Executive Government takes the view that in general the legal protection for the publication of official reports is insufficient, it should bring a Bill to this House and argue why the law should be changed. A House of Parliament should not be used as a regular vehicle to obtain protection for government documents unless the House is aware of the implications of its vote on the matter. At the very least, the House should require from anyone moving a motion to confer the protection of the House on any report, an explanation of why the motion is necessary, and, in the course of that explanation, expect an undertaking that appropriate processes were followed for inquiries which led to any potential defamatory statements, findings or recommendations contained in the report.

Turning now to the specific matter brought to my attention, I refer to the report of the inquiry into the conduct of Councillor Eoin Martin of the City of Stirling. I stress that I make no judgment about Councillor Martin's conduct. On 20 September this year, this report was tabled and the Minister for Local Government moved that the House authorise publication of the report. That motion was passed without explanation or debate. Of course, the minister was doing what his predecessors have done, and doubtless was acting on legal advice from within government. Thus the House has come to see this as almost a standard process.

I have been supplied with legal opinions which outline concerns about the processes involved in the investigations which culminated in the report. Again, I make no judgment about the legitimacy of those concerns. However, the fact that they exist is sufficient to move me to voice the disquiet I have harboured for some time. If this House does not ensure that its processes are used properly, then no-one else can.

I table an opinion from Morny De Kerloy, who has taken advice from Malcolm McCusker QC, and a report by Denis McLeod titled "The Legal and Personal Consequences of Local Government Investigation and Inquiry".

[See papers Nos 556A and B.]

The SPEAKER: Finally, the Assembly should encourage ministers and other members to bring issues of concern to the House. It is legitimate and desirable for the House to be a major avenue for informing not only members but also the public of Western Australia. That does not mean that reputations should be sullied without proper thought by us as members. Parliamentary privilege should not be available at the end of a rubber stamp.

I will forward a copy of this statement to the Premier, formally asking that the Executive review its approach to these matters. I have also asked the Clerk to draw this matter to the attention of my successor in the new Parliament.

### **BUNBURY CITY COUNCILLORS, PREMIER'S ALLEGATIONS**

#### *Standing Orders Suspension*

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.39 pm]: I move -

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to debate a motion calling on the Premier to withdraw false and misleading allegations against Bunbury City Councillors Margaret Lane and Tony Dean.

The Opposition has moved this motion today for two reasons. It would not normally move a motion like this, but I point out to the House two factors that I believe justify the suspension of standing orders to debate this issue. The first is that the Premier took it upon himself yesterday to launch an attack on two City of Bunbury councillors. Attacks like that are made from time to time in the Parliament, but when the Premier, with all the authority that goes with his office, makes such an attack, it is given a status that perhaps it would not normally have. Therefore, the first factor to take into account is that the Premier made this attack on those Bunbury city councillors. Indeed, it is interesting to note that the Premier of Western Australia, who has many important issues before him, such as the convention centre, the state of crime in our suburbs, and the fact that lawlessness has broken out in Ora Banda and the health system is falling apart, has taken it upon himself to get involved in this local issue in Bunbury and, as he indicated to the Parliament the other day, has spent a lot of his time reading the reports of the royal commission back in the 1990s. Obviously, he does not have enough to do if he is doing all those things, and the time has come to hand over the job to someone else who will address the issues that the people of Western Australia think are important. That is the first point the Opposition makes.

The second point is that under our standing orders, there is no chance for these councillors to respond. The Leader of the House should understand that this is a very important point. This is the last sitting day of the Parliament. Under our standing orders, as a result of an initiative by the Opposition - indeed, an initiative I took following an examination of procedures in the New South Wales Parliament - when allegations are made against people outside this Parliament, those people can make a request to respond to what is said about them inside the Parliament. That would be the normal course to follow on an issue like this. However, unfortunately, this is the last day that the Parliament is sitting, and Councillors Dean and Lane will not have the opportunity to respond to the attack made upon them by the Premier yesterday under parliamentary privilege.

The issues that the Opposition is raising are important. They go to the heart of the use of parliamentary privilege. Also, those attacks have not been made at a time that would allow the councillors to respond in the normal way under the standing orders. That is the case I put to the Leader of the House. I request that he give serious consideration to the Opposition's motion today.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [2.53 pm]: Obviously the Government is not excited by the prospect of debate ranging onto another issue, when we are trying to conclude a number of items on this last day of sitting. However, the Leader of the Opposition has put his case for the suspension of standing orders. I understand some issues relating to those two Bunbury city councillors were raised in this Parliament last night, and I guess a case could be put that as those issues have been raised, they should be dealt with one way or the other. In a more pragmatic sense, I recognise that if the Government does not agree to some form of suspension, we will have a debate about this in any case, and it will probably go on for a greater length of time. Therefore, on the understanding that the debate is confined to one hour, with roughly equal time for both sides, the Government will agree, somewhat reluctantly, to the suspension of standing orders.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

#### *Motion*

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.55 pm]: I move -

That this House calls on the Premier to withdraw his false and misleading allegations against Bunbury City Councillors Margaret Lane and Tony Dean.

In moving this motion, I will comment on the Premier's contribution to the debate that is leading us into the election campaign, which will occur early next year. It is very interesting that not long ago the Premier said that he wanted to be part of a positive and clean campaign for the next election. He wanted the focus to be on the issues at hand that are important for the people of Western Australia. Since then, we have seen an extraordinary performance from the Premier. It is as if he made those comments and immediately after he totally and utterly contradicted them in his own behaviour, his own comments, his own priorities and his own approach to political debate in Western Australia today. First of all, there was the extraordinary contribution of the Premier to the debate about where One Nation would finish up on how-to-vote cards in the election campaign. The Premier legitimised One Nation by saying it had changed and he would not rule out a preference deal with One Nation in particular seats throughout Western Australia. That has certainly demeaned the Premier and his office. It sent out a terrible message to our migrant community and to the many people in our society who are committed to multiculturalism and building harmony in our community. There is no

doubt that the Premier was showing signs of being rattled, and there is no doubt that the Liberal Party is considering a deal with One Nation in particular seats throughout Western Australia.

Since that time, we have also witnessed the Premier's attacks on the Labor Party. These have been extraordinary attacks, to the point that the Premier compared the Labor Party with One Nation and said that the Labor Party would probably go to the bottom of all the Liberal Party how-to-vote cards. Clearly, a strategy has been developed by the Government to try to demonise the Australian Labor Party. The Government has determined that one of the best ways that might be available to it to win this election is to not have any debate on the issues that matter to the people, such as health, education, crime, the future of Western Australia and how Government will be conducted in the twenty-first century, but, instead, shift all the debate on to the Labor Party - shift all the debate to some extent into the past, rather than deal with the present and the future. These attacks have intensified in recent days, and the Premier has argued, in effect, that the Australian Labor Party does not have a legitimate place in our political system.

The reason that the Premier has intensified those attacks on the Labor Party is that his ministers have been caught out in the conduct of their duties. I make it absolutely clear that the Opposition brought into this Parliament issues that were based upon fact and issues that were of public interest. The debate we had about the Minister for Fair Trading was a legitimate public interest issue about his performance as a minister. The debate we had about the performance of the Minister for Primary Industry was a legitimate public interest issue that the Opposition brought into this Parliament. The debate we had about the response of the Minister for Local Government to his land-clearing program outside his property was a perfectly legitimate debate. The debate the Opposition initiated about the shares in Wesfarmers Ltd that the Minister for Transport and the Attorney General had, or had transferred to their spouses, was a perfectly legitimate debate, which was introduced on the basis of what was apparently a code of conduct within this Government.

As the member for Armadale eloquently argued yesterday, that has been dropped by the Government in recent days.

All of this was legitimate debate that required an objective response from the Premier. However, this Premier is incapable of dealing with the issues being put to him. Rather than deal with the issues, he tries to deflect attention to other concerns. The other concern that most dominates the Premier's mind is his obsession with the Labor Party. We have suffered a torrent of abuse about the Labor Party because he is incapable of providing proper answers to legitimate questions. We have seen this tactic before. The Premier redefines the question in his own terms and answers his version of it rather than the version being asked by commentators, the media or the Opposition. His second tactic is not to answer the question but to abuse the Labor Party.

The impression the Premier is giving to the people of Western Australia is appalling. His behaviour suggests that he is not busy enough concerning himself with crime, health, education and the future of our society. He will use all the time available to him reading royal commission reports, learning what Labor Party candidates are doing in marginal seats in country areas and working out lines to use to attack it. What an image! Our State is facing many important issues, but this Premier simply wants to talk about the past and the Labor Party and attempt to demonise it in the lead-up to the election. As I keep saying, no-one is listening.

The Premier's behaviour displays desperation rather than consideration. He has nothing positive to say about anything. We witness pettiness rather than substantiveness. This is a very poor reflection on him. It is a sign of the uncertainty and insecurity that he is suffering in his current position. It is also a sign of his lack of confidence in his Government and its performance on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

I now refer to the issue of Bunbury City Councillors Lane and Dean. Yesterday this Premier made the very serious allegation that they are not conducting themselves in a manner that befits councillors. Normally we would expect Councillors Lane and Dean to respond using the standing orders of this Parliament; in other words, they would come to the Parliament with a response and have it incorporated in *Hansard*. I am sure they would like to avail themselves of that opportunity. However, they cannot because this is the last sitting day of this Parliament. Members on this side believe it is important to have the Premier's slur on these people placed on the record.

These councillors are good people and they serve the Bunbury community. Of course, Margaret Lane was the Telstra Small Business Woman of the Year, and the Labor Party is delighted that she has agreed to be its candidate for the electorate of Mitchell. Tony Dean is a very well respected councillor and teacher in that area. Both councillors have gone about their duties in this instance in a way that cannot be questioned.

This issue has arisen out of the upgrade of the Bunbury recreation centre. Both councillors, being actively concerned and involved in their community, are very keen to see that project up and running. I am sure members on both sides of the House agree that it is a great project and that it should be completed. I have swum a couple of times in the Bunbury pool, and I think everyone would agree that it needs upgrading.

Margaret Lane was involved in a committee examining community ideas about how that upgrade should be carried out. That is appropriate given her role as a councillor who is keen to ensure that the facilities in her region are properly developed and meet the standards required by a modern community. Her quality and integrity can be demonstrated by the fact that she declared an interest in June, when it was clear that her husband would be seeking work on this project as a subcontractor. It is important to note that he had not sought work at that time; indeed, it was not until August that

the winning tenderer called for subcontractors. Margaret Lane did not participate in the council meetings when tender details and specifications were discussed and when tenderers were considered and a choice made. At no time did she participate in a council discussion that involved a conflict of interest. She did support the project as a priority for her council and helped develop the concept, as she should have done as a local councillor. It is interesting that when she declared her interest and withdrew from council discussions, some argued that she was premature in doing so. She was committed to proper process, so she withdrew from council considerations.

As the member for Armadale said, we should compare that with the actions of government ministers. If ministers of this Government have a shareholding in a company whose interests are being affected by government decision making, they are not required to withdraw from the process. That is the standard set by this Premier. He has said also that, if a minister's spouse has an interest, he or she is not required to declare that. The Commission on Government made it clear that in both cases there was an appropriate course of action to follow. This Government has not followed that course.

Councillor Margaret Lane was keen to ensure that her participation in council activity was in accord with proper process. When it became clear that her husband would participate in a -

Mr Court: It is her company, too. Don't say "her husband".

Dr GALLOP: I do not know what the Premier is trying to get at.

Mr Court: Don't twist the story.

Dr GALLOP: We are not twisting anything.

Unlike ministers of this Government, Margaret Lane declared her interest and withdrew. The Premier came into this Parliament yesterday and made many allegations about her and Tony Dean. The Premier said that she participated in the committee that developed the specifications for this project.

Mr Court: That is right.

Dr GALLOP: That is wrong. She worked on a committee that took submissions from the public about what they would like included in the project, as she should have done as a councillor. The Premier said also that she had a major interest in a company that had submitted an expression of interest. That is wrong; she had no such interest in any of the companies that lodged expressions of interest. The Premier also claimed that she was a member of an assessment panel that designed the brief for the sports centre. Wrong again! She was not on that panel.

We have seen the Premier attempt to muddy the reputation of a very good councillor, who just happens to be the Labor candidate for the electorate of Mitchell. The Mayor of Bunbury - a man of great integrity and a person who sets very high standards for local government - is astounded by the accusations that have been made in this Parliament. He feels that the Premier's claims constitute a poor reflection on his council. He believes Margaret Lane has behaved appropriately in declaring all her interests.

In fact, he made the point that she even wrote to the chief executive officer asking him not to send her written material because she had an interest in the issue. She acted completely aboveboard on the issue. This is the concern of the Government on one side, and the approach of the Government on the other. It is a very bad reflection on the Premier.

Let us turn to Councillor Tony Dean. The Premier claimed in this Parliament that Councillor Dean had an interest. The Premier's claim that he had an interest in this matter because he was a fellow Labor candidate who shared a campaign office with Margaret Lane is laughable. By the Premier's logic, he and every member of his Cabinet should have declared an interest when the Westrail privatisation was being considered, on the ground that three ministers had a financial interest in Wesfarmers.

It is an absolutely ludicrous argument that the Premier introduced into this Parliament to blacken the reputation of a Labor candidate in that area. The members for Bunbury and Mitchell should be ashamed of themselves for taking this issue to the Premier. The Premier should be ashamed of himself for bringing it into the Parliament. Tony Dean was appointed to that tender assessment panel because he has been involved in junior sport in Bunbury for many years. Along with him on that panel were five council officers and a probity auditor. There is no case against those councillors. At no time in the council's decision-making processes on this matter did Margaret Lane or Tony Dean have a conflict of interest.

I now turn to the irony of this issue. The first aspect of the irony is the letter written to the council from Broad Construction Services Pty Ltd, one of the tenderers, which states -

I would like to thank you and Council for opportunity to tender for this project.

Although we did not win the contract, we wish to commend you on a fair and just selection process.

I thank you again for the proper processes employed under your guidance and leadership by the City of Bunbury.

The other irony is that the Lane company may or may not get the work through the successful tenderer. We have a drowning man, flailing around for anything that will keep him afloat. His Bunbury colleagues threw him what he thought was a lifeline; instead it was a dead weight. He has demeaned his office by bringing this issue into the Parliament, and he has taken Western Australian politics to a real low.

I conclude by saying that the Premier knows in his heart of hearts that he has done the wrong thing on this issue. However, he is so desperate that he is now prepared to do anything. We do not have a Premier of Western Australia any more; we have a crude and unprincipled head kicker for the Liberal Party.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.13 pm]: Why was this attack made on Margaret Lane and Tony Dean? This attack was made on them because government ministers have been under attack for arrogantly disregarding conflict of interest rules. This attack was an attempt to muddy the waters, because the Government has been under pressure on the issue of conflict of interest. This attack was to devalue the currency of conflict of interest issues. This attack was made because the Premier, in defending the crumbling reputation of his Government, decided to come into this House and defame an innocent woman. It was a desperate response from a cynical man. I listened to his comments yesterday, and I regard his analysis of the events as vague and confused.

However, on examining the transcript, I note that the Premier alleged that Councillor Lane sat on a tender assessment panel or a committee determining the specifications for the project while she had a conflict of interest. There are two elements to that allegation: The first is the committee on which Councillor Lane sat, and the second is the conflict of interest. Both elements of the Premier's allegation are wrong. The committee of which she was a member was not a committee determining the specifications of the project. That committee was not assessing the tenders. The committee was the south west sports centre redevelopment committee. Its task was to consult with the community and to develop options to be included in the project. It was not a committee determining the specifications for the project; that came later. It was not a tender assessment panel; that, too, came later. That element of the Premier's allegation is wrong.

What about the second element of interest? That part of the allegation is also wrong. There was no interest before Margaret Lane made her declaration. In fact, there was no interest even at the time Margaret Lane made her declaration. Margaret Lane made the declaration because she knew the council was moving from the options development stage to the stage at which it would be making decisions on the shape of the project and into a new phase of development. She had a second reason for making the declaration when she did. Other plumbing firms outside Bunbury might have been able to do the work, but she knew that hers was the only plumbing firm in Bunbury that could do the work. At that stage her firm had no arrangement at all with any of the proponents who submitted an expression of interest for the project. She was making a judgment that her firm, as the only plumbing firm in town capable of doing the work, might be involved in the project.

Dr Gallop: She did the right thing.

Mr RIPPER: What she did was very honourable. She foreshadowed that there might be a conflict of interest and, as the council was moving into a decision-making stage, she declared an interest and withdrew from the decision making. She made that declaration on 20 June. It was not until early August that one of the proponents asked her family firm to tender as a subcontractor for its participation in the project should it win the tender. She declared on 20 June, and her firm was asked to subcontract - possibly, in early August. She has behaved impeccably. She anticipated a possible conflict of interest arising and she withdrew from the process.

I compare her actions with those of the Minister for Transport. He anticipated a conflict of interest, but what did he do about it? He stayed in the process. The outcome of his anticipation of a conflict of interest was that he disposed of his shares to his wife. He tried to hide and fudge the conflict of interest, and he stayed in the process; whereas Margaret Lane, the innocent woman whom the Premier has defamed because his reputation and that of his Government is crumbling, anticipated a conflict of interest and withdrew before a conflict of interest arose and before she was involved in any decision making.

How did the Premier come by the misleading information that he has put before the House? This House needs to know whether the member for Bunbury and the member for Mitchell were involved in this grubby exercise. If those members share the desperation of the Premier about the crumbling reputation of the Government, did they scurry up from Bunbury with a false story which they thought they could sell to the Premier and get him to bring into this House? There is nothing to this story. Margaret Lane anticipated the conflict of interest and withdrew before the decision-making stage - before any interest was involved. The Leader of the Opposition quoted the mayor's reaction. Other people in the council also advised Margaret Lane, at the time, that she had taken unnecessary action.

The Premier has taken a laughable approach with his suggestion of a conflict of interest with Tony Dean. If this laughable argument were applied to his own Cabinet, no cabinet member could have discussed the Kingstream Steel Ltd project because of their association with the Premier and his association with Ken Court. Under the Premier's absurd definition, all the cabinet ministers had a conflict of interest. This shows that the Government does not understand the concept of a conflict of interest and government members do not know what it means. They cannot

apply it to themselves, they cannot implement it effectively in Cabinet and, when they apply it to other people, it does not exist.

The Government has always had a blind spot on conflict of interest. It has always handled the issue badly. The Government has handled the issue badly with the Cabinet and with the Premier's accusations against Margaret Lane and Tony Dean. This Government has gone so far as to amend its own code of conduct to make things easier for ministers. The Premier has engaged in a grubby attack. He is wrong. He is desperate, and he has gone to the length of defaming an innocent woman. He should withdraw now and restore at least a shred of dignity to his office.

**MR COURT** (Nedlands - Premier) [3.23 pm]: I cannot believe the Labor Party would bring forward this motion on the last day of this Parliament. I love an opportunity to get up and talk about accountability, and to outline what has happened in this case. Both the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition got up and told the same story. They obviously received the same briefing from the same people. I will go through the details. A council meeting was held on 28 March, during which a confidential briefing was given. Councillors Lane and Dean were present at that briefing. At that meeting, Margaret Lane did not declare a financial interest, even though it was disclosed that Perkins Brothers Builders had put in an expression of interest. The Opposition has only been told half the story, so I can understand why it has been silly enough to raise this matter today. The agenda for a confidential briefing outlined the consortiums that had submitted an expression of interest. It reads -

- Consortium 1: Bovis Land Lease, Donovan Payne Architects, Oceanis International and Omni Leisure Operations.
- Consortium 2: Perkins Bros. Builders, Consolidated Constructions, Peter Hunt Architect and Leisure Australia.
- Consortium 3: Broad Construction Services Pty Ltd, Bollig Design Group, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey (GHD), W T Partnerships and Robert McPhail Leisure Management (Aust) Pty Ltd.
- Consortium 4: Doric; Woodhead International; BDH (Architects); Prior & Cheney, Geoff Ninnes, David Powick (Aquatic Engineers); Pritchard Francis, Connell Wagner Stevenson & Associates, Wright McKay & Associates, Hydraulics Design Aust., Davis Langdon & Silver, YMCA of Perth.

The Opposition said that after the process had been completed and the consortium of Perkins Brothers was chosen, Broad Construction wrote and said it was a fair and just process. I wonder if it will write the same letter when all the information comes out. The agenda for the council's meeting reads -

The specifications and conditions contained within the Tender documentation has drawn upon the expertise and knowledge of a number of interested parties and in particular, the members of the South West Sports Centre Redevelopment Committee.

The Opposition has tried to say that the committee's task was to consult. It has been working on a community project. Councillors Lane and Dean were members of that committee. At the time of the meeting it was common knowledge that Lamac Plumbing and Drainage (WA) Pty Ltd was a key contractor of Perkins Brothers -who are good builders - on a number of construction projects in that electorate, which included the Carey Park Primary School and the Glenhuon Primary School.

Dr Gallop: They are different projects.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition said that there was no association between the two businesses; however, at that time, they were involved in the construction of Carey Park Primary School, Glenhuon Primary School and the new aquatic centre in Australind. The opposition leader should not stand up in this House and say that there was no association. He keeps saying, "her husband's company." He knows only too well the structure under which Lamac operates.

Mr Ripper: Pathetic.

Mr COURT: Pathetic is it? It is interesting that Perkins Consolidated Joint Venture used Lamac on those major jobs and that it was the exclusive subcontractor on this project.

Dr Gallop: The point is that you do not have enough time to do a proper job.

Mr COURT: I am sorry, the Leader of the Opposition has all the documentation and knows exactly what has taken place. It is a simple exercise. The Leader of the Opposition knows that on 3 July, Councillor Dean was appointed to represent the council on the tender submission assessment panel, which selected the Perkins tender, of which Lamac was a part. The Opposition said that there was no association. The Opposition knows only too well that when that confidential briefing was provided, Lamac was the exclusive subcontractor to Perkins on a series of jobs. The tender documentation drew heavily on the advice of the South West Sports Centre Redevelopment Committee, of which those two councillors were members. Do members of the Opposition not think that there was a somewhat close association between those two councillors? They both prepared the documentation. They are both running for Parliament. They

share an office and one of them was appointed to the panel that makes the assessment. I would have thought that was a very close association. I would have thought the appropriate time to declare a conflict of interest and to pull out would be at the confidential briefing on the contract, for which the councillor is a major subcontractor. It is a very simple, clear-cut exercise. If the Labor Party wants to talk about accountability, this is a very simple exercise for it to work on. The Labor Party is trying to rebuild its accountability credentials after its 10 years of disasters.

It is interesting that Labor Party members come into the Parliament week after week and do not mind raising a series of issues which, in most cases, they are not able to back up with facts. We have a clear-cut case of a conflict of interest, and all the Labor Party does is defend the person. The matter has been referred to the Department of Local Government. I ask the Leader of the Opposition whether he is prepared to accept its decision on this matter?

Dr Gallop: The Labor Party will wait and see what the department has to say before it makes a decision.

Mr COURT: I bet it will! I thought that is what the member would say.

Dr Gallop: Has the Premier not heard of due process?

Mr COURT: I knew what the member's answer would be. The facts are tabled for everybody to see. The Labor Party keeps talking about this innocent woman - its candidate - but her husband is getting the contracting job. The Labor Party should tell it straight! It is Councillor Lane's and her husband's company that is getting the job. The Labor Party should not try to pass the buck. It should not try to give the impression that it was a little community consultation committee when it knows only too well that when the expressions of interest were gone through at the meeting the committee had a vital role in establishing the tender documentation.

Mr Ripper: The Premier said yesterday that her firm was part of the consortium. The member has just read out the names of the consortium and her firm is not mentioned.

Mr COURT: The member missed out the other part, which states -

Our submission is inclusive of the services of the following Bunbury based major subcontractors -

Several members interjected.

Mr COURT: The member was obviously not listening. This is his trouble. He has been briefed, but given only half the story. The submission states -

Our submission is inclusive of the services of the following Bunbury based major subcontractors, which are exclusive to Perkins Consolidated Joint Venture.

Battle Earthmoving and Paving Contractors

ACR and S Dye Ceiling Contractors

Hough Cabinets

Horn's Painting Service

Lamac Plumbing and Drainage

Direct Engineering Services

Nilsen Electric

The Leader of the Opposition said there is still no guarantee that they will get the plumbing job.

Dr Gallop: There is no contract.

Mr COURT: I have just read it out. It has been given to Perkins Consolidated. Nothing has changed in 10 years! The Opposition is trying to rebuild its accountability credentials, but it is defending the indefensible.

Dr Gallop: Her company withdrew.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition said there was no guarantee that Lamac Plumbing and Drainage would be the contractors for the job. I will read out the submission again. It states -

Our submission is inclusive of the services of the following Bunbury based subcontractors, which are exclusive to Perkins Consolidated Joint Venture.

One of those is Lamac Plumbing and Drainage. The Opposition has not done its homework.

Mr Ripper: What is the date of that document?

Mr COURT: I do not have a date for the document.

Mr Ripper: There is no date!

Several members interjected.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Bloffwitch): Order, members! There is far too much interjection. The next member who interjects will be called formally to order.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition says that the company does not have the job and will not necessarily be the subcontractor. I have just said that the tender has been let to Perkins Consolidated and that company has made it clear that its plumber is Lamac Plumbing and Drainage.

Mr Ripper: The Premier cannot say when that was.

Mr COURT: It is current.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr COURT: The member for Armadale has not been briefed. Only two members opposite have been briefed.

I want to make a comment about the member for Armadale. The Labor Party has developed a campaign strategy for the coming election. It has an A team and a Z team. The A team comprises six members who will speak on the positive things for the Labor Party, and has two head kickers who will throw the mud during the campaign. That totals eight members. The Z team is the balance of opposition members. That is John Halden's strategy. The member for Armadale has been excluded from the A team.

Ms MacTiernan: I am on the special projects team!

Mr COURT: I have been told about the A team, the Z team and the mudslingers but I have not been told about the special projects team.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr COURT: That is the John Halden strategy for the next campaign. During the campaign, the Z team will not be interjecting like that. Only the A team will make the comments. This is a simple accountability issue. The heat is on the Leader of the Opposition. He has decided to defend those ALP candidates at any price. It will be interesting to see what the end result is.

*Point of Order*

Mr KOBELKE: Will the Premier table the documents he quoted from?

Mr COURT: I will table the documents I have used.

*Debate Resumed*

Mr COURT: While I am on my feet, I will quote from a document that I did not quote previously. The City of Bunbury "Code of Conduct Principles" states -

An Elected Member or Employee is to declare an interest affecting impartiality or interests of a non-financial nature that they may have that could be perceived as likely to affect the judgement of that person to act impartially. (Examples of items affecting impartiality include matters before meetings for family, friends and associates, but not necessarily financially related.)

It has been spelt out clearly.

[See papers Nos 549A and B.]

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [3.42 pm]: No wonder we have problems in the State of Western Australia today when the Premier can devote his time and the resources of his office to issues such as this. It is truly pathetic that the Premier of Western Australia should give the authority, time and resources of his office to this issue. A councillor of the City of Bunbury withdrew from the decision-making process because she had an interest. Unlike ministers in the Premier's Government, she acted completely aboveboard. Members of this Government are so desperate and concerned about the two members in Mitchell and Bunbury that they have tried to impugn the reputations of two servants of the public in the Bunbury area.

It is truly pathetic that the State of Western Australia is currently being run by a Premier who cannot respond objectively to the questions put to him about his own ministers. The Premier cannot address any issue that comes his way without attacking and attempting to demonise the Australian Labor Party. The Premier will not allow the seat of Bunbury to be contested fairly and squarely without using the privileges of Parliament to try to impugn the reputations of two councillors. It is a pathetic state of affairs in Western Australia to have such a Premier. The only way to solve that problem is to give the people of Western Australia a chance to vote on this Premier and this Government to bring about a change, so that we can get good government in Western Australia for the twenty-first century.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

## Ayes (18)

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

## Noes (25)

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

## Pairs

Mr Grill	Mr Day
Mr Bridge	Dr Hames

Question thus negatived.

**PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE***Report on Person referred to in the Legislative Assembly*

**MR BLOFFWITCH** (Geraldton) [3.46 pm]: I have for presentation the Procedure and Privileges Committee report on a person referred to in the Legislative Assembly. I move -

That the report be adopted.

The report is as follows -

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly referred to the Procedure and Privileges Committee a letter from Mr Gervase Purich seeking to use Standing Order 114 to respond to statements made on 17 October 2000 by Ms A J MacTiernan MLA.

The Committee has agreed to the attached response proposed by Mr Purich.

In accordance with Standing Order 114 the Committee has not considered or judged the truth of any statements made in the Legislative Assembly or in the submission.

**Recommendation**

Your Committee recommends -

That a response by Mr Purich in the terms specified in the Appendix to this report, be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 557.]

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The response reads as follows -

Response by Mr Gervase Purich

Agreed to by Mr Purich and the Procedure and Privileges Committee

pursuant to Standing Order 114

In reply to statements made by the Member for Armadale, Ms Alannah Joan Geraldine MacTiernan, during the second reading of the Building Legislation Amendment Bill 2000, on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2000, about myself, Gervase Purich, I reject outright the claims made.

The contrary is true. I perform a lot of work for project building companies, and have done so for the last 20 years. Builders use my services, because I provide cost effective, practical design solutions which do not cost an "arm and a leg" both to the builder and in turn, the homeowner.

Providing cost effective and practical design does have a long term benefit to the community, as it makes housing more affordable.

If inquiries were made with my clients, they would reveal that on numerous occasions when problems arise with buildings, we give advice to the builder on why he is wrong, and what is required to fix it. Unfortunately, there is no platform to air these cases as the problems are resolved to everyone's satisfaction and everyone gets on with their lives.

Not only do I reject outright, and take issue with the assertion that I invariably find there is no problem with the home, but I am extremely confident that my clients would do likewise. Structerre Consulting Engineers could not have survived for 20 years as it has if they were not objective and honest in their dealings.

The fact is that in Building Disputes hearings, and for that matter any court hearing, there are always experts on both sides presenting their viewpoint.

This is especially so in engineering which is a science-based art, not a pure science. The fact that there is a difference of opinion does not imply that one is not impartial.

The information about concerns raised about my impartiality is substantially flawed. I, and people like myself have, through our endeavour and diffusion of clients, caused the cost of housing to become more affordable. Due to the competitive nature of the industry, those savings are subsequently passed on to the consumer.

Should a person be concerned about the performance of an Engineer, there are means by which a complaint can be lodged with the Institution of Engineers and action or sanctions of substance can be applied. This only transpires if there is substance to the allegations. If not, they are thrown out.

GERVASE PURICH

### **BILLS - RETURNED**

Criminal Property Confiscation Bill 2000.

Criminal Property Confiscation (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2000.

Trustee Legislation (GST Consequential Amendments) Bill 2000.

Wood Processing (WESFI) Agreement Bill 2000.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

#### *Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the further amendments made by the Assembly to the Council's amendment No 2.

### **MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - VALEDICTORY SPEECHES**

#### *Motion*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR MINSON (Greenough) [3.49 pm]: Before I moved to adjourn earlier today, I was referring to the way that, in my opinion, we had begun to tear down the leaders in our society to such an extent that we were about to reap a whirlwind. In my view that has already started.

Young people, particularly those under 25 years of age, do not have the respect for this place and its members that I had when I was a young man. I regret that, and I do not believe it has anything to do with the quality of the people in this place, nor do I think that members in the past were that much better. The media have now become so invasive and cynical that they have lost sight of the fact that people who are elected to this place do not have special qualities - they are ordinary people who for the most part do their best. Although the media expect some sort of superhuman performance, that is unlikely to occur. It is time for the media to try to deal with members of Parliament and the operations of Parliament in a more balanced way. There is a glimmer of hope, which was pointed out to me by the member for South Perth. He found that, while people will say that members of Parliament in general are ratbags and that the process is no good, they always seem to have respect for their local member. Since the member for South Perth said that to me, I have noticed it myself. People will refer to various members of Parliament in disparaging terms, but approve of their local member. That is a glimmer of hope. Unfortunately we are now at the point at which the destructive cycle has begun, and I am desperately worried that it is about to become self-perpetuating. Members of Parliament must do the best they can, but they will not be able to turn the situation around unless they have some sort of balanced cooperation from the mass media. If we continue to tear down our leaders in the way that we have, we will reap the whirlwind.

I am proud of the things I have been associated with in my time in Parliament. I like especially to look back on my contribution as Minister for Disability Services. Disability services have been evolving in Western Australia for some time. They probably began, in the modern sense, in the early 1950s, with the formation of the Slow Learning Children's Group. Various organisations have sprung from that group, and some have amalgamated. When I became minister, it was represented to me that it was time the field came together under a single unifying force, and to take

control of itself. The Government formed the Disability Services Commission. Many felt that body would not achieve its aim, that those with physical problems would suffer in some way, or would dominate, and those with developmental and learning problems would similarly either be ignored or take over. I like to think that the Disability Services Commission has been a success. The board has always been balanced, and I trust it will continue to be so. I look upon that period, and the formation of the Disability Services Commission, with some satisfaction. The problems certainly have not all been solved. With disability services, the more help that is put on the table, along with dollars, so the need increases, almost exponentially. That is what happened when the five-year plan was produced. We found the need was much greater than we thought, and the current minister has produced another five-year plan, which has brought more people out of the woodwork.

Mr Omodei: It is a great credit to the member for Greenough that the five-year business plan was developed when he was Minister for Disability Services.

Mr MINSON: I thank the member for Warren-Blackwood for that remark, but he knows as well as I do that I asked for the five-year plan because I could not get all the money in one lump! We had to have the money. A lot of other people were involved in developing that plan. To that end I thank Ray Young and Barry MacKinnon for their work. The use of local area coordinators in rural areas across the State has helped enormously to extend services to non-metropolitan areas. That is something in which I am very pleased to have been instrumental. A lot of people with a lot of knowledge have committed their lives to this area. They are the people with the ideas, and who work up the programs. Nevertheless, I recall with some satisfaction that I listened to them and took their requests to Cabinet. Similarly, the post-school options program, while very expensive, is necessary.

Before I left the Ministry of Justice, I started a program of restorative justice. The early fruit of that was the system of mobile work camps, which I started to work up as a policy in conjunction with Hon Peter Foss. It is a pity that so many people run private agendas on environment issues. It is an area that affects us all, but never have so many people told so many fibs to one minister. Since this is a valedictory speech, the less I say about that area and some of the people involved in it, the better.

Outside of the parliamentary sphere, but touching on it, I look back with some satisfaction at helping a few people form the parliamentary prayer group. This led to the Governor's prayer breakfast, which now has attendances of 500 to 600 people, and has become a significant event in the Western Australian calendar.

I will make some general comments about this Parliament. I say with some regret, that when I sit in here I often wonder what percentage of what is said in here is really for the benefit of Western Australia. The challenge is before us to try to raise the standard. Earlier it was said that the state of this House is such that it should be rebuilt. When it is rebuilt, I would like to see the structure of the Chamber completely changed. I once visited the Iowa Legislature, in Des Moines. In that Chamber, the seats faced the Chair, and members who wish to speak must walk out to the Table and address the assembly. The arrangement in this Chamber is silly. It is extremely adversarial - it cannot be anything else - and if any improvement in parliamentary behaviour is to occur, with speeches delivered without excessive interjection, the physical structure of the Parliament must be altered, as well as the standing orders.

I do not leave the Parliament with any regrets whatsoever. I have enjoyed my time here. In particular, I value the friendships I have made here. If we were truthful we would say that we make many acquaintances here, but not a lot of friends. I will keep in touch with a number of people here, and I value those friendships very much. I look back on the opportunity to serve in this Parliament with great fondness, and I thank members.

The honour that is bestowed upon a person chosen to represent people in the supreme Legislature of the State should never be underestimated. That is why it is such a shame that the standing of this place has become diminished of late. I look forward to future years, when perhaps we can see a change in that.

One of the things that I will not miss too much is question time. We had a pretty good example of that today. I will not particularly miss party meetings on Tuesday morning, although I know that people on both sides of the Chamber cannot understand why I hold that view. I will look forward to a more predictable life. Perhaps my hours will return to what they used to be, when I could go to bed and get up with the chooks, instead of going to bed at odd hours and getting up somewhere between 4.00 am and 7.00 am.

I promise that I will not become a member of "the older I get the better I was club". Some people come to this place at certain times for meals. As a new member I was asked to join them for lunch - no names! When I joined them for lunch I thought those guys must have been fantastic in their day, because I heard about all the things that they did. I then read some of their speeches in *Hansard*. I could not find any reference to one of those people, who was supposed to have done all these things, for a year. I labelled them after a bumper sticker that I read in Subiaco one day: The older I get the better I was. I undertake to the House that I will never become a member of that club.

I want to give thanks to all of the people who have worked with me over the years, particularly Kaye Marsh who was my electorate secretary for six or seven years and was the electorate secretary for Reg Tubby for about eight years before that. Following her, Margaret Rowe has been my electorate secretary. Having two electorate secretaries in 12 years indicates that I had two excellent people. I thank them for their dedication.

Like other members, I particularly want to thank my family - my wife Marg, and my children Judy, Suzy, Scott and Ben. Our families always bear the brunt of politics when it gets tough.

I thank the people of Greenough, because without their support I would not be here. I also thank the Liberal Party. I am conscious of the fact that, while one might disagree with some things that happen within a party, which is inevitable, I would not be afforded the privilege of being here had it not given me its patronage. People who belong to parties and arrived here through a party machine will concede that fact.

I thank those people who worked with me when I was a minister, in particular my principal private secretaries. Of all the people in the public sector, they probably work the hardest. Being a minister's principal private secretary or chief executive, as they are now known, means they are considered to be tainted, and when there is a change of government they have to go somewhere else in the Public Service. Those people make a sacrifice.

I did intend to do four terms here, which would have been 16 years. However, I had to be honest with myself and say that there was no point in staying. I have lost that fire in the belly, and it is time for someone else to occupy the seat of Greenough. I have enjoyed my time here. It has been a great privilege, and I wish everyone the best of luck.

[Applause.]

**MS WARNOCK** (Perth) [4.04 pm]: I take this final opportunity in this place today to make some remarks about my time here, and about the fact that those eight years have been in opposition. Necessarily, because those years have been in opposition, my perspective is somewhat different from those who have had the opportunity to be in government.

I recently re-read my first speech. I have a fair few copies left if members would like me to send them one! I re-read the rather inappropriately named "maiden speech" - in my case certainly - just to see whether I had managed to achieve any of the aims that I set myself in 1993. As I said, my career in politics has been somewhat coloured by the fact that it has all been in opposition. However, when I look at those aims: To vigorously represent the people in the Perth electorate; to support the advancement of the rights of women and minorities; to fight racism and all forms of discrimination; and to foster the lively development of the inner city of Perth, among other things, I see that I at least spent a lot of time and energy on those issues.

Mr Trenorden: You got a tick on all four.

Ms WARNOCK: I thank the member for Avon; I appreciate that. I hope I can be here for the member's final speech, so I can do the same thing.

Mr Trenorden: You made me an honorary feminist.

Ms Warnock: I did, absolutely. "Real men do eat quiche", and I want the member for Avon to remember that!

I spoke often about racism and the republic, about the status and rights of women and the gay and lesbian community, about affordable housing for the homeless, about crime and safety in the city, about the condition of the older schools in the Perth electorate, and about the problems of those Northbridge and near-city residents and businesses affected by the tunnel construction. I spoke enthusiastically about City Farm and preserving old-growth forests, and about the Labor Government-instigated East Perth redevelopment - just to remind members opposite about that. I also spoke frequently about the importance of safety on our roads. British child migrants - that other group of "stolen children" - claimed my attention, as did the problems of the mentally ill, the problems of Aborigines in the city, the need for an Asian police squad, and those new prostitution laws.

Recent newspaper and television coverage shows that the present Government, despite a great deal of tough talk before the last two elections, still has not succeeded in making serious inroads into inner city street crime, drug addiction among the young, and antisocial behaviour on our train system. These are all subjects which I have canvassed in this Parliament, along with a lot of other people. We still have a big problem with housing the homeless, and there is not nearly enough affordable housing for lower income people in the inner city. Women in this State are not yet sufficiently represented on high profile boards and in Parliament. Many still suffer from domestic violence, and despite the efforts of the minister today to convince us otherwise, it is still true that Western Australian women are the worst paid in Australia. The gender wage gap is 18.5 per cent here as opposed to 10.5 per cent in the rest of Australia. I call on what I hope will be a future Labor Government under the present opposition leader, my friend and colleague, to take up the baton on those issues.

When I first came to this place I spoke of joining the Australian Labor Party because I was interested in reform and social justice. The party's long history of working to improve the conditions for ordinary men and women in our community was my inspiration for becoming first an activist and eventually a member of Parliament. However, since finding myself in opposition I discovered that progress was pretty slow on the "wrong" side of the Chamber. Ironically, one of the few advances I was able to effect was not supported by every member of the Opposition. I speak of the abortion legislation in 1998 which gave Western Australian women the right to safe, legal termination. The passing of that hotly debated and controversial legislation gave me a great deal of satisfaction - a relatively rare occurrence in Parliament if one is in opposition. That debate also gave me an unusual opportunity, which I know many of my colleagues have shared, since it was a conscience vote, to work closely with the members of the Government who

shared the same views. It was a rewarding and interesting experience which caused me a great deal of respect for some government members for their integrity and moral courage in a pretty hostile and unpleasant environment. I do not think anybody outside Parliament could possibly understand the personal stress placed on all members by that very emotional debate. As my colleague the member for Greenough said, he would like to see more respect for members of Parliament, as indeed I would. I believe that it is because most people do not understand very much about the nature of the work we do that perhaps people have so little respect for members of Parliament - a fact that I regret a great deal and that I would like very much to see changed.

Like many members, I came here hoping to be an instigator of reform and change. As I have said, I found that relatively difficult from the opposition benches. For example, despite the Labor Party's efforts in 1996, and subsequent attempts by the Australian Democrats with Labor and the Greens (WA), to change anti-gay laws, Western Australia still has the worst laws dealing with homosexuality in Australia. People should not be able to discriminate against others because of their sexuality any more than they should be able to discriminate because of a person's race, sex, age or disability. These changes will have to wait for a more sympathetic Government, and I hope that will be soon.

On the subject of reform and how difficult that can be, I will quote from a publication on the history of England written by Paul Johnson - an interesting person perhaps for someone on this side of the House to quote. Paul Johnson was once editor of the *New Statesman*, and, like Paddy McGuinness, he crossed the divide and now 30 years later is a stalwart of the extreme right in Britain. Johnson's 1972 book *The Offshore Islanders* details how shockingly long it took to abolish the abuse of children as chimneysweeps in Britain, telling the remarkable story of the Earl of Shaftesbury, a reformer who spent his long parliamentary career trying to change people's conditions for the better. The book details how it took 102 years - I repeat, 102 years - to get legislation forbidding the abuse of children as chimneysweeps. That must have been extremely disappointing for the Earl of Shaftesbury. I will quote briefly from Johnson's book. It is a fascinating and well-written history. It states -

. . . Shaftesbury succeeded in placing on the statute book an astonishing variety of progressive laws, from his great Factory Act to the Act for the Protection of Merchant Seamen. But he died almost in despair: 'I cannot bear to leave the world,' he wrote at 84, 'with all the misery in it.'

The book then details the extraordinary collection of people who turned up at his funeral, including the Anti-Vivisection Society, the Association of Bradford Factory Workers, London Flower Girls, Unemployed Cab Drivers, Unemancipated Slaves, Poor Curates, Sons of Poor Clergymen, and so it goes on. He was extraordinarily well respected for his efforts.

I will briefly detail the story of the infant chimneysweeps, or climbing boys as they were called, as an extraordinary example of how long change can sometimes take. Johnson says -

These boys formed a small group, perhaps never more than 10,000, but they were typical of many forgotten and brutalised classes, too weak to organise themselves, and therefore wholly dependent on philanthropic champions.

The Earl of Shaftesbury was one of those champions. It continues -

They were recruited from workhouses, from the age of four up, . . . they could be imprisoned, and flogged, . . .

Of course, it must be remembered that children not only swept the chimneys but also were used to put out fires. Often they were forced up by the use of long sticks and by applying wisps of flaming straw to their feet.

As far back as 1760, two Sunday school teachers tried to get this changed. Someone published a detailed account of it. An Act was passed in 1788, but it was totally ineffective. Subsequently, in 1804, 1807, 1808 and 1809, Bills came in and were thrown out, and so it went on for almost the rest of that entire century. The book continues -

In 1875, following the death of a boy aged 14, Shaftesbury at last secured a conviction for manslaughter against a master sweep. The sentence was only six months, but the case caught the eye of *The Times*, and in the ensuing agitation Shaftesbury finally carried a draconian bill through what he called a 'very inattentive' Parliament. It had taken precisely 102 years to secure this elementary act of justice to defenceless children.

I thought it was worth relaying that to the House to indicate how very long it can sometimes take to change things. When people approach a member, as lobbyists do all the time about any number of subjects under the sun, to ask when he or she will do something about such and such, it is as well to remember that sometimes it takes a long time to change things. One sometimes must convince one's own party; one sometimes must convince one's fellow parliamentarians; and one sometimes must also convince the community. It is well worth remembering that it took 100 years for America to give the vote to women, and that was about as long as it took to abolish slavery there as well.

I turn now to mention those people to whom I owe thanks for my being here in this House, because, as is the situation with the rest of my colleagues, a great many people contributed to my ability to be here. My first thanks are due to the people of Perth, who have twice voted for me as their representative in this State Parliament. I regard this as an enormous honour and privilege, and I thank the people for it. They will certainly have first call on my time right up to 12 midnight on election day - I used to say six o'clock on election day, but I have found that it is 12 midnight on election day. Therefore, those people have absolute first call on my time until then, whenever that may be.

Secondly, I must thank all those good people from a wide variety of backgrounds - some old friends, some new - who helped me to get here. I thank them most sincerely for their hard work on my behalf. I thank particularly some people who made a special contribution to my ability to be here. The late Jack Marks was one of them. He was a union stalwart, wit, rabble-rouser and first Mayor of Vincent, who, with John Cowdell - he is one of my colleagues here in the Parliament now - first approached me about standing for the seat of Perth. I thank the late Ron Barry, journalist, speech writer and adviser to many Labor politicians. He was a good friend and wise counsel. I thank the late Dick Keegan, a long-time Labor supporter who worked tirelessly in all weather, as I recall very vividly, for my first, very tough campaign.

Any campaign team, particularly one in a marginal seat, has a great many people on board. Some, by reason of their business or public positions, would not appreciate being mentioned in a political context. I am sorry about that, because I would like to mention a large number of people. I can say that I owe a great deal to the advice and support of Stephen Smith, my federal colleague and long-time adviser and supporter in the political field, and to Mark Cuomo, who managed my first campaign and who was as relieved as I was when I found out five days after the election that I had succeeded in getting across the line by 106 votes, redefining the meaning of marginal. I also owe something to Tony Henry, who I believe is out of the country these days, in Ireland. I remember the part he played. He was one of the toughest number crunchers anybody could meet. I owe a great deal to Michael Beahan, and to the member for Eyre and his wife, Lesley, who hosted early support functions for me. I owe a great deal to Joe Berinson, a former member whose first successful campaign for the federal seat of Perth I worked on in 1969. I thank Fred Ward, Ross Callaway, Pam Sazonov, the Li Castro family, Bill and Gaye Van Der Helm, Di Green, Karen Davidson, Thelma Loudon, Dean Elek-Roser, Terry Maller, Ruth Greble, Margaret Clements, Barbara Buick, Queenie Fogarty, the Mayor of the Town of Vincent, John Hyde, who I hope will be my successor in the seat of Perth, and Wendy and Ian Silver. They are among many people from whom I have had support and whom I thank here today.

I have had very strong support from the gay and lesbian community, in particular Gavin McGuren, Samantha Dowling, Holly Wood and Ivan King, and all those involved in the "Diana Doorknocks" in the recent Pride Parade. I thank them all. Not all of them got their hair right, and they wore white shoes, but never mind about that. It was wonderful. I enjoyed that tribute a great deal, and I thank them very much for their continuing support.

Having been an activist for women for most of my adult life, I have also had strong and continuing support from countless women activists, both young and old. Being on the barricades together has a way of bonding people for life, and I thank you, sisters.

I have also greatly appreciated the warmth and support of many members of the Jewish, Greek, Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Macedonian and French communities.

I must also thank my present Labor colleagues who elected me as Opposition Deputy Whip even before the results were confirmed in February 1993, and later as Whip and President of the State Parliamentary Labor Party. I must also thank former state and federal members Wendy Fatin, Judyth Watson, Kay Hallahan, Yvonne Henderson and Pat Giles for their advice and support.

I also thank the many and interestingly diverse Labor Party branches in Perth for their support. It has been an interesting ride. Notwithstanding the fact that I share one branch with the member for Midland, I have always greatly appreciated the warmth of those members. I am still waiting for one of the branches to invite me to a meeting, but one can always hope for change. I have a great number of branches in my electorate!

It was a great privilege indeed to serve on committees such as the Select Committee on Road Safety and as Acting Speaker.

My only real regret is not to have been in government - obviously every politician has that aim - and also not to have had the chance to contest a ballot and perhaps to become the first woman Speaker in this place. Those disappointments are tempered by the rich and varied experience provided as a member of Parliament. The lives that one is able to change for the better and even those adrenalin-charged pleasures of life as a candidate are part and parcel of the rich tapestry of this arena. I am sure no member will disagree that a preselection contest is an experience one never forgets, even if one would never seek to repeat it!

I thank you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Masters), and the Speaker for the fairness and judgment that has been displayed. I thank the very wise Clerks for their excellent advice.

I thank the skilled Hansard reporters for their remarkable ability to reconstruct one's failing grammar. More than one member has had good reason to thank the Hansard reporters for their amazing ability to discern what we really wanted to say as opposed to what we did say.

I thank the education officers for their great skill and the wonderful job they do with young and elderly people visiting this place. They play an important role in acquainting the younger generation with the whys and wherefores of politics. I missed that as a young person; there was no civics education when I was at school. It is a very valuable service, and we hope to see many of those young people in this place as members.

I thank the switchboard operators for the marvellous, diligent job they do. I also thank the library staff; the security staff for keeping us safe; the chamber staff for the marvellous work they do and for making this such a pleasant place in which to work; and, of course, the catering staff for their hard work and unfailing good humour. Despite the exigencies of the lack of airconditioning in this place, it has been an extraordinarily pleasant place in which to work.

Finally, I thank some people who have been especially important to my work as a politician. My electorate officer, June Belton, is in the gallery today - as she was on day one. I think she was almost as relieved as I was when I managed to scrape over the line. I also thank my researcher Ross Belton. No-one could have been more loyal and hardworking than those two people. I believe I owe the increase in my majority from zero to 7 per cent largely to them. I will always be grateful for their remarkable work for me and for the constituents of Perth.

My final thanks go to the person who encouraged and supported me from the first moment I entered the gladiatorial arena of politics. When he attended his first party meeting - a preselection meeting - that was his first impression. Of course, I am speaking about my husband, Bill Warnock. He is my bodyguard, my driver, my constant companion, my co-campaigner, my good adviser, and all the other things one's partner might be. He has always been there for me. I thank him for that strength and constancy. It is always appreciated. Here with my husband today is a very good, longstanding friend, Terry Owen. Like many of my close friends, she has been part of my support team for the past nine years.

Mr Acting Speaker, I wish you and all members and staff in this place a very happy festive season and very good health in the year 2001, whatever else that year might bring to all of us in this Chamber. I thank everyone.

[Applause.]

Question put and passed.

#### LABOR PARTY MEMBERSHIP FEES, PAYMENT BY MEMBER FOR NOLLAMARA

##### *Personal Explanation*

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [4.25 pm]: Yesterday in this House, the Minister for Planning attacked me by making false imputations regarding my role in assisting people in my area to join the Australian Labor Party. He based this personal attack on a note from the membership officer of the Balga-Nollamara sub-branch of the Australian Labor Party, which is undated and does not identify the person involved. I accept that the note is authentic, but reject the nasty imputations that the minister placed on it. The minister accused me of being in breach of my party's rules. It is fascinating to the point of farce how Liberal ministers regularly make statements about Labor Party rules and policies. Those statements are usually not based on the full facts, and hence are misleading - as they are in this case.

I can assume only that the note relates to the one or two people whom I assisted in paying their membership fee at the membership closing date of 30 June one year. Many people in the Nollamara electorate have been doing it tough, particularly in the past few years with the increased level of taxes and charges. I, like most Labor members of Parliament, regularly put my hand in my pocket to assist a constituent in financial difficulty. There have been one or two cases each year in which a pensioner, as an existing ALP member, or someone seeking membership, has asked whether he or she can pay by instalments or after the closing date of 30 June. On such occasions, I have offered to pay the membership fee on the basis that the pensioner would pay me back later, which he or she usually does.

This is not contrary to the ALP rules as alleged by the minister and cannot be construed as branch stacking. The Balga-Nollamara sub-branch has had stable membership for over a decade. The membership numbers of the sub-branch provide the evidence to disprove any such allegation. New members are coming forward to join the Labor Party because they see it as imperative for the betterment of this State and they want to work to help get rid of the current State Government. I welcome and encourage those people to become politically involved. It is important for the health of our democracy.

The ALP rule misused by the minister states -

#### 16. Membership Recruitment

- a) it is an abuse of Party Rules for an individual or group/s to fund Party membership for other individuals or groups of individuals who would otherwise be unwilling to pay their own subscriptions;

The small number of people I have assisted in this way have all asked to join or renew ALP membership. On each occasion I have done so on the basis that they would repay me on the next pension payday or by instalments. This is not because I am unwilling to assist people in this way, but because I am always mindful of the requirements of the party's rules and the need to uphold the value of membership of the Australian Labor Party - the oldest and greatest political party in the nation.

I totally reject the minister's slur, which is a cheap political stunt, and without foundation.

**STANDING ORDERS***Amendment*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.29 pm]: I move -

- (1) That this House adopt the following Standing Orders -

**Appointment and Functions**

**287.** (1) At the commencement of every Parliament the Assembly will appoint three portfolio-related standing committees, namely -

Community Development and Justice;

Education and Health;

Economics and Industry.

- (2) The functions of each committee are to review and report to the Assembly on –

- (a) the outcomes and administration of the departments within the Committee's portfolio responsibilities;
- (b) annual reports of government departments laid on the Table of the House;
- (c) the adequacy of legislation and regulations within its jurisdiction; and
- (d) any matters referred to it by the Assembly including a Bill, motion, petition, vote or expenditure, other financial matter, report or paper.

(3) At the commencement of each Parliament and as often thereafter as the Speaker considers necessary, the Speaker will determine and table a schedule showing the portfolio responsibilities for each committee. Annual reports of government departments and authorities tabled in the Assembly will stand referred to the relevant committee for any inquiry the committee may make.

(4) Whenever a committee receives or determines for itself fresh or amended terms of reference, the committee will forward them to each standing and select committee of the Assembly and joint committee of the Assembly and Council. The Speaker will announce them to the House at the next opportunity and arrange for them to be placed on the notice boards of the House.

**General provisions of standing and select committees to apply**

**288.** The general provisions for standing and select committees will apply to each standing committee.

(2) That the Chapter of the Standing Orders relating to standing committees be re-ordered to commence with the Public Accounts Committee, followed by portfolio-related standing committees, the Joint Standing Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated and Uniform Legislation.

(3) That the initial portfolio distribution between the portfolio-related standing committees be determined by the Speaker in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition or their nominees at the commencement of the next Parliament and tabled in the House in accordance with Standing Order 287 (3).

(4) That Standing Order 267 be amended by the addition of paragraph (3) as follows -

“(3) If a portfolio-related committee, or the Public Accounts Committee in relation to portfolio-related matters allocated to it, is examining a witness, any member of the Assembly, not being a Minister, may attend and at the discretion of the Chairman, ask questions of the witness. That member is not a member of the committee and may not vote, move any motion, be counted for the purpose of a quorum, or be involved in any deliberative part of the committee meeting.”

(5) That Standing Order 249 be amended by the addition of paragraphs (4) and (5) as follows -

“(4) The Assembly may on motion co-opt any member of the Assembly, not being a Minister, to participate for a specified inquiry, in meetings of a portfolio-related committee or the Public Accounts Committee in relation to portfolio-related matters allocated to it. That member is not a member

of the committee and may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum, but in relation to that inquiry may ask questions of witnesses and participate in a deliberative meeting.

- (5) When the Assembly is not sitting, the Speaker may appoint a member as a co-opted member until the Assembly can confirm the appointment or otherwise.”
- (6) That Standing Order 259 (1) be deleted and the following substituted -  
 “(1) A quorum for committees is two to take evidence and three to deliberate and pass resolutions.”
- (7) That Standing Order 260 (1) be deleted and the following substituted -  
 “**260.** (1) A committee may appoint a subcommittee of two or more of its members to inquire into and report to the committee upon any matter which the committee is empowered to examine, but may not take evidence unless the committee so decides in relation to each proposed witness.”.

These motions relate to changes to the standing orders and therefore the procedures of this House. They reflect a long and extensive period of discussion by members involved in the Procedure and Privileges Committee. I understand that these recommended changes are broadly supported.

The first aspect of this motion relates to the formation of standing committees. This is a lengthy motion and I hope that we can accept it as written in the Notice Paper. It seeks to formalise arrangements for a portfolio-related standing committee system. This was the subject of lengthy debate in this House in April this year. Section (3) of the first part of the motion will provide for the allocation of portfolios under each committee to be determined by the Speaker at the commencement of Parliament next year. This will obviously be necessary, as no doubt portfolio names will change following the next election and there will be a different mix of portfolios.

The establishment of these committees will herald a major change in the way this House will operate from next year. This committee process stems from recommendations made by the Commission on Government, the Select Committee on Procedure and the Procedure and Privileges Committee and will establish major accountability reform that, I trust, will provide for better government within this State.

Members will note that a minor change has been made to the original recommendation, which relates to the titles of the committees. The titles suggested in the motion are shorter and reflect a better, broad group of portfolio areas. The first committee is intended to be the community development and justice committee, and the second will be the education and health committee. Although people might see those as different areas, I make the observation, as the Minister for Education and having observed Health, that there are a lot of similarities in the issues that will come from those two portfolios. The third committee is the economics and industry committee, which broadly reflects the resources, mining, farming and transport areas and the broad economic portfolio.

In terms of a theoretical and ideal career for a member of Parliament in the future, as part of his parliamentary progression he might aspire to be a member of a committee and then a chairman of a standing committee. He might then become a parliamentary secretary and, if he is on the right side of the House at the right time, he might become a minister, if not Premier. I think this will allow members a more logical progression through their parliamentary careers. Hopefully, it will also avoid the formation of select committees on an ad hoc basis and the formation of too many select committees. I recognise that occasionally there will be select committees, but the spirit of this recommendation is that issues that arise and that are referred to committees are dealt with in a standing committee structure.

I also recognise that the chair of these standing committees will become quite prominent in the future. These positions will be quite prominent within this Parliament and the community. Indeed, one of the challenges will be the position of a chair of a particular committee versus the position of the responsible minister. It will take a bit of trial and balance to get that right. I expect that chairs of committees will become very significant in the functioning of this Parliament and in the process of public discussion and consultation in the wider community. I commend the recommendations to the House.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.32 pm]: The Opposition strongly supports the motion moved by the Leader of the House. The establishment of a standing committee system in this Chamber will improve the expertise which has been developed by members of Parliament. It will enhance the scrutiny of the Government by members, and there will be a more rational use of the resources allocated to committee work than currently.

The retiring member for Perth spoke about the Earl of Shaftesbury’s campaign on the regulation of the exploitation of children as chimneysweeps and the fact that it had taken 102 years for that reform to be achieved. The reform of establishing standing committees has not taken 102 years, but sometimes it feels as though it has. There has been a large number of reports and recommendations of a variety of committees. At last we have reached a consensus, and

whichever party is elected to government after the next election will find that this Chamber will have a system of standing committees to hold it accountable.

In that very long process, the Speaker has played a very significant role. He was chair of the Select Committee on Procedure, which developed recommendations on these matters and other reforms of the standing orders. He has been the chair of the Procedure and Privileges Committee and has played other important roles as Speaker. In his capacity as chair of those committees, he has played a very important part in the modernisation of our standing orders. He has chaired the committees in an impartial way, which enabled members from both sides of the House to develop a consensus on the reforms. The committees have taken account of the needs of both the Government and the Opposition. It is fitting that, on the last sitting day on which the Speaker will preside over this House, we should round off his program of reform by endorsing this motion. He can retire from this place well satisfied with the leading role he has taken in achieving parliamentary reform.

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [4.35 pm]: I do not want to sound a discordant note about the proposals to bring about some changes to the function of this Parliament. In principle they are quite good. However, I have reservations about a number of issues, and I draw the attention of the House to two of them. Under section (4) of the matter entitled "Appointment and Functions", I note that a committee will be given the power to change its terms of reference without anything other than the House being advised of the change. At some time or another that issue will become a matter of contention. At some stage the House as a whole might find itself in contention with either the committee or the Speaker, who will bring that particular change in the terms of reference to the attention of the House.

I also draw attention to another point associated with the general provisions of the standing and select committees, which might apply under Standing Order No 288. Section 4(3) of that provision will give a greater focus of attention, which will probably complement the work done by the Public Accounts Committee, on public servants who are required to come before a number of committees to give evidence. I think we will find a clear area of conflict with that particular public servant in relation to the requirement to respond to the Parliament and the requirement to act under the Public Sector Management Act. I do not have any difficulty with the House seeking to implement reforms of this nature, but I predict there will be some contention about those usual separations of the authority of ministers of the Crown, of the public sector and the management of the public sector and where the Parliament sits in that issue. There is potential for the Parliament to assume a degree of authority that will cloud those separations of powers. That will become an issue for conflict and will need to be resolved at some time in the future.

**MR GRAHAM** (Pilbara) [4.38 pm]: I was not going to speak in the debate, but since the Deputy Premier has spoken and has said the things he did, I feel they cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged. I know I stand between people and the knock-off bells, so I will not be long. When one talks about the separation of powers - I will not go into a great constitutional argument - there is no separation of powers between bureaucrats and their political masters.

Mr House: Yes there is.

Mr GRAHAM: There is not.

Mr House: We had this debate in here last week.

Mr GRAHAM: The legislature, the judiciary and the Parliament are -

Mr House: Read the legislation. You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr GRAHAM: The minister is their representative in Parliament and is here to answer for them. It is that simple.

The defence and counterargument to the argument put by the Deputy Premier is that bureaucrats can come before the standing committees to tell the truth - no more, no less. It is open at any time for any minister -

Mr Cowan: It is not a question of telling the truth, it is a question of authority.

Mr GRAHAM: Yes, and the Deputy Premier is the person -

Mr Cowan: How would a public servant respond? Does he respond to the standing committee? Does he respond to Parliament?

Mr GRAHAM: A public servant is answerable, through his minister, to Parliament.

Mr Cowan: What you are saying is that public servants are responsible to a committee.

Mr GRAHAM: No. Public servants are not responsible to a committee, but will be overseen by a committee. There is a deep and fundamental difference.

Mr Cowan: No, there is not.

Mr GRAHAM: There is. The Deputy Premier is currently overseen by a parliamentary committee. Since 1972 the Public Accounts Committee has been able to scrutinise the Deputy Premier's department in the way that these standing committees will scrutinise departments. There is no dispute about that. No-one has been concerned, for nearly 30 years, about the problems raised by the Deputy Premier. It is always open to the Deputy Premier, or to any other

minister, should he so choose, to go before the committee himself. It does not exclude bureaucrats. Ministers can go before the committees and give the evidence that they choose.

Mr Cowan: Don't think so narrowly, think more broadly.

Mr GRAHAM: We are back at that again. The Deputy Premier should tell me how I should be thinking.

Mr Cowan: Broadly.

Mr GRAHAM: The problem is?

Mr Cowan: The problem is that it is not a question of a public servant telling the truth. It is not a question of a minister appearing before a committee. It is a question of the authority of the public servant to respond to some of those things that occur. Does he respond to the minister or to his chief executive officer? If he is the CEO, must he be mindful of the Public Sector Management Act 1994? If it is a public servant or a minister of the Crown, where is the interaction between the parliamentary committee or Parliament and the minister? It is going to be an issue. I am looking forward to seeing what happens.

Mr GRAHAM: I am too. I do not think that the Deputy Premier is right. The impact of these dramatic changes and what they will mean in Parliament has not yet sunk in. It provides a serious role for people in Parliament - not a partisan political role - to examine the system of government. The problems raised by the Deputy Premier are handled simply. They are no different from how public servants now deal with the Public Accounts Committee. In effect, four public accounts committees will be created, which will be restricted to the portfolios to which they relate. Those problems have not arisen. I do not envisage that they will be a major problem.

Question put and passed.

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEES, STANDING ORDERS

### *Motion*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.43 pm]: I move -

That this House adopt the following Standing Orders -

#### **Bills referred to estimates committees**

- 222.** (1) After the second reading of the Appropriation bill or bills which provide for the main recurrent and capital appropriations, the consideration in detail stage will be replaced by estimates committees A and B.
- (2) The estimates committees will examine the bills and proposed expenditure contained in the Estimates and report on proposed expenditure by the Parliament and government departments and agencies funded from the Consolidated Fund.

#### **Management committee**

- 223.** (1) There will be a management committee which will comprise the Leader of the House, one member nominated in writing to the Speaker by the Premier, and two members similarly nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.
- (2) Before the estimates committees first meet, the Leader of the House will present to the House the report of the management committee, which report will prescribe -
- (a) which parts of the Estimates are to be considered by each committee; and
  - (b) the time allotted for consideration of each part or any division or program of the Estimates and the budgets of those agencies referred to in Standing Order 222 (2).
- (3) On the presentation of the report of the management committee, the Speaker will forthwith propose the question, "That the report be adopted" and debate may proceed for a maximum period of one hour on that question and any proposed amendments.

#### **Estimates committees membership**

- 224.** Each estimates committee will consist of -
- (a) a Chairman;
  - (b) three members appointed by the Leader of the House and three members appointed by the Leader of the Opposition; and
  - (c) the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary responsible in the Assembly for the department, agency or enterprise under consideration, or another Minister acting in that capacity, or when considering the estimate for "Parliament", the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker.

**Appointment of members**

225. The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition will notify in writing to the Speaker their appointment of members for each part, division or program, specified in the report of the management committee.

**Replacement of members**

226. A member may be replaced on an estimates committee by -
- (a) the member appointing another member as a replacement;
  - (b) the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition appointing another member as a replacement; or
  - (c) a member deputed by the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition appointing another member as a replacement,
- and no change will take effect until notified in writing to the Clerk to the committee.

**Chairing of estimates committees**

227. (1) The Chairman of an estimates committee will be the Deputy Speaker or an Acting Speaker.
- (2) Any member of the committee may take the Chair temporarily whenever requested so to do by the Chairman of that committee.

**Quorum**

228. The quorum of an estimates Committee will be four, excluding the Chairman, and if at any time a quorum is not present, the Chairman may suspend the proceedings of the committee until a quorum is present.

**Non-committee members**

229. Members of the Assembly who are not members of the committee may participate, at the discretion of the Chairman, in the proceedings of the committee, but will not vote, move any motion, or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.

**Ministerial advisers**

230. Advisers who are present at an estimates committee to assist Ministers will not directly answer questions or otherwise address the committee except with the approval of and in the presence of a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

**Minutes of estimates committees**

231. Minutes of each estimates committee will be recorded by the Clerk to the committee, and will be signed by the Deputy Speaker or an Acting Speaker and the Clerk to the Committee.

**Procedure in estimates committees**

232. In each estimates committee
- (a) the question will be proposed for each division or part thereof of the Estimates referred to that committee, "That the appropriation be recommended", and if there is an equality of votes on any such question, the committee will include in its report to the House, its inability to report on that division;
  - (b) voting in a division will be taken by a show of hands of those members of the committee, exclusive of the Chairman, present when a question is put and tellers will not be appointed;
  - (c) any question of procedure or point of order will be determined by the Chairman of the committee, subject to the ultimate decision of the Speaker; and
  - (d) at the conclusion of consideration by estimates committee A of the Estimates referred to it or at the expiry of the time allocated to that committee, the question will be put forthwith - "That the clauses, schedules and title of the bill be agreed to"

**Presentation of reports**

232. Reports of the estimates committees will state which parts of the Estimates have been considered and whether the proposed expenditures are recommended. Failure of an estimates committee to report on any part of the Estimates within the time required by the Assembly will be deemed to be a report recommending the proposed expenditures. The time for presentation of the reports may be as determined by the Assembly.

**Procedure for presentation of reports**

- 233.** The reports of the estimates committees will be presented together to the Assembly by the Deputy Speaker and may be considered forthwith, the question being proposed for each, "That the report be adopted". Debate on that question and any amendment thereto will not exceed one hour in total, but that will not preclude an amendment being moved and the question being put thereon. If the reports of the committees are adopted, the third reading of the bill may be moved forthwith.

Each year this House has gone through the process of talking about the way the estimates committees will operate, and each year the Leader of the House has had to give a notice of motion to set it up. It was like reinventing the wheel every year. Following some discussion, the Public Accounts Committee made recommendations that were reviewed by the Procedure and Privileges Committee. It has been determined that the House should have a format similar to that it now has, with two estimates committees running in parallel, along the lines that have been practised within this House. This motion simply places that in the standing orders, and should avoid the need for a debate each year about the formation of estimates committees. That does not preclude changes, in the future, to aspects of estimates committees. I am well aware that this House is yet to fully resolve the issue of government trading enterprises and their level of accountability; however, this is not the time to do that. I acknowledge, however, that that is an outstanding issue.

Question put and passed.

**PRIVATE BILLS STANDING ORDERS, DELETION***Motion*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.45 pm]: I move -

- (1) That the Private Bills Standing Orders be deleted.
- (2) That the Legislative Council be informed that the Legislative Assembly has deleted the Private Bills Standing Orders and accordingly invites the Legislative Council to do likewise.

This recommendation also came from the Procedure and Privileges Committee. Members may be aware that these standing orders have not been used for more than 30 years, and perhaps, in this House's usual expedient way, it is timely to remove them.

Mr Tubby: They haven't even been printed since 1968.

Mr BARNETT: They have not been used for 30 years and, as the member for Roleystone pointed out, they have not been printed since 1968. This motion simply deletes those and tidies up the standing orders.

Question put and passed; the Council acquainted accordingly.

**BUILDING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2000***Returned*

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

*Council's Amendments - Consideration in Detail*

The amendments made by the Council were as follows -

**No 1.**

Clause 37, page 29, lines 15 to 18 - To delete the lines and insert instead -

"the Disputes Tribunal, it is fair to do so, having regard to -

- (a) whether a party has conducted the proceeding in a way that unnecessarily disadvantaged another party to the proceeding by conduct such as -
  - (i) failing to comply with an order or direction of the Disputes Tribunal without reasonable excuse;
  - (ii) failing to comply with this Act or the *Home Building Contracts Act 1991*;
  - (iii) asking for an adjournment as a result of subparagraph (i) and (ii);
  - (iv) causing an adjournment;
  - (v) attempting to deceive another party or the Disputes Tribunal; or
  - (vi) vexatiously conducting the proceeding;
- (b) whether a party has been responsible for prolonging unreasonably the time taken to complete the proceeding;

- (c) the relative strengths of the claims made by each of the parties, including where a party has made a claim that has no tenable basis in fact or law;
- (d) the nature and complexity of the proceedings; or
- (e) any other matter the Disputes Tribunal considers relevant.”

**No 2.**

Clause 40, page 30, line 25 to page 31, line 13 - To delete the lines and insert instead -

- (1) Except as provided in this section, a party to any proceedings before the Disputes Tribunal, under this Act or under the *Home Building Contracts Act 1991*, must present his or her own case and may not be represented by another person.
- (2) All or any of the parties to any proceedings before the Disputes Tribunal may be represented by legal practitioners or any other person if -
  - (a) all of the parties agree; or
  - (b) the monetary amount or value of work for which an order is sought by the applicant, as determined by the Disputes Tribunal, exceeds \$10 000 or such other amount as is prescribed; or
  - (c) the Disputes Tribunal is satisfied -
    - (i) that any party who is not so represented will not be unfairly disadvantaged;  
or
    - (ii) that one of the parties is unable to appear personally or conduct the proceedings properly himself or herself;
  - or
  - (d) one of the parties is a legally qualified person; or
  - (e) one of the parties is a body corporate and any other party elects to be so represented.
- (3) This section does not prevent -
  - (a) a body corporate from being represented by an officer or employee of the body corporate (not being a legally qualified person) authorised to conduct the proceedings on its behalf (whether or not the person is remunerated by the body corporate for representing it in the proceedings); or
  - (b) a person from acting as an interpreter for a party, if the person’s fee does not exceed an amount fixed by the Disputes Tribunal.
- (4) A person must not demand or receive any fee or reward for representing, or assisting in the representation of, a party to proceedings before the Disputes Tribunal unless -
  - (a) the person is a legal practitioner;
  - (b) where the party is a body corporate, the person is an officer or employee of the body corporate representing it under subsection (3); or
  - (c) the person is an interpreter for a party and the fee does not exceed the amount fixed under subsection (3)(b).

Penalty: \$5 000.

- (5) In this section -

“**legally qualified person**” means a legal practitioner, an articulated law clerk, or any person who holds or had held legal qualifications under the laws of this State or any other place.”

Mr SHAVE: I move -

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The positive work from Parliament is rarely recognised. It is rarely newsworthy when the Government and Opposition work together to achieve a better outcome. I give credit to Hon Bob Thomas, who took a proactive role in moving and negotiating these amendments. Hon Bob Thomas became responsible for this Bill almost by accident, but he took his duties seriously.

Over the past week, negotiations and formulas having been moving between the Houses and the Government and the Opposition. The provisions that will govern legal representation and the possible award of legal costs are fair. The

provisions have been modelled on the Victorian system. Hon Bob Thomas and I have been very keen to ensure that these sorts of provisions are enshrined in the legislation. A great deal of injustice has been done to many home buyers by what can only be described as vexatious defendants in the building disputes committee. Some builders have strung out the processes unfairly and unjustly. Mrs Annette Green, a constituent of Hon Bob Thomas in Albany, had her case adjourned 23 times by the builder who put up the most spurious medical evidence. Mrs Green travelled from Albany time and again with her lawyer only to find that the case had been adjourned. It almost led to her total physical and financial ruin. I am glad that we have been able to negotiate these sets of amendments. It is not newsworthy because there is no conflict but it is a demonstration of how both sides of Parliament can work together productively.

Mr SHAVE: Clause 37 amends the proposed section 38(4) in the Builders' Registration Act to extend the grounds for awarding legal costs in proceedings before the Building Disputes Tribunal to include a party unnecessarily disadvantaging another party by causing an adjournment or when a party has been responsible for prolonging unreasonably the time taken to complete the proceedings and when the nature and complexity of the proceedings warrant the awarding of such costs. It will be up to the tribunal to make that decision. It will not be automatic. The amendment to clause 40 inserts a replacement section to retain the current restrictions on representation in proceedings before the Building Disputes Tribunal taken under the Home Building Contracts Act. Subclause (2) applies the restrictions to representation in proceedings taken under the Builders' Registration Act to \$10 000 or such other amount as prescribed. The amendment will remove the current inconsistency in the right to representation under the Builders' Registration Act and the Home Building Contracts Act. It represents a fair balance between the objectives of providing home owners and builders with a relatively inexpensive and timely forum for resolving disputes and the legitimate need for legal representation.

**Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.**

**The Council acquainted accordingly.**

## CENTENARY OF FEDERATION CELEBRATIONS

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): The Council of Australian Governments has established the National Council for the Centenary of Federation to oversee the centenary of federation celebrations and commemorations. In each State and Territory committees are charged with delivering the opportunities for participation and involvement to all Australians. The national program is built upon centrepiece events in each State and Territory at different times throughout 2001. The national program commences in Sydney on 1 January 2001 with "Federation Day" which will commemorate and celebrate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia.

In Western Australia there are two separate occasions on which the national spotlight will fall on our State: First, the Centenary of Youth Festival, to be held from 21 to 30 September 2001, a national youth symposium supported by a series of federation youth festivals; and, secondly, "Tracks to Federation" to be held in October 2001, in conjunction with the South Australian Government, the east-west rail commemoration.

Importantly, as well as the national events within each State and Territory throughout the year, there will be a whole array of events and activities within local centres and communities. This will ensure broad participation by Western Australians. In May 2001, the national focus will shift to Victoria where, on 9 May 2001, there will be a very significant event to mark 100 years of nationhood and the centenary of the Commonwealth Parliament, the commencement of the journey of our parliamentary democracy.

On 9 May 1901 at the Royal Exhibition building in Melbourne, 12 000 Australians gathered to celebrate the launch of the Australian democracy. On 9 May 2001, over 7 000 Australians will be invited to gather to commemorate and celebrate the centenary of our democracy and to be a part of a wonderful national event to herald our nation's most significant milestone.

In 1901, the Parliaments of the States were represented in Melbourne. In 2001, it is planned that the focus of the events will be the participation by all the senators and members of Parliament of the Commonwealth as well as the participation of the entire state and territory Legislatures. These plans also include the presence of the mayors of every municipality in Australia, together with representatives of all and every sector of Australian society, including representatives of the public. The celebration is structured as a specifically Australian celebration both in content and attendance.

This Parliament, along with all other Australian Parliaments, has been invited by the Federal Government, the Commonwealth Parliament, the Victorian State Government and the Parliament of Victoria, to become a full partner in the May 2001 celebrations.

The Victorian Government has constructed a three-week celebration, which will surround 9 May 2001. We have been asked to consider the passage of a resolution by our Parliament to embrace formally the centenary celebrations and to be a full participant in the happenings of 9 May. In short, the objective of the National Council for the Centenary of

Federation is for the Parliament in its entirety to attend. However, the Parliament may wish to consider a delegation comprising all political parties with costs met by those members attending.

The nature of the involvement is focused on the two core days of 9 and 10 May, although blanket invitations will be issued to attend each of the very extensive ancillary events. On 9 May at 2.00 pm at the Royal Exhibition Building, there will be a full joint meeting of the Commonwealth Parliament attended by all members of Parliament nationally. This formal ceremony will acknowledge the centenary of the Commonwealth Parliament. Then there will be a seamless transition to a commemoration of 100 years of nationhood and a celebration through performance and representation of the journey of Australia across these 100 years and the contributions of many Australians to that milestone will be recognised. This will be followed by the federation reception to be held in the new Melbourne Museum. The ceremonies are part of a dynamic celebration of our past, acknowledgment of contemporary issues and achievements and an embracing of our future and our potential.

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are jointly funding the events in Melbourne in a very significant undertaking. We have been requested to contribute to this through the attendance of all our members - the entire Parliament. In common with all of the 7 000 participants who represent myriad organisations and institutions, we are asked to consider meeting the travel, accommodation and related costs to facilitate the participation in Melbourne of all members.

It is envisaged that a motion be put to the House in due course to consider endorsing formally the partnership agreeing to participation and declaring the events as official parliamentary occasions. The arrangement that underpins this proposal is designed to encourage the use of existing parliamentary allowances and services available to members rather than to seek additional appropriations. Should the motion be passed, our participation and involvement will be conveyed formally.

In late March 2001, formal invitations from the Prime Minister, the Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Parliament and the Premier of Victoria will be issued individually to each member who is expected to hold office on 9 May 2001. The invitations will entitle members to be accompanied by their spouse or partner. At around the time of issue of the invitations, extensive briefings on all details of the involvement will be provided. Importantly, the organisers have negotiated an extensive accommodation guide that offers attendees generous discounts in a range of accommodation options across the Melbourne central business district. Arrangements are in place for members to access these directly should they wish.

In conclusion, this enormous national celebration will provide Western Australia with a significant opportunity to herald our vital contribution to the Australian nation and our parliamentary democracy.

### SUNSET HOSPITAL METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT

#### *Motion for Disallowance*

**DR TURNBULL** (Collie) [5.02 pm]: I move -

That this House disallows Sunset Hospital Site Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment No 1024/33 a copy of which was laid upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 10 October 2000.

This motion has been moved because of a technicality. The regulations have been laid on the Table for only 11 days when technically, they had to lay on the table for 12 days. As the House is rising today and not coming back for some time, this technically means that if the Parliament were to be prorogued, these regulations would lapse. In order to ensure that they do not, I am moving this disallowance motion so that it can be debated and accepted or rejected by the House. I do not have very much support for this disallowance motion and most likely it will be defeated. The regulations will then become operative and will be able to be incorporated in the regulations of the stated amendment.

**MS MacTIERNAN** (Armadale) [5.04 pm]: For a moment I thought that the member for Collie had attended the same public meeting I attended in the Premier's electorate last Saturday morning. The member would have heard the irate burghers from Dalkeith and other various western suburbs express their disappointment that the Government would effectively flog off this A-class reserve and close it from public use after it had been in public use for over a century. It is a prime location. It has been an A-class reserve since the turn of the century. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Perth and is one of our treasured waterfront spaces. It is perhaps one of the last spaces to become available to the public with the closure of the Sunset Hospital.

This side of the House opposes the closure of the Sunset Hospital. We believe that that site should have remained available for elderly Western Australians of limited financial means to live out their later years. During the debate on the associated lands Bill, I asked the Premier if he was not concerned that Dalkeith was becoming a ghetto for the rich, but he did not believe that was a question that could be seriously answered. It is a serious question. That site, which was set deliberately aside for the indigent elderly of our State, is part of our historical fabric. This Government has the idea that if the poor or the less well off are provided with accommodation on prime sites, they must be moved away and that only those who are wealthy in our society deserve to have access to the riverfront. According to the Government, Heathcote Hospital had to close just as Sunset Hospital must close. What glorious plan is in its place? Eighty units! It

is proposed that the existing historic buildings will be converted into 40 or 50 units and another set of about 30 two-story townhouses will be constructed. The Government claims this is a retirement village. The Opposition questions whether this is a retirement village. It has not been proposed with any seriousness. The site does not provide for any nursing home accommodation or any medical assistance.

This will become a set of villas for the elderly wealthy people aged over 55 from the western suburbs - half the Cabinet would be eligible to acquire these properties, if not immediately, within a year or two. In our view it does not provide for the frail aged members of the community who may want to stay. It provides opportunities for other people who are well-heeled to move into that area. The Government's view is that only the wealthy can live on riverfront properties. We do not accept that.

We also are concerned that the Government has made certain claims that it has tried to get the not-for-profit sector to take over the facility but has been unsuccessful. The Government says that the cost of the renovation would be too great for the not-for-profit sector to be able to operate the hostel.

The Opposition questions that. No documentation has been presented to support that contention. The Government is loading up the notional cost of doing up the parklands, saying that whoever takes over this area must provide \$4.5m to do the work, which seems an extraordinary over-capitalisation in an area of great natural beauty. At the public meeting it was revealed that the Melvista nursing home had indicated that it wanted to seriously consider moving onto that site. The Opposition believes that option must be explored before the Government is given carte blanche for this proposal. The Opposition is not convinced that other combinations of proposals might not see this site become viable without going down the road proposed by the Government. A number of people have expressed interest in taking over some of the historic buildings and running them as restaurants. One proposal is to combine the two chapels on the site with some of the historic buildings and create a wedding and reception centre. Nearby Tawarri Lodge is far too small for the kind of functions now being planned, and its operators have expressed interest in moving. A raft of possible proposals has been presented.

The Opposition would be very interested to see what could be done to ensure that once again that site provides accommodation possibilities for elderly people in our community who are less well off. The Opposition does not believe that only those who are wealthy and who live in the western suburbs have an entitlement in their autumn years to enjoy the great beauty of that site. The Opposition made its decision on this matter only very recently, after the public meeting. It agrees with the Government in one respect - that whatever happens on that site must be self-funding. The restoration of the buildings and the improvement of the parklands for public use will have to be funded out of the commercial use of those buildings. The Government has not canvassed all the possible alternatives, and the option it is looking at is highly undesirable, in that it will close off large tracts of that area from public use, and ensure that a privileged 80 or so people alone will have access to about 40 per cent of the site, including the most prime positions. The Opposition is not prepared to support the Government on this issue, and will be voting for the disallowance.

Mr Kobelke: It is improper for the member for Collie to move this disallowance motion, and then to run out of the Chamber when it comes time to vote.

Mr House: Yesterday in this Parliament, when we were faced with this situation, only three members were in the Chamber - two ministers and the member for Collie. My understanding is -

Mr Kobelke: On the government side!

Mr House: There was none on the opposition side.

Mr Kobelke: I was here, I saw what went on.

Mr House: I do not think the member for Nollamara was here. There were not too many members in the Chamber, and the member for Collie. In defence of the member for Collie, she moved the disallowance motion at the request of other members. In fairness, I must point out to the member for Nollamara - and I think he knows it, from the grin on his face - that the member for Collie was an unwilling partner in this drama.

Question put and negatived.

### **SOUTH WEST DISTRICTS OMNIBUS (NO. 3B) METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT NO. 991/33 DISALLOWANCE**

#### *Motion*

**DR TURNBULL** (Collie) [5.05 pm]: I move -

That this House disallows South West Districts Omnibus (No. 3B) Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment No. 991/33, a copy of which was laid upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 10 October 2000.

I am moving this disallowance motion to ensure that the planning activities of the State continue, and that this regulation will be incorporated into the major regulations. It is important that this disallowance motion is moved to allow the House to make a decision on this issue.

**MS MacTIERNAN** (Armadale) [5.06pm]: The Opposition will not be supporting the disallowance motion. It is a bit odd that the Government must scam the processes of this House in this way to get its legislation through. Two alternatives would have been more proper: Firstly, to have introduced this legislation earlier, because there is a reason for it to lie on the table; and, secondly, to sit later. There is still a month before the Christmas break, and there is no reason that the House could not have been brought back next week to do these things. Nevertheless, the Opposition does not have any objections; it has not been contacted by anyone in the community about these issues, and it will not support the disallowance.

Question put and negatived.

### **BILLS - COUNCIL'S MESSAGES**

Messages from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly to the following Bills -

Guardianship and Administration Amendment Bill 1999.  
Acts Amendment (Evidence) Bill 1999.

### **LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTING, CLAIM OF TEACHER HARASSMENT**

#### *Personal Explanation*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [5.19 pm]: On 9 August the member for Midland submitted question on notice 307 as follows -

- (1) Has it been brought to your attention via a report originally addressed to the State Ombudsman and then forwarded on to yourself, that there are instances where a principal has discriminated against a teacher for not belonging to the State School Teachers Union and made them do all the Year 3 Literacy Testing in their school?
- (2) If so, what has been done to ensure that the State Literacy and Numeracy Tests are not being used to harass some teachers?

When a number of searches of the records systems in both my ministerial office and the Education Department failed to locate such a report, I answered the question on 6 September 2000 indicating that I had no knowledge of the report.

It has now been drawn to my attention that a letter from a private citizen to the Ombudsman, which mentioned some concerns about literacy testing, among other issues, was received in my office on 8 September 1999. It was attached to a covering letter addressed to me requesting that a meeting be arranged between the author and the Director General of Education. The letter and attachments were forwarded to the Education Department. The correspondence was recorded on both records systems as originating from a private citizen and thus was not identified when searches for a report to the Ombudsman were undertaken in response to the member's question. Now that the correspondence in question has been identified I am able to provide a revised response. The answer to question on notice 307 is -

- (1) A claim of discrimination of this kind was included in a letter addressed to the Ombudsman and forwarded to me.
- (2) Where teachers elected not to undertake supervision of the assessments, alternative arrangements were put in place. These included undertaking the tests using other teachers or principals as supervisors. Should any teachers feel they have been treated unfairly over this matter, a grievance process is available to them.

### **SPENT CONVICTIONS (ACT AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2000 AND SPENT CONVICTIONS (ACT AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NO. 2) 2000**

#### *Report*

**MR WIESE** (Wagin) [5.21 pm]: I present for tabling a report on the Spent Convictions (Act Amendment) Regulations 2000 and Spent Convictions (Act Amendment) Regulations (No 2) 2000. I am not accustomed to keeping the House up into the late hours of the night, so I intend to be as brief as I possibly can. This is the third time the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation has reported on this issue. The report details the extensive investigation that the committee conducted into this issue. The committee's major concern was that for nearly 16 or 18 months the prisons services department of the Ministry of Justice operated and had access to spent conviction records, and to all of the police records, without having appropriate authorisation or ability to do so.

The people involved - Assistant Commissioner Atherton and Mr Piper, and some officers from the Ministry of Justice - made a lengthy appearance before the committee. Members ascertained why and how the issue and problem had arisen. We have had strong indications from sections of both the Police Service and the Ministry of Justice that the errors and oversights that occurred will not occur again in the future, and that proper processes and procedures have been put in place to ensure that the situation that arose does not recur.

The report details a series of recommendations. Among those are recommendations for a proper process auditing system within both the Police Service and the Ministry of Justice to ensure that these situations do not occur again and that only people who have proper authority to view conviction records are able to do so.

The second set of regulations - the Spent Convictions (Act Amendment) Regulations (No 2) - were significant because they give private enterprise operators access to the spent conviction records. That is because they are taking over the role previously performed by the Ministry of Justice. This is the first time that I am aware that a private enterprise organisation involving people who have no association with government or the department will be given access to the spent conviction records that are maintained by the Police Service. That is a significant development and change. Again, the committee made some strong recommendations in that regard. I put the House on notice that it needs to be cautious and watchful to ensure that at every stage in the future, real and proper scrutiny is given to regulations which extend access - in this case, to private enterprise persons - to all spent convictions. They will need to have access to that information while performing their role. However, the House needs to ensure that proper safeguards are in place when that occurs.

The last matter I want to bring to the attention of the House is that the committee is concerned that this is the third time that it has reported to the House on the issue of spent convictions. The Spent Convictions Act provides that other organisations or individuals have power to access spent conviction records. It does that by way of regulation. I re-emphasise that the committee believes strongly that the only method by which we should be authorising and extending access to spent conviction records should be by way of amendments to the Act; it should not be done by way of changes introduced by regulation.

I take the opportunity to put on record my enormous thanks and gratitude to the staff who have worked with the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation over the past four years during which I have chaired that committee, and to all those members who have served with me on the committee: Hon Tom Helm, Hon Ray Halligan, Hon Simon O'Brien and Hon Jim Scott from the Legislative Council and Mr Norm Marlborough, Mrs Katie Hodson-Thomas and Mr Bill Thomas from this House. Other members over that time have also served on the committee. It is one of the hardest working committees of this place and is an essential committee of this Parliament. The committee does an enormous amount of work with very little praise and acknowledgment. I extend my thanks to everyone for the work they have done over that time. I commend the report to the House.

[See paper No 535.]

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [5.28 pm]: I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

This adjournment motion will perhaps be a little unusual tonight. Usually during this motion there is an opportunity for respective leaders and the Speaker to make some comments, and I propose that we start that process now. I advise members that it may be necessary to adjourn the adjournment motion for a period while we await some potential messages from the other House. This does not signal an imminent end of the day's sitting - we may be here for a couple of hours. However, we might as well start the adjournment motion. That will give me time to assess what is happening in the other House - if that is at all possible.

During this session of Parliament, which commenced on 8 August this year, we have sat for 28 days. During that period this House has passed 40 Bills into law, some of them significant matters including the Criminal Property Confiscation Bill, Criminal Code Amendment Bill, Criminal Code Amendment (Home Invasion) Bill, Offenders (Legal Action) Bill, Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill, Forest Products Bill, Medical Amendment Bill, Hope Valley-Wattleup Redevelopment Bill, the Industrial Relations Amendment Bill relating to police officers, Protective Custody Bill, State Records Bill 1999 and Road Traffic Act amendments.

The other place may also deal with further Bills this evening. Indeed, I foreshadow that some messages may be received later this evening from the other House that this House will deal with.

For the record, I note that since August the Government has also responded to more than 385 Assembly questions without notice. In addition, 926 Assembly questions on notice have been asked, and the Government has responded so far to 838, or 90 per cent, of those questions. As is usual practice, I am sure individual ministers will take the time to respond in private to members opposite on outstanding matters. Since the coalition Government took office in 1993, it has responded to more than 51 000 parliamentary questions in total, which I think everyone will agree is an extraordinarily high number.

As is traditional at this time of the year, I acknowledge the work of a number of people who make possible the effective and efficient operations of this Parliament, and this House in particular. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your service as Speaker during this Parliament. Everyone is conscious that you are not seeking re-election. Members will agree that you have been an outstanding Speaker of this Parliament and have presided over fair administration of the proceedings

of the House, and have also been significant in the reform and modernisation of the procedures of this House. I wish you well for the future, Mr Speaker, and I know that you will take the opportunity to say some words a little later.

I also acknowledge the support and assistance of many other people associated with this Parliament. I mention the Deputy Speaker, the member for Geraldton, and the Acting Speakers, who are the members for Kalgoorlie, Joondalup, Mitchell, Carine, Southern River, Vasse, Thornlie, Ningaloo and Roleystone. I thank them all for their time in chairing sessions of this Parliament and consideration in detail debates. I particularly thank the Government Whip, the member for Roleystone. Being a Whip is probably one of the most difficult and thankless tasks within a Parliament. It has been my casual observation, as I remarked on the weekend, that the role of the Whip is essentially the parliamentary equivalent of a sheepdog. I thank the member for Roleystone for what he has done. It is not easy for members, ministers, opposition spokespersons and the like to keep up with what can be a changing agenda.

I also thank the member for Nollamara, the manager of opposition business. We have had a surprisingly good relationship. I like to think that on all occasions when we have given undertakings to each other, they have been honoured by both of us. I have found the member for Nollamara to be very professional, fair and honest in matters we have negotiated behind the Chair. I thank him for that.

I thank Peter McHugh and Doug Carpenter, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, and John Mandy and Nigel Lake. This House has been blessed, not only because of the quality of the table officers but also because of the stability of their employment in this Parliament. They serve all members without fear or favour in a very professional way. I thank the Chamber staff - Nici, Jovita, Victor, Tony, Ron and Keith - for their assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. This year we have been fortunate in the sense that we have had virtually no late night sittings. That has probably made it a bit easier for staff, as well as for members.

I thank the Hansard officers, who do a great job and who I think are often forgotten. When we have long night sittings and stressful periods, they keep their calm and continue to work extremely professionally and diligently. They, probably more than even members of Parliament, are conscious of the uncomfortable working conditions within this Chamber. I guess members of Parliament can always walk in and out, but if a Hansard officer - or indeed the Clerk - is on duty, he or she does not have that flexibility.

I thank the library staff, who maintain a professional service and support and assist members and their staff in researching matters.

I thank the dining room and bar staff. One of the much appreciated improvements to the Parliament has been in the operation of the Dining Room and the quality of service and food that has been available. It is a far more convivial environment, and the number of members who bring in their family, friends and guests to use those facilities has been noticeable. That is a great credit to the staff working in those areas.

I thank Mr Vince Pacecca, who is recovering from an illness. I am sure members wish him all the best for a speedy and full recovery.

I thank the switchboard operators - Cathy, Marilyn, Rosalie and Lesley - who are always patient, polite, courteous and, like everyone else, very professional. I thank David Klemm, the parliamentary education officer, and all other parliamentary staff who contribute to the operation of this place.

Although a motion was moved today which allowed retiring members to give a valedictory speech, as Leader of the House I acknowledge and thank for their service the members for Girrawheen, Kimberley, Eyre, Cockburn, Wagin, Perth, and Greenough; and of course the Speaker, the member for Innaloo.

I also acknowledge the principal leaders of our process here - the Premier, the Deputy Premier, ministers and members of the coalition; the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, all opposition members and Independent members. I thank them for their courtesy throughout this year. Parliament is about vigorous debate. However, beneath much of the rhetoric, and sometimes acrimony, I think there has been a genuine sense of goodwill within the Parliament this year. We are all conscious that we are heading into an election, which is the ultimate adversarial contest. However, we should all feel satisfied that this Parliament has operated well this year. It is important for this State and its future that we have a vibrant and effective Parliament which has the confidence of the people and which is able to provide good government and to attract quality people, no matter what political persuasion they might be, to serve in this place and therefore this State.

Mr Speaker, I again thank you for your service. I wish all retiring members the very best for the future. I thank all members and all staff associated with this Parliament for their support. Whatever the result of the election, no doubt it will be a very different looking Parliament in terms of the numbers of members and where they are sitting. There will be many new faces. It is somewhat of a watershed to have eight or nine members of Parliament retiring. Obviously some changes of seats will occur as a result of the election. The composition of this Parliament will be different. I hope that will bring forward a new group of enthusiastic members, who will carry on the traditions of the Western Australian Parliament. I thank members, and I wish them, their families, those they love and those who love them, a very happy and safe Christmas period.

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [5.37 pm]: On behalf of the Opposition, I take this opportunity to thank all involved with the Parliament for this session and to wish all members the best for Christmas and the new year. First of all, Mr Speaker, I thank you for the way you have conducted yourself in the Chair. The Opposition appreciates the impartiality you have shown and the support you have given to parliamentary reform. We wish you all the best in retirement. I am sure that you have plenty of good things planned for that retirement.

I also thank the Clerks and the officers of the Chamber. There is no doubt that all of us, as members of Parliament, seek advice from time to time. It is always given on the basis of the best of knowledge that we could have available, and it is very much appreciated. The courteous way that all officers within this Chamber cooperate with the members is appreciated.

Our thanks go to the Hansard staff for the work they do. We understand that from time to time it is difficult to decipher the utterances coming from one particular place in this Chamber, given that many other points of view are being put forward at the same time. We appreciate the courtesy of the Hansard staff and the support they give us in the work we do.

Our special thanks go to the dining room staff and the gardeners. There is no doubt that the gardens of Parliament are a credit to the gardeners. Very few Saturdays and Sundays go by when a wedding is not being photographed in the surrounds of our Parliament.

I also thank the education officers. Many of our school students, senior citizens and community groups come to the Parliament to see how it operates. The education system in this place is very important. It now links in with the legal education office and the electoral education office. It is important that we make sure not only that we carry out the functions of Parliament, but also that we let the rest of the world know what we are doing, and that we educate those who need to be educated about it.

Our thanks go to the library staff. The Parliamentary Library is an important part of the Parliament, and we appreciate the work of the library staff. I also thank the security staff and the police officers. From time to time tricky issues arise and they deal with them very well.

I hope I have not missed thanking anyone involved in the work of the Parliament. If I have, I thank them for what they do.

A number of members have announced their retirement from Parliament: The members for Eyre, Cockburn, Girrawheen, Perth, Kimberley, Wagin, Greenough and Innaloo. Each of those members has made an interesting speech as part of the valedictory motion.

The member for Eyre has played a large role in Labor politics in Western Australia for a long time. He has a significant set of achievements as a minister and has survived some tough battles and personal challenges. He deserves a happy retirement given his contribution to the Labor Party and to the Parliament.

The member for Cockburn illustrated in his contribution today that he has a real interest in Parliament. He has been one of the better parliamentary committee members. His final contribution clearly indicates his passion for parliamentary procedure and process.

In his contribution, the member for Girrawheen focused on the people in his electorate and his relationship with them. They will sadly miss their local member, who fought so hard for them in their dealings with bureaucracies and Governments to ensure they got a fair deal. He helped many people who find life a real battle. My association with him goes back further than my association with many other members. I have appreciated the strong support he has given me in many ways in my parliamentary career.

In her final speech, the member for Perth illustrated her passion for equal opportunity and the dignity of all, regardless of the colour of their skin, their background or their sexuality. She fought for people to ensure they had a fair go. She brought real colour and flare to this Parliament and she will be sorely missed.

We often laugh about the long speeches made by the member for Wagin, but they were incisive. When the Labor Party was on the Treasury bench, the member brought tremendous knowledge to debates and kept the Government accountable. He has even kept this Government accountable from the Treasury back bench. He will be missed.

The member for Greenough showed a real interest in the scientific method. He obviously has a passion for science. Occasionally he seemed to find the clash between the scientific method and the political approach a little frustrating. He will also be missed for the quality of his speeches.

Mr Speaker, your contribution from the Chair will go down in the history of the 1990s as very significant. We all appreciate what you have done not only in the Chair but also in supporting the work done to improve the standing orders and to ensure that Parliament operates on behalf of everyone. We applaud you for what you have done.

I thank my deputy leader, the member for Belmont. He has been a tremendous help in the Opposition's task in this place. Last night I attended the college dinner at the newly united St Columba-Kingswood College. The former head of St Columba College had great pleasure in pointing out to me that the member for Belmont was at St Columba

College when I was at Kingswood College, so we had a united front. We still have that united front in this place. That is a very interesting state of affairs. The deputy leader's speeches are tremendous. It is his role to carry through the debate for the Opposition, and he does that extremely well.

The member for Nollamara has carried out the duties of shadow Leader of the House very well. The relationship he has developed with the Leader of the House has been productive. Members of the Opposition do not feel that we have missed out in parliamentary debates in terms of the Speaker's role in the Chair. This Parliament works well for all parties. We on this side of the House have no complaints about the workings of the House as they affect the questions we ask, matters of public interest, private member's business and the occasional suspension of standing orders to initiate a debate. I thank the shadow Leader of the House for what he has done.

I have a strong view that the Opposition's role is important in our system of government. We need opposition members who bring vigour and relevance to the debate. I believe that we have been a good Opposition. We have held the Government to account on the issues of the day; we have raised serious discussions about ministerial responsibility; and we have initiated a range of issues on behalf of all Western Australians.

Since the last election, members on this side have spent many non-sitting hours in regional Western Australia. We have organised on each visit an open forum for people to ask questions and raise issues. Whenever an issue was raised, we have asked a question, corresponded with the Government, or raised it for debate. That is the Opposition's role. It is important that opposition is vigorous, in touch and relevant. This Opposition has contributed to the work of this Parliament through the vigour of its activities.

I thank government members for the contributions they have made to parliamentary debates. This is an adversarial system. The member for Greenough made an interesting speech about the physical structure of the Parliament, and suggested that adversarial outcomes are being exaggerated by the layout of this Chamber. Many European Parliaments - which predominantly have proportional representation systems - require members to move to the front of the Chamber to speak. It is an interesting concept and it might improve the quality of our debate. All government members have played their role in ensuring that our Parliament works.

None of what I have said takes away from the fact that this is a system in which we compete for power. We do that because we have different values, philosophies, policies, priorities and prejudices. There is no doubt that our prejudices about a range of issues come to bear in the way we set priorities and formulate policies. It is a very important contest and it is much better that we conduct it using our democratic system rather than any of the alternatives available. We appreciate the fact that the Government vigorously defends itself and that we vigorously attack it when appropriate and put our point of view very strongly.

It is also important to note, as many other members have today, that members of Parliament need family and electorate support. Those who are members of a political party need a support base in their party, and Independents need a support base in their electorates. Families often feel the pressures of politics. The speeches of those retiring reflected their love for their families and the role that they played in supporting them in their careers. It is also important to acknowledge the role of political party members. Much is said these days about political parties, their members and how they operate. None of us would be in this Parliament and none of us would have the privilege of making our speeches without those volunteers. None of us would have the privilege of being able to introduce laws without all the volunteers who join political parties. They are good people. I talk about all the people who are involved at the lay level, be it with the Liberal Party, the National Party, the Labor Party, the Greens (WA) or the Australian Democrats. They are passionate people who give of their time to ensure the democratic process is working. From time to time they are subject to analysis and criticism, which is only fair, but we must record that none of us would be in here without those volunteers. I know that the role they play is very important.

We also must acknowledge the role played by all the other associations in our electorates, which keep us in touch, let us know what is going on when we need to be pulled back into reality and tell us that the consequences of some of our ideas are not quite as we would imagine when we debate them in this Parliament. I thank all those political party volunteers and all those people in the community who support associations and non-government organisations. Our society would be much poorer without them. In our comments today we thank all the people who make the political process work, from the Speaker right down to the secretary of the local branches of the political parties.

Finally, we note that this is the last time Parliament will sit before the election, which is obviously capturing the interest of the public. For some time now the people have said that they want to know the policies of the Labor Party. We have been putting out a range of policies so they can get a feel for our priorities. I know that every member of this Parliament who is standing for re-election looks forward to the contest. I hope it is a good contest and that the issues that are important to people for the future of our State will be the primary matters that we address in the election campaign. Whatever happens in that election campaign, I hope the next Parliament works as well as this one has worked.

**MR COWAN** (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [5.52 pm]: This is an appropriate time to convey, on behalf of all members of Parliament, particularly the parties we represent, and I am speaking specifically for the National Party and generally for the coalition, our thanks to all people involved in ensuring that this Parliament and the House work as effectively as

they do. Other members who spoke before me have listed some of those people. I will not repeat that; they called the roll particularly well. It is appropriate that we thank those people.

Mr Speaker, I am sure there have been times when you, as a member of Parliament rather than as Mr Speaker, but probably in both categories, have performed a deed for a constituent, this Parliament or a member of it and not been thanked for it. We all appreciate it very much when the work that we undertake for and on behalf of our electorate, the State or this institution is recognised and we are thanked. On behalf of all members of the National Party, and indeed all members of this House, I place on record our appreciation of and thanks to those people who have been involved in the management, administration and functions of this Parliament.

I regret that I had to be out of the State when some of the valedictory speeches were made. I missed the speech of my good friend and colleague the member for Wagin, which I would have liked to have heard and complimented him on. I am sorry I missed it.

Mr Wiese interjected.

Mr COWAN: The member for Wagin will not have to; I will read it. Seven other members have the privilege of indicating to their fellow parliamentarians and colleagues that they are stepping down at the end of this term of Parliament. They are privileged in as much as they have been able to make the decision and the electors have not made it for them.

Dr Gallop: It is an act of liberation.

Mr COWAN: Every one of those members who is retiring has made a contribution to this Parliament. I am sure that in your case, Mr Speaker, history will make a far better comment than I can about the extent of the changes, the reform, the conduct and the demeanour of the Parliament under your speakership. It must be placed on the record that we have seen considerable change in your time as Speaker. More than anything else, we have seen the restoration to the Parliament of a number of issues, not so much authority, but involvement by the Parliament in the functions of government and government administration. Quite often in my time in this Parliament - many members would say it is too long - people who are not privileged to occupy the front bench, or the Treasury benches as they are sometimes known, have said they want more involvement, not just as representatives of their constituencies, but in the general administration of the affairs of this State. As I said, history will record far better than I can the contribution that you, Mr Speaker, have made to changes to the way in which this Parliament functions and is administered.

I extend to all those people, whether they are the Clerks at the Table or the people involved in the management and administration of Parliament House and its grounds, the thanks of the National Party for ensuring that the Parliament and its services are available and at the disposal of all members of this Parliament and visitors who attend the Parliament from time to time.

I conclude by wishing everyone a very safe Christmas and a prosperous new year. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, the election will be hard fought and no-one resiles from that. We do not know the outcome. We all have a particular wish for that outcome, but I will leave that in the lap of the gods. I wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a prosperous 2001.

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): My understanding is that this motion will be dealt with after my remarks and, very shortly after that, we may well go our separate ways. I take the opportunity to make a small speech in two parts. I did not participate in the valedictory speeches because of the position I hold and the fact that I get my chance at this point, in the dying minutes of the thirty-fifth Parliament. I will make some personal comments and then I will make some comments on the parliamentary aspects.

Occasionally, it is a good thing to take time out to reflect on our blessings. I am living a very fortunate life. My first bit of fortune was to be born into a family that had strong, positive family and personal values. Might I say that all the good work of my mother and father stood me in good stead throughout my personal and public life. I try to remember that whatever a person does will, at some time, see the light of day. That helps one keep on the straight and narrow. Those times that I was disciplined after being in trouble as a kid moulded me and assisted me greatly. My father gave a lot of service to the community, mainly through local government. When I was a kid, at one stage he was on something like 36 committees. There were many nights that he was not seen at the tea table. That experience inculcated in me a latent interest in public life.

My second element of fortune was to marry my wife, Helen. I was married at a young age and her influence, as well as that of my family, has been great. Perhaps it stopped me from having a more wayward youth, because I had responsibilities at a young age. I am now receiving the great benefits - at the relatively young age of 58 - of eight grandchildren. I look forward to the prospect of wonderful things in my involvement with them. Those members who have loyal, faithful and supportive spouses are fortunate. As my father used to say, a spouse is someone a member can go home to and "Get the muck off your pluck." A spouse is someone to whom a person can say a few things and get feedback and help to keep focused in a positive way. It is easy to become negative at times - we all do that. I thank Helen for her support and feedback, which has been important to me. The support of a spouse is an important factor for those members whose public life makes great demands on them.

The third element of fortune was my gradual awakening to public life through my involvement with the City of Stirling. I was a teacher for 27 years and during that time was involved in all sorts of things with my kids, such as Little Athletics. I have often told the story on opening days about what can happen to a person who becomes involved in Little Athletics - one can end up in local government or in Parliament. All sorts of things can happen so long as a person gets involved in community affairs. If people did not do that, no-one would take on responsible jobs, such as those of councillors in local government or as members of Parliament.

It all must start somewhere and for me it started in the community. I spent 10 years teaching army cadets and more than a year full time in army camps. That was an experience that rubbed off on me. I lived and worked with people and had to devise systems to cater for large movements of people in and out of camps and so on. That led to me eventually being asked to run for the City of Stirling. I lost the first election, but someone told me to have another go and I was elected unopposed. My involvement in local government opened my eyes to community service, which is very large and broad. I was eventually asked to run for Parliament. The people who asked me to run were not political people, but business people. It was then that I realised it was an option in life. I did not come to this place straight out of a political party, but out of the community. Through the opportunity given to me by the Liberal Party, I was able to say to people that I was on that side of politics. The word Liberal means something, as does the word Labor, to those who do not know much about a candidate. A candidate's own endeavours and personal support are added so that he can gain enough support to get into this place.

I am a guy who did not have a lot of money, but I have been very rich in people. During my time in public life, hundreds of people have given me support, generally because I have taken up their battles. Some members may wonder how Strickland, the Liberal, holds what one could say was a relatively safe Labor seat. It is because of my community involvement and a genuine desire to stand up and be counted. I have fought the City of Stirling, the Little Athletics committee, cabinet decisions in the party room and the Government. I stand up for that in which I believe. I have a definite political philosophy and I strongly support the direction of the Liberal Party, but from time to time I like to argue with the detail. There is nothing wrong with that. A good bit of scrutiny and a few questions here and there shake the thing around, which is healthy for democracy.

I would like more people from the community to come into both sides of Parliament, instead of being locked into a political philosophy. This would allow a wider range of views to be heard from time to time. I have been able to hold my seat. I achieved a 9.5 per cent swing to get here, which was about double the swing to the Government. In every election I have had just under double the swing that the party received. Maybe there is something in what I have been trying to do. People tend to support someone in whom they can believe. I have taken great pride in standing up for my beliefs. I have tried to be true to myself and have never shirked from issues. I like to look towards the future; however, when I do, I always try to reflect on the past because sometimes, when a person changes direction, he might pick up a few things but lose and do damage to others. I am proud that I have been involved in many community campaigns. In return, people have said that they want to help me. That has allowed me to maintain a position in this Parliament.

When I came in here, someone asked me what a decent bloke like me was doing getting involved in the dirty game of politics. I suppose I did not realise quite what it was like. I have a much better understanding now. The political process is essential. There must be people in this place and there must be teamwork - a person gets nowhere by himself in politics - but there must be a little flexibility from time to time to keep people accountable. I came in here primarily because I was concerned about financial and debt management, which was a big issue for me in local government. My personal philosophy was that a person should pay his own way, and try to do a little better for the future.

I recently visited a school at which a young lady asked me to sum up in one word all I have done and all I have been involved in. I have never had a question like that before. I thought about it and I wrote down "reformist". In everything that I have been involved with - the City of Stirling, Little Athletics and the role of Speaker - I have tried to achieve reform. I have had some interesting moments. When I was the Deputy Speaker, I remember dealing with what the Government calls time management and the Opposition calls the guillotine. At a certain time I had to put the process in place. The first thing I had to do was clear an opposition amendment that was being debated. When I am in the Chair, I normally look to each side in a certain way. On this occasion, I looked in a different way. The process could not be stopped and the House had to clear an opposition amendment. I looked to the government side and the Government said that it agreed with the amendment. The Opposition immediately said that if the Government said yes, it would say no. I realised it was all going wrong so I gave it to the noes. I remember the puzzlement on the face of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The bells rang and I called it the right way. If I had not, the Government would have had a very difficult time as it would have adopted an opposition amendment as part of the guillotine process. That would have created great difficulties.

Being elected as Speaker does not guarantee that one will be treated kindly by members of the same political persuasion. I had been in the job for a only few weeks when the Government was trying to get legislation through the Assembly and the Council. It put a couple of money Bills in the upper House and sent them to the Assembly. As Speaker, the test was really on for me to rule them out. Although there may have been difficult moments, I think members understood exactly what happened and, in the end, the parliamentary system was protected.

One of my greatest honours was being elected Speaker, unopposed. If anything, that put the pressure on me because it meant that the Opposition thought I would do a good job and was prepared to be supportive. The pressure goes on to be as fair and even-handed as possible. That was a great honour. The greatest honour of my life was to have been made a Freeman of the City of Stirling. That honour recognised my voluntary work. It occurred when I was 57 years old and still a member of Parliament. Such honours are normally reserved for people in their 70s, and we all know that a wide range of political viewpoints are represented in local councils. It was a great honour. It recognised the voluntary contributions I had made after I left local government, and covered many things that are not within my ambit as the local member. I still maintain my relationships with a very large number of community organisations. That brings my personal comments to an end.

I am grateful for all the support I have received. I will not single out individuals as many people have supported me, and not just inside the Parliament. The support of such people has enabled me to be a member of Parliament. I have received some political support but I have received much support from other members of the community.

There was a problem in Parliament when I was appointed Speaker: Two kingdoms existed - that of the President in the Council and that of the Speaker in the Assembly - and there was not always a lot of communication. Many well-meaning people were in Parliament but not much structure. I do not know how Parliament hung together so well. It was probably due to the work of a lot of good people. I acknowledge the wonderful support and working relationship that I have had with the President. The President and I decided that a whole-of-Parliament approach was needed. Believe it or not, the two Clerks used to be at odds. They are less at odds these days. A management executive committee was created that provides opportunities for regular meetings. It has created a situation in which people think about the whole of the Parliament, rather than just the Assembly or the Council. That has been a big shift in the culture.

I want to associate the President with the following remarks. There has been a great team effort in achieving many things. We used to have a five-department model that included the library committee, the Hansard committee, the joint house committee and the individual Houses. Some committees never met. We joined them together and called it the Parliamentary Services Department. I have received official visitors from the eastern States - senior staff members - who have said it is the best model. That reflects some of the advantages of the system implemented. Our current Executive Manager, Parliamentary Services is Russell Bremner, who has been with the Parliament for some time and he has provided great leadership. He has been instrumental in getting all the services that support the Chambers working with a whole-of-Parliament approach. I place on record my thanks to him and his line management team.

Parliament never used to have a human resources officer or a financial planner. Parliament did not have the range of people necessary to run a modern, professional organisation. I am confident that the Parliament has a good management structure with professional people in place. The Clerks used to run around doing things to patch up the system and keep it going. These tasks are now done by our professional management staff. The Parliament is now on a good footing. I thank all those individuals. I will not name them all but, through Russell Bremner, I pass on my thanks to all sections of the Parliamentary Services Department.

I thank the Leader of the House for all he has done. There are other people I want to thank as they have done a lot of the hard work over the years. People get nowhere in the political world unless they have proper support. If a committee has done a lot of work which is compiled into a report and brought into this place, it will gather dust unless someone can recognise the value of it and is prepared to champion its goals. I thank the Leader of the House, on behalf of all the members who have had input on all types of matters, for taking matters through the Cabinet and party rooms. I also thank the counterpart of the Leader of the House - there have been a couple of them - who has done the same thing with the opposition parties. The Government also tries to keep the Independents involved through the odd meeting with staff.

I thank the Leader of the House for his leadership. The Speaker always has 56 pairs of eyes looking at him weighing up whether he has been fair. Someone must direct the traffic from the floor of the House and that job has fallen to the member for Cottesloe. As the years have gone by, the Leader of the House has grown into the position. I remember the days when we had arguments about time management and guillotines. A change of culture in this House has come about partly because of the Leader of the House and partly because of a good climate of work in the House. The hours are comfortable, the work is being done, people are making their points and there is some give and take on each side. Most people can talk to each other, which has not always been the case in times gone by. When people have some trust in each other and can talk to one another, it can help solve some problems.

The Procedure and Privileges Committee has met 45 times, which is a mammoth number compared with the situation in the past, and the meetings have been productive. I thank the staff, Peter McHugh, Doug Carpenter, and John Mandy, who have spent hundreds of hours involved in cross-checking, revising the standing orders and providing background information for members. Much work has been done and many reports have been produced. At the end of the day, we have achieved something. I place my deep respect for the Clerk, Peter McHugh, on the record. I have done this for only two or three people in my life. Peter McHugh is a professional person who has always given me good advice. We are fortunate to have him. On one or two occasions I did not take his advice, but that is an option a Speaker has - he must weigh up the matter. The advice has always been solid, professional and well researched. This House is

extremely fortunate to have someone of such a high calibre. Advice is given to not only me, but also the Leader of the House and the Opposition. The advice is given freely, confidentially and has always been proper.

A team of Acting Speakers has helped me do the job; the team members have all been named. Not too many of them are here, but Bernie Masters and Megan Anwyl are recent additions to the team. I will not mention everyone's name but I thank them. The former Speaker Jim Clarko introduced a system of having Acting Speakers in the Chair for an hour on a roster basis as an opportunity for new members to gain experience. The system has merit because one takes everything for granted when one comes into this place. Some people seem to know what motions to move and who does or says what and so on. Much of it passes one by unless one does the job. When a member gets a turn in the Chair, he must learn the rules. It is an induction and an educational process. The member for Roleystone has helped also. In addition, members see the work I do up front in the Chair, and do not see the work and the meetings that go on behind the scenes. Acting Speakers provide more flexibility for the Speaker to sort out other problems and to get involved.

I strayed from the subject of the Procedure and Privilege Committee too quickly. I have had a wonderful time working and interacting with the people from both sides of the House on that committee. I consider all of them to be friends. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has accused me of using culinary diplomacy; and we enjoyed it. Standing orders are a pretty dry subject, but it helps the system if one gets some work done and has a nice lunch. There has been no friction on the committee. Members have been able to make their points and if extra time was needed, we would hold it over until a satisfactory solution could be found. It has been an arrangement of consent that has borne fruit. I thank each of those members personally for their friendship and for their involvement in the committee. I guess each did not win everything individually, but we all won as a committee.

I had a great experience with other members in China recently. I will not tell stories out of school. At least in my lifetime I have experienced being driven around the streets of China in a red flag car - that is the big black limo with a red flag. I have had some fantastic experiences in both the position of Speaker in committee work and at other times when I have had the opportunity to travel.

When I work here, I am supported by about three important people. Lyn Williams is my secretary who works in the little office - it could not really be called an office; it is a little space around the corner - and the Clerk's secretary, Corinne Briant; they are fantastic ladies. I am sure that most members have interacted with them. They bend over backwards to help. I thank them for their personal support. I also thank Vince La Galia for his personal support. Nearly every member has seen Vince. If ever there was a loyal servant to this Parliament who wants to do the best job he can to help everyone, it is Vince La Galia. I place on record my personal thanks to Vince who does a wonderful job in helping me host all sorts of occasions.

I have been fortunate to be an Australian regional representative of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association on the executive committee. Some people have said to me that they think I have the best job in the Parliament; that is arguably true. When one has the job on the CPA representing Australia often acting as a representative overseas, it gives some people the impression that one is always on an aeroplane. It has been a wonderful experience. The CPA is a worthwhile body. It is a networking organisation. Many cries for help are coming out of Africa and the Pacific. It is important that the branches such as Western Australia, that have supportive parliamentary democracies, are available to get involved and help. It has put extra work on me, but it has been a pleasurable job, representing our Parliament.

Many people work in Parliament House, in all sorts of departments. I shall not thank them individually. A lunch is to be held to thank the Assembly staff specifically. I thank the gardeners who keep the grounds looking nice, security staff, library, Hansard, finance, IT, works, catering, human resources and switchboard staff. Many people work here who should be thanked, and it should be placed on the record. A Christmas function is to be held, to which members are invited, to thank those people. Members should take an hour or two off doorknocking to meet the staff.

I see two challenges to the next Parliament. If I have had a disappointment, it has been the failure to achieve the upgrade of the building. I have a list of painting, carpeting and upgrading works that have been done over the past four years. New standing committee rooms are being prepared at a cost of \$1m. Refurbishment of that site will occur during the break. I will not detail the things that need to be done. Other changes have been made behind the scenes to keep the management structures going. My greatest disappointment is that money was not made available to upgrade the parliamentary building. It will never be cheaper. Everyone who works here must put up with the inadequacies of the place. The money will have to be spent sooner or later as it is 40 years since the last major upgrade. Although some say there is never a right time to do this, I believe that the media, the Opposition and the members are generally on-side, but we have not been able to get the funding.

At the annual general meeting of the Parliamentary Services Committee, a motion was passed unanimously requesting the Government, as a matter of urgency, to provide the Parliament of Western Australia with funding for an architectural competition to provide design options for additions to Parliament House, and/or a contemporary adjacent building, including a master refurbishment plan of the existing Parliament House. It is the feeling of members generally that the challenge for the next Government is that it should just get on with it - it will not lose any seats on the issue.

The second challenge the Parliament needs to look at is the position of Speaker. When Speaker Barnett retained his seat but the Government changed, he continued in office until the new Speaker was elected. In the case of Speaker Clarko, on the day of the election he lost office as a member and there was no Speaker. The same will apply in my case. Throughout the world, the situation is often different. One presiding officer will remain in this Parliament because the Legislative Council has a different time frame. The next Parliament should consider an adjustment to the Constitution to allow the Speaker to remain in office until the next Speaker is elected. He would not, of course, get a parliamentary salary, because he would not be a member of Parliament, but Speakers do many things outside the Chamber, with diplomatic visitors and other arrangements. I challenge the next Parliament to look at this issue.

In just over four years' time, the election that is imminent would have been held, as would another one. A startling statistic, that does not rely on tides of discontent in the community or anywhere else, is that at least 50 of the 91 members sitting in these two Houses today will not be here. The average length of a parliamentary career is less than 13 years. I have been very conservative in saying that. There is always a turnover, and new members will always come into this Parliament. If that 50 out of 91 frightens members, they should accept that it is just part of the uncertainties of Parliament.

Last year's average of 16 questions in each question time has dropped to an average of 15 this year, but that is still not a bad rate. I thank members for their support in that endeavour. I shall conclude by reflecting on people's time in this place. I ask members to think about a bucket of water. When they come into this place the bucket is half full of water, and when a hand is put into the bucket, and a member has a hand in things, he might see the water rise. If a member has a big hand in things, the water will rise right up the sides of the bucket. The day a member leaves, he takes his hand out of the bucket, and sees the wet sides for a while, until they dry off. There will be a few ripples in the bucket, which will disappear, and the bucket and water will still be there. For those who have become legends in their own mind, as time goes by, remember the bucket of water, which returns to the same level after the hand is taken out, although the sides remain wet for a while.

I thank all members for their support, and for the friendships I have made. It is very difficult to wish all members well in the election, because some people are trying to toss other people out - such is the difficult nature of politics - but I do wish every person in this place well in their future. It will be a tight election. People may ask for my prophecies, but I will not give them from the Chair. It will be tight, because the Opposition has taken it up to the Government but, in the end, the House will start up again, and all will have to get on with the challenge. I thank members for their support. I have enjoyed the new challenge, not just of chairing the Parliament, but of trying to do a little bit of good in the place. I wish all a great Christmas.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [6.39. pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

I neglected in my earlier comments to pass on my appreciation to the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet parliamentary services support staff, who provide a great deal of assistance to me, particularly to Nick and Peter, to whom I affectionately refer as dork one and dork two, and to Rebecca, who keeps the show on the road. I thank them for their good humour and good company. I once again thank the Speaker. I enjoyed his analogy of the bucket of water, and, as has just been remarked, that is better than the buckets of other material that sometimes get thrown around. Again, I wish all members well. I do not wish them success in equal measure, but I wish all well, and it is with a great sense of relief that I move-

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 6.40 pm*

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

**KENINUP FOREST BLOCK, ADDITIONS TO PERUP NATURE RESERVE**

144. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How many hectares of Keninup block were proposed to be added to Perup nature reserve in the 1994 Forest Management Plan?
- (2) How many hectares of Keninup block will be added to Perup nature reserve as a result of the Regional Forest Agreement?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1-2) One of the objectives of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process was to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system, in accordance with the Nationally Agreed Reserves Criteria. The RFA process resulted in a commitment to establish a net increase in new formal reserves of 150,000 hectares. In comparison to the target levels of reservation in the reserves criteria, some values were found to be lacking in the existing reserve system, while other values were over-represented. Consequently, some of the areas proposed for reservation under the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003 have been redesigned or are intended to remain as State forest and, based on the information gathered during the RFA process, the new criteria, and community priorities in respect of old growth, higher value areas have been substituted for them.

Just as the RFA process has changed previous decisions about which areas are available for timber harvest, it has also changed previous decisions about which portions of Keninup forest block are intended to be included in the conservation reserve system. Nevertheless, the RFA will result in an increase in the reservation of the forest ecosystems that occur in Keninup forest block: Jarrah North East will increase from 15% to 16%; Jarrah South from 29% to 32%; Jarrah Woodland from 50% to 52%; Western Wandoo Woodland from 17% to 23%, Western Wandoo Forest from 16% to 17%; and Shrub, Herb and Sedgelands from 57% to 58%.

**TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISA PROGRAM, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES**

601. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department provide any English as a Second Language classes for children or unaccompanied minors who are resident in Western Australia under the Temporary Protection Visa Programme?
- (2) Does the Education Department receive any funding to provide English as a Second Language classes at Intensive Language Centres for children or unaccompanied minors who are in Western Australia under the Temporary Protection Visa Programme?
- (3) If not, what steps have been taken to provide classes in English for this group and to obtain funding from the Federal Government?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Education Department does not provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for children or unaccompanied minors on a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) in Intensive Language Centres (ILCs).
- (2) No funding is made available from the Commonwealth for ESL classes in ILCs for children or unaccompanied minors on a TPV.
- (3) Students or unaccompanied minors in Western Australia under the TPV, are eligible to enrol in mainstream Government schools. The teachers of these students are able to access specialised ESL professional development and curriculum design/implementation support through the ESL Curriculum Support Officers in Central Office. They are also able to borrow and utilise teaching materials from the comprehensive collection of classroom support materials held at the ESL Resource Centre. These materials are designed to facilitate second language acquisition and can be couriered to the school site. The Education Department has collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Interests in the preparation of a paper on Funding for ILCs. This paper was presented at a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. It outlines the case for a review of Commonwealth funding for holders of temporary visas in order to permit their entry into ILCs. A review is being undertaken regarding the provision of ESL to temporary visa holders to identify possible strategies to be developed to permit increased access for these students into Intensive Language Centres.

## COMO PRIMARY SCHOOL, PREPRIMARY FACILITY

629. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the on-going dissatisfaction over the placement of a pre-primary facility at Como Primary School and ask -

- (a) is it correct that the School Education Act 1999 requires pre-primary facilities to be located on-site on primary school grounds in Western Australia;
- (b) is it correct that the School Education Act 1999 allows the Minister to grant exemptions from this general provision;
- (c) if so, has the Minister granted an exemption in the case of a pre-primary facility in the Premier's electorate by which the new facility is located a kilometre away from the linked primary school, and on local authority land;
- (d) if "yes" to (c), will the Minister advise why he allowed such an exemption in the Dalkeith case when he refused to allow an exemption in the case of the Como pre-primary facility;
- (e) does he acknowledge that the Como pre-primary facility could have been located on land only 50 metres from the Como Primary School, not the one kilometre or so in the case of Dalkeith;
- (f) is it correct that departmental funds are being used to finance the Dalkeith facility on local shire grounds, contrary to stated Education Department policy;
- (g) if "yes" to (e) and (f), will the Minister, as a matter of justice and equity under the School Education Act 1999, favourably reconsider his original decision and treat Como in a similar fashion to Dalkeith school; and
- (h) if not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) The school Education Act 1999 does not require pre-primary facilities to be located on-site on primary school grounds in Western Australia.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Exemptions are not required to locate pre-primary facilities off-site from a school.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) As there was ample room for an on-site purpose built facility at the Como Primary School, it was not necessary to locate the pre-primary program in an off-site facility.
- (f) The Education Department will lease an early childhood education facility in Dalkeith from the City of Nedlands. Education Department funds will be used to extend this facility. In special circumstances the Education Department undertakes capital works on facilities that it does not own, but it is not the preferred practice. There is insufficient space to place an early childhood education facility on the Dalkeith Primary School site and the lease on the off-site facility will be held by the Education Department.
- (g) No. There is already an on-site early childhood education facility available at Como Primary School. It is not possible to locate an early childhood education facility on-site at Dalkeith Primary School.
- (h) The off-site facility in Como is a community based kindergarten, and as such is leased from the local council by the parent management committee. The Dalkeith facility will be leased by the Education Department from January 2001.

## FOREST ECOSYSTEMS, AREAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR LOGGING

670. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) For the more than 1,170,000 hectares of the 'diverse range of forest ecosystems' the Government claims are now in reserves or otherwise not available for logging, will the Minister provide the total area in each type of reserve and each category of land otherwise not available for logging?
- (2) For each category of reserve and each category of land otherwise not available for logging, will the Minister provide a breakdown for the area of the following -
  - (a) jarrah forest ecosystems;
  - (b) jarrah woodland ecosystems;
  - (c) karri forest ecosystems;
  - (d) wandoo forest ecosystems;
  - (e) wandoo woodland ecosystems;

- (f) bullich and yate;
- (g) Darling Scarp vegetation;
- (h) peppermint and coastal heath;
- (i) rocky outcrops;
- (j) sand dunes;
- (k) shrub, herb, and sedgelands;
- (l) swamps;
- (m) Swan Coastal Plain vegetation;
- (n) Dandaragan Plateau vegetation;
- (o) Western Wheatbelt vegetation;
- (p) exotic species and cleared land;
- (q) water; and
- (r) Crown land not classified for any of the above?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The areas within the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) boundary that are reserved or set aside from logging are as follows.

Hectares

(1)	(a)	Gazetted reserves	
	(i)	National Park	343,620
	(ii)	Nature Reserve	43,720
	(iii)	5(g) Reserve	13,350
	(iv)	Conservation Park	22,080
	(b)	Forest Management Plan proposed reserves	268,270
	(c)	New RFA formal reserves	204,130
	(d)	CAR informal reserves	151,630
	(e)	Other informal reserves	126,510
	(f)	Areas identified by Ministerial Advisory Group on karri	12,870

(2) See below.

Ecosystem	Estimated Reserve or land category (ha)								
	(a)(i)	(a)(ii)	(a)(iii)	(a)(iv)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Jarrah forest	114 010	13 200	12 480	12 680	163 340	119 440	54 460	71 370	0
Jarrah woodland	8 370	2 790	180	270	6 890	4 640	21 370	11 250	0
Karri forest	46 980	250	0	0	5 800	4 390	13 900	14 210	12 870
Wandoo forest	14 020	3 560	0	7 440	19 390	7 890	5 400	4 590	0
Wandoo woodland	11 020	1 480	0	890	10 550	6 650	5 640	1 870	0
Bullich and yate	1 470	40	10	0	650	0	0	0	0
Darling scarp	950	110	0	180	10	1 460	30	40	0
Peppermint and heath	52 030	1 420	10	0	4 070	120	130	0	0
Rocky outcrops	4 150	60	40	90	1 510	2 030	2 050	2 360	0
Sand dunes	9 840	0	0	0	190	0	10	0	0
Shrub, herb and sedge	74 790	8 510	460	190	53 210	52 840	46 640	14 700	0
Swamps	2 560	2 530	20	0	290	480	360	250	0
Swan Coastal Plain	50	300	0	20	100	420	320	60	0
Dandaragan Plateau	0	300	0	0	130	0	0	0	0
Western wheatbelt	0	1 340	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exotics and cleared	680	670	120	190	1 480	1 950	1 110	5 590	0
Water	1 140	6 650	0	0	320	220	180	180	0
Crown land not classified for any of the above	1 560	510	30	130	340	1 600	30	40	0

#### REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, AREA AVAILABLE FOR LOGGING

671. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) As a result of the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA), the Ferguson report and subsequent Government decisions, how many hectares of -

- (a) State forest;
- (b) timber reserves; and
- (c) other categories of public land (specifically),  
are now available for logging within the RFA area?
- (2) For each of the above categories, will the Minister provide a breakdown for the area of -
- (a) jarrah forest ecosystems;
- (b) jarrah woodland ecosystems;
- (c) karri forest ecosystems;
- (d) wandoo forest ecosystems;
- (e) wandoo woodland ecosystems;
- (f) bullich and yate;
- (g) Darling Scarp vegetation;
- (h) peppermint and coastal heath;
- (i) rocky outcrops;
- (j) sand dunes;
- (k) shrub, herb and sedgeland;
- (l) swamps;
- (m) Swan Coastal Plain vegetation;
- (n) Dandaragan Plateau vegetation;
- (o) Western Wheatbelt vegetation;
- (p) exotic species and cleared land;
- (q) water; and
- (r) Crown land not classified for any of the above?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Following the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003, Regional Forest Agreement and the Ministerial Advisory Group report on karri and tingle, the area of multiple-use CALM estate within which timber harvesting is permitted is as follows.

	Hectares
(a) State forest	1,091,080
(b) Timber reserves	44,700
(c) Freehold land held in the name of the Executive Director	20,080

- (2) See below.

Ecosystem	Land category		
	State forest	Timber reserves	Executive Director freehold land
Jarrah forest	923 370	33 950	4 760
Jarrah woodland	0	0	0
Karri forest	76 930	100	1 300
Wandoo forest	29 710	7 690	40
Wandoo woodland	8 500	1 140	0
Bullich and yate	10	0	0
Darling scarp	180	0	140
Peppermint and heath	0	0	0
Rocky outcrops	0	0	0
Sand dunes	0	0	0
Shrub, herb and sedge	0	0	0
Swamps	0	0	0
Swan Coastal Plain	620	60	0
Dandaragan Plateau	0	0	0
Western wheatbelt	0	0	0
Exotics and cleared	43 780	1 630	13 810
Water	7 400	20	30
Crown land not classified for any of the above	580	110	0

## BAUDIN EXPEDITION, CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

675. Ms WARNOCK to the Treasurer:

- (1) What financial commitment has the Government made to the year 2001 by Centennial Celebration of the Baudin Expedition?
- (2) Is there any Opposition representation on the organising committee for this important event?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What events have been organised to celebrate this historic occasion?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The Western Australian State Government has provided \$50,000 to the Terra Australis 2001 Committee through the University of Western Australia to help with the administration of the planned celebrations for the Baudin Bicentenary. A further \$20,000 has been allocated from the State Centenary of Federation Committee for a monuments project in Fremantle and other regional areas. An amount of \$13,000 has also been allocated to the Margaret River Arts Council from Federal Government Funding through the Australia Council for the development of a 'drama work' to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Baudin Expedition.
- (2) The 'Terra Australis 2001 Committee' is not a Government committee and has recently become an incorporated body. The Hon Barry House MLC who chairs the newly incorporated Committee was invited to do so by the University of Western Australia. The Hon Barry House had been involved with the planning of the celebrations because of his involvement in the Margaret River area and as a representative of that community. While it is not a State Government Committee, the Hon Barry House has issued a personal invitation to Opposition Member Ms Diana Warnock MLA to attend any of the meetings.
- (3) See answer to Part (2)
- (4) Some of the proposed events for the Baudin Bicentenary celebrations for Western Australia in 2001 include:
  - (a) A re-enactment voyage by the 'STS Leeuwin' and a French vessel.
  - (b) A visit to Perth by a vessel of the French Navy
  - (c) The erection of monuments in Fremantle and other regional areas.
  - (d) The distribution of an Educational Kit throughout State Government schools.
  - (e) A major International Touring Exhibition to be co-ordinated by the Western Australian Museum.
  - (f) A 'Grand Spectacle' about the Baudin Expedition to be mounted by the renowned Claude Moreau
  - (g) A 'Margaret River French Connections Festival'
  - (h) A yacht race involving 534's to be co-ordinated by John Longley
  - (i) An Exhibition of Charts, Manuscripts, Prints and Paintings in the Sir Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.
  - (j) A Music Concert with pianist/conductor Jean-Bernard Pommier in conjunction with the W A Symphony Orchestra
  - (k) Three symposia on History, Natural History and Medicine.

## CANNING VALE HIGH SCHOOL, CONSTRUCTION

707. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister announce his decision on building Canning Vale High School before the next State election?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The consultation process, as part of Local Area Education Planning, has now been completed and the Director General is considering the information before making his recommendations to me. An announcement will be made on secondary schooling in the Canning Vale area once I have considered the Director General's recommendations.

## REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT, TOURISM PROJECTS

726. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

Will the Minister advise of the current status of the following tourism projects announced as part of the Regional Forest Agreement -

- (a) \$2 million for a tourist attraction in the Donnelly River Valley;
- (b) \$2 million for three eco-lodge camping and chalet sites;
- (c) \$1 million for a scenic drive in Pemberton;

- (d) \$1 million for tourism development at Wellington Dam; and
- (e) \$2 million for sealing Mowen Road between Nannup and Margaret River.

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a) An open competition was run to attract innovative concepts for the development. Seventy-one entries were received - six entries were awarded prizes. Suggestions included sculpture parks, laser light shows, bike trails, river trails, a virtual tree, railways, an aboriginal interpretive centre, a bush theatre, theme parks, mazes, many variations on getting into the canopy of the forest - lifts, gondolas, flying foxes, monorails, sky rails etc. Suggested sites were mainly the Diamond Tree area, One Tree Bridge area and a steep part of the Donnelly Valley 30km west of Manjimup. In the next phase of the project, expressions of interest were called for professional groups or other interested parties to put forward proposals to develop further any of the seventy-one concepts received in the public competition. Forty-nine syndicates received project-briefing packages; five have been short-listed to develop project proposals further. A judging panel, which includes representatives from the tourism industry, nature conservation, ecotourism, government and community, will convene in November. With the assistance of consulting engineers and architects, quantity surveyors and business consultants, the judges may choose one of the syndicates to proceed to design drawing stage. Construction is expected to commence in Autumn.
- (b) Qualitative research was undertaken by consultants on behalf of the WA Tourism Commission (WATC) and CALM to determine user group preferences for camping and cabin accommodation in the South West. This research is being combined with a recently completed camping and accommodation study of the CALM Southern Forest Region, visitor surveys, WATC studies, and information gathered for other plans, to form the basis of the RFA Camping and Cabins Development Plan. The development plan document will articulate the range of developments proposed, their potential locations, and how they might be developed, including funding models. For example:
  - Walk-in huts in national parks;
  - 4WD group huts on the coast;
  - Camping areas with some basic huts; and
  - Basic wilderness resorts.
 Management models, which include partnerships, private developments and CALM operated sites, will be included.
 

The Development Plan is proposed to be available for public consultation by December. There will then be a commercial feasibility testing, then expressions of interest called for individual or grouped projects (by May). Design detail and approvals (by October) and a construction phase during Spring/Summer 2001.
- (c) A project master plan was released for public comment, and a public consultation meeting run in Pemberton in July. Feedback from the meeting is being incorporated into the plan.
 

Key features of the plan are:

  - Upgraded access to Big Brook Dam from both Pemberton and Manjimup;
  - New picnic areas and interpretive radio stops along Rainbow and Tramway Trails;
  - Picnic areas in Giblett State forest;
  - Upgrade of road, car park, toilets, trails and boardwalks at Beedelup Falls;
  - Upgrade of picnic and camping sites in Warren National Park; and
  - Market the drive as a package with other attractions.

Work to upgrade access and facilities at Beedelup Falls commenced last year, and were recently completed. Tenders are in the process of being called for associated road works. Work is expected to be completed by mid 2001.
- (d) A Recreation and Tourism master plan for the Wellington National Park and surrounding areas has been prepared to aid the development of road access, public amenities and walk trail networks emanating outward from the dam wall recreation site. Existing access tracks and service road networks in the park will be rationalised in accordance with interim management guidelines that are being developed. Unnecessary roads and tracks will be closed and rehabilitated. Negotiations with private sector proponents for a commercial tourism development to include accommodation services and public amenities at Potters Gorge are continuing.
- (e) No money from the RFA was allocated to Mowen Road. This financial year will see about \$1.3m spent on the project to date. The \$2m was moneys brought forward in budget papers from the original allocation to the

MRD for the seven year project. The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is the project co-ordinator and holds the funds each financial year which are allocated by the MRD. All work to date is west of Sues Road and it will be about two years before commencing the eastern part of the project.

#### VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCREASE

738. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Treasurer:

I refer to the recent mass "Axe-the-Tax" rally outside Parliament House on the issue of fuel and other on-costs and ask, in respect to owner-drivers and the transport industry in general, will the Treasurer indicate the extent to which State-controlled vehicle registration fees have risen in each of the past eight years?

Mr COURT replied:

For business vehicles with gross weight of less than 4.5 tonnes, the licence fee component of vehicle registration fees over the last eight years is as follows:

1993/94	\$97.86
1994/95	\$97.86
1995/96	\$97.86
1996/97	\$97.86
1997/98	\$117.40
1998/99	\$192.00
1999/00	\$196.15
2000/01	\$200.16

For heavy vehicles (gross weight of 4.5 tonnes or more), Western Australia has adopted the national uniform licence fee charges from 1 July 1996. The licence fee component of the registration fees for these vehicles is determined by the number of axles, the gross weight of the vehicle and its nomination of use in towing trailers. For example, the current licence fee for a standard 3 axle rigid truck with a gross vehicle mass of 16.5 tonnes and with no trailers is \$600, while the current licence fee for a standard three-axle prime mover with one trailer is \$3,400.

#### NATIONAL LITERACY BENCHMARK TESTS, EXEMPTIONS

779. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many children were granted exemptions from sitting the national literacy benchmark tests conducted in Western Australian primary schools this year?
- (2) Including those exempted, how many children did not sit the tests and what percentage of all children eligible to sit the tests does this represent?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) A total of 698 exemptions and withdrawals from the WA Literacy and Numeracy Assessments were granted. Exemptions were based on permanent or temporary disability, and withdrawals on parental preference.
- (2) Across the State over 51 000 students in government and non-government schools were able to participate in the assessments. The 698 exemptions or withdrawals mentioned above represents approximately 1.3% of these students. In addition, approximately 3.5% of government students are estimated to have been absent from the assessments due to illness. It is not known how many children in non-government schools did not participate in the assessments due to illness.

#### TEACHERS, TRIP TO CHINA

780. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it true that a group of Western Australian schoolteachers, under the auspices of the Education Department of Western Australia, are travelling to China during the September school holidays?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide information on -
  - (a) what is the purpose of the trip;
  - (b) what is the cost of the trip and how it is being met;
  - (c) what is the proposed benefit of the trip;
  - (d) what is the duration of the trip; and
  - (e) how many people are making the trip?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) The purpose of the trip is to build on the Zhejiang/Western Australia Sister State Program by establishing three sister school Memorandums of Understanding. These Memorandums will provide structures for future teacher and student exchanges, and for an expanded sister school program that will be self funding. After meeting with Chinese Administrators, the trip's procedures and curriculum outcomes were identified for three collaborative e-mail projects. These will be showcased in Shanghai next April at the International Asia Education Foundation Linking Latitudes Symposium.
- (b) \$15,430.50. Land component met by Zhejiang Education Department and air component met by National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools Strategy (NALSAS).
- (c) Among the expected outcomes of the trip are: network of Western Australian and Zhejiang schools teaching Chinese Studies at middle school level; collaborative teacher projects via e-mail; ongoing teacher exchanges; and a Web Page linked to the Access Asia site that will provide teachers with strategies to infuse Chinese Studies at middle schooling level.
- (d) 10 days - 23 September - 2 October 2000.
- (e) Nine.

#### STUDENT TEACHER INTERNS, NUMBER

781. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many student-teacher interns are currently employed in Western Australian Government schools?
- (2) In which schools are the interns currently placed?
- (3) What formal supervision is provided for each of the interns?
- (4) Are all interns supervised under these provisions, and if not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) 32 interns from Edith Cowan University were appointed for Semester 2, 2000. The internship is a formal unit forming part of the Bachelor of Education program requirements. A further 16 students from the University of Western Australia were appointed for Term 4, 2000 as part of a trial internship initiated by the university.

- (2) Interns from Edith Cowan University are placed as follows:

SCHOOL	AREA
Avondale PS	Primary
Esperance Senior High School	Business/Computing
South Kalgoorlie Primary School	Primary
Pinjarra/Mt Lawley Senior High Schools	Mathematics
Toodyay Primary School	Primary
Wongan Hills Primary School	Primary
Paraburdoo District High School	Primary
Koondoola Primary School	Primary
Geraldton Secondary College	Physical Education
Geraldton Secondary College	Studies of Society and Environment
South Hedland Primary School	Primary
Mt Lawley Senior High School	Home Economics
Carnarvon Senior High School	Phys Ed
Yanchep District High School	Physical Education/Studies of Society and Environment
Pinjarra Senior High School	Design and Technology
Safety Bay Senior High School	Library Studies
Mt Magnet District High School	Primary
Allendale Primary School	Primary
Kellerberrin District High School	Primary
Boddington Primary School	Primary
Katanning Senior High School	English
Dampier Primary School	Primary
Bunbury Senior High School	Home Economics
Lymburner Primary School	Primary
Westminster Primary School	Primary
Eastern Goldfields Senior High School	Home Economics
Merredin Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment
Manjimup Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment
Rockingham Senior High School	Mathematics/Physical Education

Leonora Primary School	Primary
Clarkson Community College	Home Economics
West Northam Primary School	Primary

Interns from the University of Western Australia participating in the trial are as follows:

Darkan District High School	Science
Safety Bay Senior High school	Library
Midlands District Office	Psychologist
Manjimup Education Support Centre	Education Support
Mandurah Senior High School Education Support Centre	Education Support X 2
Geraldton Secondary College	Studies of Society and Environment/Physical Education X2
Gosnells Secondary College	Studies of Society and Environment
Hedland Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment/Physical Education X2
Katanning Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment/Physical Education X2
Rockingham Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment/Physical Education
Kwinana Senior High School	Studies of Society and Environment/Physical Education X2
Lynwood Senior High School	LOTE
Thornlie Senior High School	LOTE
Australind Senior High School	LOTE
Clarkson Senior High School	LOTE
Lymburner Primary School	LOTE

- (3-4) Only the most capable students are selected for the internship program, and to reflect their level of training, they are paid at the same level as three year trained teachers. As the interns have completed all of their teaching practice requirements, they are not actively supervised in the classroom. However, they are strongly supported by their university and the schools in which they are employed. Each intern from Edith Cowan University will receive a visit from a university supervisor during the period of the internship. The visit is to obtain feedback, provide advice and assistance and liaise with the school. Additionally, there is a coordinator for the program who monitors the interns' progress through a web-site and e-mail. All interns are able to communicate with the coordinator and other interns via this site. Regular telephone or e-mail contact is made with students who request assistance. The University of Western Australia is providing support for its interns on a needs basis. These interns commenced teaching in October and have few university commitments or assessments remaining. Schools hosting interns have agreed to provide support and assistance as required. Most have initiated a mentoring system by pairing interns with experienced teachers. Participating schools, the universities and the interns themselves have indicated a high level of satisfaction with the internship program and the in situ support they are receiving.

#### COMO PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRE-PRIMARY FACILITY

782. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What measures have been taken to ascertain the appropriateness of the proposed pre-primary facility at Como Primary School in relation to location and safety?
- (2) Have parents of children at the school demonstrated satisfaction with the proposed new facility?
- (3) If not, what measures are being taken to meet the concerns of parents?
- (4) Why has the purpose-built facility across the road from Como Primary School been rejected as a satisfactory location for the pre-primary facility?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Consultation was held with the school and the community. The building has been relocated and concerns relating to location and safety are being addressed.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The off-site pre-primary will be used for the four-year-old program. The new facility is for the five-year-old program. It is not possible to operate the four and five year old programs from the off-site facility.

## OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLES, THEFT

787. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many off road motorcycles have been reported stolen in the 12 months to 30 September 2000?
- (2) How does this compare to the previous 12 month period?
- (3) What is the estimated value of this theft for the 12 month period to 30 September 2000?
- (4) What was the recovery rate for such theft in the last measured period?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) 574
- (2) 419, an increase of 155
- (3) Approximately \$2,196,510
- (4) Of the 574 off-road motorcycles reported stolen, 106 were recovered, that is, a recovery rate of 18.5%.

## POLICE STATION, GEORGE STREET, KENSINGTON

791. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the new police centre to be established in George Street, Kensington, and ask -

- (a) is it envisaged that the new station will be staffed 24 hours per day;
- (b) if not, why not;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is "No", will the Minister now give serious consideration to having the station operate 24 hours per day to provide further round the clock service to the community than currently exists; and
- (d) if the answer to (c) is "No", what is the rationale behind this response?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (a) It is envisaged that the new Kensington Police Complex will be staffed 24 hours per day, however it will only be open to the community during normal office hours. The complex will provide customer service to the community during normal office hours, after which police assistance can be obtained by telephoning 000 in life threatening emergencies or 9222 1111 for police attendance or 131444 for general information.
- (b) Policing is not about bricks and mortar, but about creating a safer and more secure Western Australia by providing quality policing services. With the exception of specified larger 24 hour centres, local police stations exist for the purpose of supplying daytime counter services to the community, and as a base from which local police can co-ordinate their proactive and reactive policing strategies. These strategies are in accordance with the new policing model and utilise "Insight" crime and incident pattern analysis technology, to provide a highly mobile visible police presence with the priority capacity to respond.
- (c) All patrol activities are coordinated by the Police Operations Centre where calls for assistance are prioritised and responded to, to enable the best possible utilisation of resources while providing the appropriate level of protection and service to the community.
- (d) See (b& c)

## OFF-ROAD DIESEL FUEL REBATE, RECREATIONAL BOAT OWNERS

792. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the status of the "off road diesel fuel rebate", as applied to recreational boat owners?
- (2) If discontinued, what is the rationale behind this change?
- (3) Is the Treasurer aware that recreational boat owners are calling for the re-establishment of the rebate?
- (4) Will the Treasurer give consideration to re-establishing the rebate?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) The State's off-road diesel subsidy scheme (which provided a subsidy of 8.354 cents per litre for all off-road use of diesel, including recreational boating) was abolished from 1 July 2000 under the terms of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States. At the same time, the Commonwealth's Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme (DFRS) was expanded - specifically, it was increased to a full (100%) rebate of the total diesel excise (including the former State component), and the range of eligible users was broadened to include marine use of diesel and diesel used in rail transport, but only if used in the course of carrying on a business. Diesel used in recreational boating does not qualify for the Commonwealth's DFRS.

- (2) Under the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations, the Commonwealth's guarantee payments to the States (designed to ensure that no State budget is worse off in the transition to the new tax system) are calculated on the basis that State off-road diesel subsidy schemes are abolished in full. Thus, Western Australia had to abolish its off-road diesel subsidy scheme in full in order to remain budget neutral. Furthermore, as the Commonwealth now retains all of the revenue from fuel excise, the provision of subsidies or rebates to off-road diesel users (to compensate for the excise component) is a matter for the Commonwealth.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) For the reasons outlined in my response to question (2), the Government does not intend re-instating the off-road diesel subsidy scheme.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, REFURBISHMENT OF OFFICES

814. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has there been any refurbishment of the Ministry of Justice offices within Westralia Square?
- (2) If yes, what is the total cost of the refurbishment?
- (3) What is the breakdown of the costs for the various Divisions within the Ministry?
- (4) Do these costs contribute to the overall cost of public prisons in Western Australia?
- (5) What is the total cost of maintaining office accommodation in Westralia Square which is associated with the overall running cost of the Public Prison System in Western Australia?
- (6) What in dollar terms does this equate to in the cost per day per prisoner?
- (7) What is the total cost associated with providing support services and office accommodation in the Central Business District which contribute to the overall cost of the Public Prison System in Western Australia?
- (8) What do these costs equate in dollar terms to the cost per day per prisoner?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

141 St George's Tce is extremely expensive relative to today's CBD rental market. The current government is bound by a 15 year lease term signed in 1992 by the previous government. This was a WA Inc deal by the then Labor Government to artificially inflate the value of the property and deceive the people of Western Australia. As with many corrupt processes of the Labor government, some Members of which hold prominent positions in this House, the people are still paying for it. Furthermore, some aspects of the costs requested in this question have been difficult to derive. In particular, the accounting system does not readily provide information relating solely to CBD costs. This has required us to estimate the apportionment of costs to obtain these figures.

- (1) Yes in 1999 and 2000.
- (2) \$991 000
- (3)
- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Prison Services        | \$42 000  |
| Offender Management    | \$160 000 |
| Courts                 | \$99 000  |
| Policy and Legislation | \$97 000  |
| Corporate Services     | \$593 000 |
- (4) Yes. In addition to Prison Services fit-out costs, the fit out costs incurred by Offender Management and Corporate Services indirectly contribute to the overall cost of public prisons in Western Australia as these costs are distributed on an overhead basis. Fit-out costs which have been capitalised are amortised and charged as an operating expense.
- (5) The total cost for 2000/2001 is estimated to be \$2 million.
- (6) This equates to approximately \$1.81 per prisoner per day. This figure is calculated based on the projected muster to be managed by Prison Services Division of 3,017.
- (7) The total cost for 2000/01 is estimated to be \$15.3 million. These costs exclude services delivered directly at each Prison, such as education and training, prisoner programs, workers compensation and insurance costs. The total shown includes accommodation costs for the CBD of Offender Management and Corporate Support, which as an overhead, contribute to the overall costs of the Public Prison System in Western Australia.
- (8) This equates to approximately \$13.89 per prisoner per day. This figure is calculated based on the projected muster to be managed by Prison Services Division of 3,017.

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, STAFF RECRUITMENT

817. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Director General of the Ministry of Justice recruited staff from the Department of Contract and Management Services who worked with him at the Department when he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Department?
- (2) In particular, have the following people been promoted, transferred or seconded to the Ministry of Justice either on a temporary or permanent basis -
  - (a) Robert Harvey;
  - (b) Alex Taylor;
  - (c) Mark Diaz;
  - (d) John Dicker;
  - (e) Lisa Baker;
  - (f) Hugo Llopis;
  - (g) Athol Jamieson; and/or
  - (h) Sean Perce?
- (3) How many other staff have been transferred or seconded to the Ministry of Justice who have worked with the Director General in the past?
- (4) Prior to people being brought into the Ministry of Justice, were staff within the Ministry given the opportunity to apply for the positions ultimately filled by the people from outside the Ministry?
- (5) If so, was that done by the positions being advertised?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) If advertised, on which date were the opportunities advertised and where were the opportunities advertised?
- (8) Has advertising been deliberately limited to short periods and limited to restricted e-mail distribution to limit the opportunity for prospective applicants to apply?
- (9) Have any of these people been subsequently promoted or transferred to positions in the Ministry of Justice since Mr Allan Piper became Director General?
- (10) Has Mr Piper recruited any consultants he has been associated with in the past?
- (11) Have any of these consultants been appointed to positions within the Ministry of Justice?
- (12) If so, who are they?
- (13) Was Mr Piper told that he would be appointed as Director General before the position was advertised?
- (14) If so, why was the process breached?
- (15) Did Mr Piper disclose that he would be appointed to the position of Director General before being formally appointed to that position?
- (16) If so, what were the circumstances surrounding that disclosure?
- (17) To whom was the disclosure made?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) Yes, since the Director General was appointed to act on 14/2/1998.
- (2)
 

(a)	Robert Harvey	Promotional appointment, 15/3/99
(b)	Alex Taylor	Promotional appointment, 26/11/99
(c)	Mark Diaz	Promotional appointment, 18/8/2000
(d)	John Dicker-Spedding	Transferred from CAMS, 10/7/2000
(e)	Lisa Baker	Employed by CAMS, on project assignment to MoJ since 17/8/98
(f)	Hugo Llopis	Seconded from WA Department of Training, 13/11/98, now with Transport
(g)	Athol Jamieson	Seconded from Treasury, 6/9/96, now with Main Roads WA
(h)	Sean Perse	Seconded from CAMS as an Asset Procurement Specialist, 3/11/97

- (3) Four officers, since the appointment of Alan Piper as Director General.
- (4) Permanent positions - Yes.  
Secondments - No.
- (5) In relation to these outlined in (2) above:  
Permanent positions were advertised as widely as appropriate.  
Secondments - Not applicable.
- (6) All those listed in (2) who are currently employed by the Ministry were either promoted or transferred at level, except Sean Perse, who has been on secondment with the Ministry since November 1997. Mr Perse brought to the Ministry essential strategic and contract procurement skills, necessary for the Ministry to move forward in delivering the increased program of capital works. This was done at a time when CAMS was in the process of withdrawing from direct involvement in project management.
- (7) In relation to these outlined in (2) above:  
a. Robert Harvey - West Australian Newspaper 27/11/1998; The Australian 28/11/1998.  
b. Alex Taylor - West Australian Newspaper 10/7/1999; InterSector 8/7/1999.  
c. Mark Diaz - West Australian Newspaper 3/6/2000; InterSector 31/5/2000.  
In relation to all other permanent positions since the appointment of Alan Piper as Director General: Renee Gibson - WA Newspaper 11/3/2000 InterSector 8/3/2000.
- (8) No.
- (9) Yes. In relation to (2) above:  
(a) Robert Harvey Promotional appointment.  
(b) Alex Taylor Promotional appointment.  
(c) Mark Diaz Promotional appointment.  
(d) John Dicker-Spedding Appointed at level.  
In relation to all other permanent positions since the appointment of Alan Piper as Director General:  
(a) Melanie Barnes Promotional appointment, 1/7/1998 (resigned 4/2/2000).  
(b) Lyn Lubicz Transferred into a vacant position as Director General's Executive Assistant, 14/2/98.  
(c) Renee Gibson Promotional appointment, 26/5/2000.
- (10) No
- (11)-(12) Not applicable
- (13) No
- (14) Not applicable
- (15) No

## PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

820. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:
- (1) Further to question on notice No. 510 of 1997, has the Minister undertaken a review of the Section 9 inquiries?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so -  
(a) when was the review or reviews undertaken;  
(b) who conducted the review or reviews;  
(c) were any findings made by the review; and  
(d) what were the findings of the review?
- (4) Did the review reveal the original Section 9 inquiries were not appropriate and thorough?
- (5) What failings with the original Section 9 inquiry did the review reveal?
- (6) Does the Minister intend to review the outcome and findings of the original Section 9 inquiries in light of the findings of the review?

(7) If not, why not?

(8) If so, when?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has supplied the following reply:

- (1) See my answer to Question on Notice 826.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)
  - (a) February 1999 - April 2000
  - (b) Mr Frank Hedges
  - (c) Yes
  - (d) See answer to Question 826.
- (4) The Attorney General stands by the Director of Public Prosecution's Report.
- (5) See my answer to Question on Notice 826.
- (6) No.
- (7) See my answer to Question on Notice 826.
- (8) Not applicable.

#### PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

821. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 511 of 1997, has the review of the Section 9 inquiries revealed the writer's personal views have been found to be valid by the review?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Has the review of the Section 9 inquiry also revealed whether the concerns expressed by the Western Australian Prison Officers Union were also valid?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has supplied the following reply:

- (1)-(4) See my answer given to Question on Notice 826.

#### PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

822. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 763 of 1996, were all the materials, records and documents referred to in the Minister's answer made available to the review of the Section 9 inquiries?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has supplied the following reply.

- (1) See my answer given to Question on Notice 826.
- (2) Not applicable.

#### PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

823. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of question on notice No. 757 of 1996 to the Attorney General concerning the conduct of certain inquiries conducted under Section 9 of the Prisons Act 1981?
- (2) Has the conduct of those inquiries been the subject of a review?
- (3) Did the review arrive at a conclusion on the matters contained in question on notice No. 757 of 1996?
- (4) What conclusion did the review draw?
- (5) Is it true the review has cast doubt on the conclusions of the Section 9 inquiries being based on -

- (a) the evidence; or
- (b) impartially reached; and/or
- (c) inappropriately influenced by persons who did not have an investigative/deliberative role in the inquiry?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has supplied the following reply:

- (1) Yes
- (2) See my answer given to Question on Notice 826.
- (3)-(5) See (2)

PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

824. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of question on notice No. 2046 of 1996 concerning the Section 9 inquiries conducted under the Prisons Act 1981?
- (2) Has a review now been conducted into these Section 9 inquiries?
- (3) Has the review included an examination of the issue that the -
  - (a) then Minister; and/or
  - (b) Ministry of Justice; and/or
  - (c) then Director of Public Prosecutions,failed to take steps to verify that the person who conducted the inquiry did so in a fair and impartial manner?
- (4) If not, what findings did the review make in this regard?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has supplied the following reply:

- (1) Yes
- (2)-(4) See my answer given to question on notice 826

PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

825. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of question on notice No. 327 of 1996 to the Minister for Justice?
- (2) Given the reports alluded to in that question were belatedly tabled, does the Minister intend to table the review of the Section 9 inquiries?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has supplied the following reply:

- (1) Yes
- (2) No
- (3) As a matter of policy, the report is treated as a confidential report for the Director General. It is an exempt matter under clause 5(1)(b) to Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992. The summary of process and outcomes has been provided in question on notice 826.

PRISONS ACT, SECTION 9 INQUIRIES

826. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has Mr Frank Hedges conducted a review of the inquiries conducted under Section 9 of the Prisons Act 1981?
- (2) Has the review revealed -
  - (a) weaknesses;
  - (b) faults;
  - (c) procedural unfairness;
  - (d) bias; and/or
  - (e) prejudice,

in the conduct of the inquiry?

- (3) Did the review find the Section 9 inquiries were conducted -
  - (a) with the highest integrity; and/or
  - (b) with impartially; and/or
  - (c) without outside influence?
- (4) Did the review of the Section 9 inquiries reach the conclusion that nothing untoward, unethical or wrong occurred in the conduct of those inquiries?
- (5) If so, will the Minister table a copy of the review?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice supplied the following reply:

- (1) Mr Frank Hedges was contracted in February 1999 to investigate the inquiries conducted under Section 9 of the Prisons Act 1991 and related disciplinary proceedings.
- (2-4) Mr Hedges reviewed seven matters from February 1999 to April 2000. Mr Hedges methodology consisted of reading relevant files and transcripts of Court proceedings, seeking legal advice, interviews with complainants and other people who had relevant knowledge of the matters under inquiry and extensive evaluation of all events. The review found that some matters could be dismissed and other matters may merit further enquiry under the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The Director General took careful consideration of the officer's submission in defence of the allegations and took legal opinion on the recommendations. It was considered that, due to the detailed nature of the review, it was unlikely that a further enquiry would be able to further clarify or substantiate the suspected breaches. Where evidence of suspected breaches was obtained, under the circumstances, advice indicated these breaches were not likely to result in significant sanctions if pursued and not serious enough to warrant further action. On this basis, the Director General has decided not to pursue further action under the Public Sector Management Act 1994.
- (5) No
- (6) As a matter of policy, the report is treated as a confidential report for the Director General. It is an exempt matter under clause 5(1)(b) to Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

#### PRISON OFFICERS, APPOINTMENT AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

827. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 2321 of 2000, in respect to SO5, in which prison, and on what dates, did SO5 spend the 92 months working as a substantive senior officer?
- (2) Is SO5 Senior Officer Brian Rankin?
- (3) Is Senior Officer Brian Rankin the one Senior Officer who is a Justice of the Peace?
- (4) Prior to Mr Rankin's appointment as a Justice of the Peace, was there a notice circulated with the Ministry, signed by Peter Moore, Director Prison Operations, inviting applications to apply for appointments as Justices of the Peace?
- (5) Did this notice invite people acting as Assistant Superintendents to apply?
- (6) When was this notice issued and when was a further notice issued restricting the appointment to substantive Assistant Superintendents and above?
- (7) During the period Mr Moore's notice was in effect, how many people acted in Assistant Superintendent's positions, thereby making them eligible to become Justices of the Peace?
- (8) What distinguished Mr Rankin from other Senior Officers with the Ministry that he should be appointed as a Justice of the Peace?
- (9) If Mr Rankin was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for Ministry of Justice purposes, on what number of occasions has Mr Rankin been called upon by the Ministry to fulfil those obligations for which he was appointed?
- (10) Did Mr Peter Moore, a former Director of Prison Operations, in any way, approve or recommend Mr Rankin's appointment as a Justice of the Peace?
- (11) Are prison staff appointed to positions of Justice of the Peace to facilitate bail applications, and to sign and witness official documents for prison purposes?
- (12) In which prison was Mr Rankin acting as a Superintendent when -

- (a) Mr Moore's notice was issued;
  - (b) he submitted his application; and
  - (c) he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace?
- (13) In which prison, since his appointment as a Justice of the Peace, has Mr Rankin worked and in what capacity as a Justice of the Peace?
- (14) Why was Mr Rankin the only Senior Officer appointed?
- (15) Will the Minister provide exact details of Mr Rankin's work history with the Ministry of Justice, or any of its predecessors, including the actual time spent performing the duties to which he was appointed and not just the dates he held those positions?
- (16) Has Mr Rankin been given favourable treatment in terms of -
- (a) acting opportunities; and
  - (b) appointment to Justice of the Peace?
- (17) In what position and at what level, is Mr Rankin currently performing duties, and to whom does he report?
- (18) Has Mr Rankin been -
- (a) appointed to a new position; and/or
  - (b) promised a new position?
- (19) If so, what is that position?
- (20) Does that position report directly to the Director of Business Management?
- (21) Was this position created specifically for Mr Rankin?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has supplied the following reply.

- (1) Canningvale Prison 00/12/1985-01/10/1987  
 Canningvale Remand Centre 02/10/1987-30/01/1988  
 Karnet Prison Farm 01/02/1988-12/10/1990  
 Fremantle Prison 13/10/1990-01/11/1991  
 Canningvale Remand Centre 02/11/1991-01/10/1992  
 Canningvale Prison 12/10/1992-11/08/1993
- (2)-(5) Yes.
- (6) The first notice was issued on 13 September 1995. No record can be found of a second notice being issued.
- (7) Three
- (8) Mr Rankin was the only respondent at Senior Officer rank meeting the applicable criteria.
- (9) None
- (10) No
- (11) Staff at the rank of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent only Question 14 of 2321 of 2000 refers to the remainder of this question.
- (12) (a)-(c) Emergency Support Services
- (13) Emergency Support Services. Acting Superintendent.
- (14) He was the only respondent at that rank meeting the applicable criteria
- (15) Department of Corrections 26/07/1982-25/10/1982 Trainee Officer  
 Canningvale Prison 26/10/1982-06/11/1983 Probationary Officer  
 Fremantle Prison 07/11/1983-00/12/1985 Prison Officer  
 Canningvale Prison 00/12/1985-01/10/1987 Senior Officer  
 Canningvale Remand Centre 02/10/1987-30/01/1988 Senior Officer  
 Karnet Prison Farm 01/02/1988-12/10/1990 Senior Officer  
 Fremantle Prison 13/10/1990-01/11/1991 Senior Officer  
 Canningvale Remand Centre 02/11/1991-01/10/1992 Senior Officer

Canningvale Prison	12/10/1992-11/08/1993	Senior Officer
Canningvale Remand Centre	12/08/1994-18/01/1995	Acting Assistant Superintendent of Security
Intelligence Unit	19/01/1995-16/07/1995	A/Intelligence Officer
Emergency Support Services	10/07/1995-21/01/1998	A/Superintendent
Westralia Square	22/01/1998-02/06/1998	A/Projects Officer
Milligan Street	02/06/1998-24/01/1999	A/Manager Standards
Westralia Square	25/01/1999-21/11/1999	A/Project Officer
Westralia Square	22/11/1999- present	A/Projects Officer

(16) (a)-(b) No

(17) Acting Projects Officer, Level 6, reporting to Director Business Management

(18) (a)-(b) No

(19)-(21) Not applicable

#### PRISON OFFICER BRIAN RANKIN, OVERPAYMENT

828. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has Senior Officer Brian Rankin ever been paid at any level higher than the level of a position in which he was acting?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) Has Senior Office Brian Rankin ever received an over payment of approximately \$10,000 in a fortnightly wage?
- (4) If so, did anyone from the Ministry of Justice contact Mr Rankin, either verbally or in writing, in regards to this accidental overpayment?
- (5) Was Mr Rankin instructed or informed by anyone from within the Ministry of Justice, either verbally or in writing, to the effect he should not, in any way, use the money and that he should make provisions for its immediate return?
- (6) Did Mr Rankin comply with the instruction for the immediate return of the overpaid amount?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) What provisions were put in place to recover the money from Mr Rankin?
- (9) Has the money been recovered?
- (10) How was it recovered?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) Yes. Mr Rankin received a payment of approximately \$20,000, which was a duplicate payment in advance for a period of Long Service Leave.
- (4) The Ministry payroll area has been in contact with Mr Rankin both verbally and in writing regarding the accidental overpayment.
- (5) Yes
- (6) No
- (7) Mr Rankin and his accountant initially disputed the amount of the overpayment. This issue is now resolved.
- (8)-(10) Mr Rankin has given a written undertaking of his intention to repay the entire amount by 31 December 2000.

#### WESTERN POWER, LETTER TO PREMIER FROM MS STELLA ESPOSITO

838. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Did the member for Bassendean write to the Premier on 20 June 2000 on behalf of former Western Power meter reader Stella Esposito?
- (2) Did the Premier reply to that letter within three calendar months?

- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Does the Premier intend to reply to the letter?
- (5) If so, when?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2)-(3) A letter dated 30 June 2000 acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.
- (4)-(5) Yes, a reply will be forwarded shortly.

OLD-GROWTH KARRI AND JARRAH FOREST

841. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) For karri forest outside the Regional Forest Agreement area, will the Minister provide the following information -
  - (a) what is the total current area;
  - (b) what is the estimated area at the time of European settlement;
  - (c) how much is old growth;
  - (d) how much is managed by CALM and how much by persons and agencies other than CALM;
  - (e) of the area managed by CALM, how much is in existing and approved -
    - (i) State forest and timber reserves;
    - (ii) national parks;
    - (iii) conservation parks; and
    - (iv) nature reserves; and
  - (f) how much old growth is there in each of the categories in (e)?
- (2) For jarrah forest outside the Regional Forest Agreement area, will the Minister provide the following information -
  - (a) what is the total current area;
  - (b) what is the estimated area at the time of European settlement;
  - (c) how much is old growth;
  - (d) how much is managed by CALM and how much by persons and agencies other than CALM;
  - (e) of the area managed by CALM, how much is in existing and approved -
    - (i) State forest and timber reserves;
    - (ii) national parks;
    - (iii) conservation parks; and
    - (iv) nature reserves; and
  - (f) how much old growth is there in each of the categories in (e)?
- (3) For jarrah woodland outside the Regional Forest Agreement area, will the Minister provide the following information -
  - (a) what is the total current area;
  - (b) what is the estimated area at the time of European settlement;
  - (c) how much is old growth;
  - (d) how much is managed by CALM and how much by persons and agencies other than CALM;
  - (e) of the area managed by CALM, how much is in existing and approved -
    - (i) State forest and timber reserves;
    - (ii) national parks;
    - (iii) conservation parks; and
    - (iv) nature reserves; and

- (f) how much old growth is there in each of the categories in (e)?
- (4) For wandoo forest outside the Regional Forest Agreement area, will the Minister provide the following information -
- (a) what is the total current area;
  - (b) what is the estimated area at the time of European settlement;
  - (c) how much is old growth;
  - (d) how much is managed by CALM and how much by persons and agencies other than CALM;
  - (e) of the area managed by CALM, how much is in existing and approved -
    - (i) State forest and timber reserves;
    - (ii) national parks;
    - (iii) conservation parks; and
    - (iv) nature reserves; and
  - (f) how much old growth is there in each of the categories in (e)?
- (5) For wandoo woodland outside the Regional Forest Agreement area, will the Minister provide the following information -
- (a) what is the total current area;
  - (b) what is the estimated area at the time of European settlement;
  - (c) how much is old growth;
  - (d) how much is managed by CALM and how much by persons and agencies other than CALM;
  - (e) of the area managed by CALM, how much is in existing and approved -
    - (i) State forest and timber reserves;
    - (ii) national parks;
    - (iii) conservation parks; and
    - (iv) nature reserves; and
  - (f) how much old growth is there in each of the categories in (e)?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

To answer this question would require considerable research and resources and as such I am not prepared to devote the time to provide the member with the information, however, if there is a particular concern I will endeavour to have it addressed.

#### SALINITY ACTION PLAN

843. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's statement quoted in *The Countryman* of 12 October 2000, that Federal Parliament tended to concentrate on the Murray-Darling type issues relating to salinity and ask -

- (a) does the Premier recall the 1993 coalition environment policy relating to salinity promised to focus national attention on this all-important area by having the Premier's Conference confront the problem ;
- (b) will the Premier specify what in relation to salinity, and on what dates, the Western Australian Government placed before the Premier's Conferences in the past seven years; and
- (c) what, if any, outcome has resulted?

Mr COURT replied:

(a) Yes

- (b)-(c) The issue of salinity has been continuously pursued by the Western Australian Government with the Commonwealth Government at every level and at every opportunity. I have raised the issue with other Heads of Government and in particular with the Prime Minister at national forums and on other occasions. In 1997 the Western Australian Government became the first state to sign an agreement with the Commonwealth for funding under the Natural Heritage Trust. This underlines the importance the Western Australian Government places on protecting its natural assets and tackling environmental problems. Under this agreement the bulk of the funds Western Australia received, some \$20 million, went towards projects associated with the State's

Salinity Action Plan. The Western Australian Government's commitment to this issue has always been acknowledged and recently the Commonwealth Agriculture Minister, Mr Warren Truss, praised Western Australia for "always being ahead of the nation in its response to salinity". He also reaffirmed the Commonwealth Government's continued involvement. In Western Australia an enormous amount of effort has gone into protecting its natural assets and addressing our environmental problems. In 1996 the Western Australian Government began implementing the 30 year Salinity Action Plan. The Plan is aimed at halting further deterioration of agricultural land, protecting rural infrastructure, water resources and wetlands, and maintaining biodiversity. In April this year the Western Australian Government released the State Salinity Strategy, which builds upon the foundations of the Salinity Action Plan. The State Salinity Strategy was developed in partnership with the community and is endorsed and owned by the community and the State Government.

Western Australia has spent well over \$160m on salinity and currently spends the greatest amount per capita than any other jurisdiction in Australia. At present the Western Australian Government invests over \$40m per year in salinity mitigation projects including biodiversity conservation, water resource recovery, commercial farm forestry, native vegetation management and revegetation and knowledge building. In addition the community contribution of around \$200m per annum reflects the importance our community places on salinity control. At the COAG meeting of 3 November 2000, the Western Australian Government committed to a national approach to tackling salinity and deteriorating water quality. This will involve the development of an overarching Inter-Government Agreement by December 2000, and a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth in which WA will negotiate a share of \$700m of Commonwealth funds to which the Western Australian Government will provide matching funds.

#### SCHOOLS, COMPUTERS

860. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Education:

In relation to the purchasing of computer equipment for use in Western Australian schools -

- (a) what are the names of the companies which supplied computer equipment to the education department during the financial year 1999 2000;
- (b) what was the amount paid to each company for this equipment during this period; and
- (c) what companies currently have contracts with the Government to supply computer equipment to schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

(a-b) For Desktop Computers:

Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,251,072.00
CDM Australia	\$3,749,561.00
Comdek Computers (WA) Pty Ltd	\$727,427.00
Total Peripherals Group (TPG)	\$1,947,830.00
Y-Micro Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,158,407.00
Nimrod Computer Services	\$926,060.00
ASI Solutions	\$327,344.00
Ipex ITG Pty Ltd	\$557,340.00

For Notebook Computers:

Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd	Included in above figures
Compaq Computer Australia Pty Ltd	\$100,000.00
Stott & Hoare Business Computers (IBM)	\$102,030.00
Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd	\$40,000.00

The above figures are based on the purchase of computers from the Education Department Contracts. This does not include purchases made by schools from the Whole of Government Contracts (40499 - Desktop, 40599 - Notebook) managed by the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS).

(c) Education Department Current Contractors:

Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd  
 CDM Australia  
 Total Peripherals Group (TPG)  
 Y-Micro Australia Pty Ltd  
 Nimrod Computer Services  
 ASI Solutions  
 Ipex ITG Pty Ltd

For Notebook Computers:

Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd  
Stott & Hoare Business Computers (IBM)  
Toshiba (Australia Pty Ltd)

CAMS 40499 - Desktop Contract:

WA Assemblers	Assemblers based outside WA
CDM Computers	Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd
Comdek Computers (WA) Pty Ltd	ASI Solutions
Compucon Computes (WA) Pty Ltd	Compaq Computer Australia Pty Ltd
Edsys Computers Pty Ltd	Dell Computer Australia Pty Ltd
Nimrod Computer Services	Gateway Pty Ltd
Rebound Computer Company	Hewlett-Packard Australia Ltd
Tang Computers Pty Ltd	IBM Australia Ltd
Todaytech Wholesale (Australia) Pty Ltd	Ipex ITG Pty Ltd
Total Support Services Pty Ltd	NEC Australia Pty Ltd
Trinix Business Machines Pty Ltd	Total Peripherals Pty Ltd
Ymicro (Retail) Pty Ltd	A network of Metropolitan and Region Dealers

CAMS 40599 - Notebook Contract:

WA Assemblers	Assemblers based outside WA
Acer Computer Australia Pty Ltd	NEC Australia Pty Ltd
Compaq Computer Australia Pty Ltd	Sharp Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd
Dell Computer Australia Pty Ltd	Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd
Gateway Pty Ltd	Total Peripherals Pty Ltd
Hewlett-Packard Australia Ltd	Ymicro (Retail) Pty Ltd
IBM Australia Ltd	A network of Metropolitan and Region Dealers

#### LAND CLEARING PRIOR TO EPA ASSESSMENT

863. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What action has been taken to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to prevent landowners from clearing prior to having their applications assessed by the EPA?
- (2) When is it expected that the amendments will be presented to Parliament?
- (3) What interim action will be taken to prevent clearing prior to EPA assessment?
- (4) Has a review of the regulations under which the Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner works been undertaken to clarify the issue of what constitutes a land use change?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) What interim action will be taken to clarify the issue of what constitutes a land use change?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1-2) Consultation and drafting are occurring for an Environmental Protection Amendment Bill which is intended to be introduced to Parliament next year. The Bill will include provisions which make it an offence for landowners to undertake unauthorised land clearing.
- (3) All relevant Government agencies co operate under the Memorandum of Understanding for the protection of remnant vegetation on private land in the agricultural region of Western Australia to make landowners aware that land clearing should not proceed until all necessary approvals are obtained.
- (4-6) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Primary Industry.

#### LEGAL AID COMMISSION, FAMILY LAW CASES

865. Ms ANWYL to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In what circumstances will the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia grant aid for family law cases?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in custody or parenting cases it is only possible to obtain assistance for the appointment of separate representative and legal aid is not accessible to the parents of that same child?
- (3) Are any statistics available as to how many family law applications are made to the Kalgoorlie Legal Aid Office?
- (4) If so, will the Minister advise the number for each of financial years since its inception?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

- (1-2) The Legal Aid Commission is an independent body not subject to Ministerial direction. The funding for Family Law cases is provided under a Commonwealth Government Agreement and priorities set by it.
- (3) Yes
- (4) APPLICATIONS - KALGOORLIE OFFICE  
(Source: MIS based SQL from G Percival 16/11/00)

Financial Year	Total applications Received	Grants inhouse	Grants assigned	Total grants
94/95 (established)	14	1	4	5
95/96	52	1	4	5
96/97	68	2	29	31
97/98	67	14	24	38
98/99	90	29	39	68
99/00	64	13	27	40

#### POLICE, CHILD ABUSE UNIT

866. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Child Abuse Unit of the Police Service and ask -

- how many police officers are employed in this unit and what are their respective ranks;
- are there any plans to alter the number of police officers employed in this unit;
- is the Minister aware of rumours that the Child Abuse Unit is to be closed; and
- will the Minister categorically state that the Child Abuse Unit will continue with its current complement of police officers?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- Due to operational sensitivities, I am not prepared to provide specific information relating to staffing levels of individual units. However, the authorised strength for the Major Crime Division is 135 sworn FTEs and 8 unsworn FTEs.
- There are no current plans to alter the number of police officers employed in the Unit.
- The Crime Investigation Support portfolio administration is not aware of rumours that the Child Abuse Unit is to be closed.
- The Crime Investigation Support portfolio administration has no plans to alter the current complement of police officers with this Unit.

#### DIABETICS, PROVISION OF FREE NEEDLES

867. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- Did the Minister give a radio interview dealing with needles being made available free of cost to drug addicts and diabetics?
- Is the Government considering the provision of free needles to diabetics?
- If not, why not?
- If so, has the Health Department or some other group/person been asked to prepare a report?
- If so, who is preparing the report?
- When is the report expected to be received?
- If not, what process is the Government going through to consider the provision of needles to diabetics?
- When does the Minister expect the Government to make a final decision on this matter?

Mr DAY replied:

- Yes, Liam Bartlett's morning program on 18 October 2000.
- Yes.
- Not applicable.
- No.

- (5)-(6) Not applicable.
- (7) The Commonwealth Government is reviewing the current National Diabetes Supply Service (NDSS) Agreement with Diabetes Australia and it is appropriate for the State Government to wait for the outcome of this review to be able to make an informed decision on the co-payment issue for people with Diabetes.
- (8) Following Commonwealth Government's review of the NDSS Agreement in early 2001.

CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AUSTRALIA, CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

868. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Government been advised of a change in ownership of Corrections Corporation of Australia (CCA)?
- (2) Has the Government examined and/or assessed the new ownership of CCA?
- (3) Has the Government approved the new owners as being appropriate to continue with the Government contracts CCA has?
- (4) Has the Government been informed that a Senior Manager of CCA has been dismissed recently?
- (5) If not, will the Government ascertain if that has occurred?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) If so, has the Government ascertained -
- (a) who and what position the Senior Manager held; and
- (b) the reasons for the dismissal?
- (8) Was the dismissal related in any way to CCA failing to meet any of its contractual obligations with the Government?
- (9) If so, what contract and obligations have not been met?
- (10) Has the Government/Ministry of Justice at any time considered terminating the CCA contract?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1)-(2) Yes
- (3) No, formal approval is currently being considered.
- (4) Yes
- (5)-(6) Not applicable
- (7) (a)-(b) Yes
- (8) No
- (9) Not applicable
- (10) No

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, SENIOR POSITIONS

869. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What are the five most senior positions in the Ministry of Justice?
- (2) What is the rate payable to each position?
- (3) When was the salary of each position last reviewed?
- (4) When was the salary of each position last increased and by what amount?
- (5) In the last 12 months have any of the people holding the top five senior positions sought a review of their salary and conditions?
- (6) Have any of the salaries and conditions of the top five officers been adjusted in the last 12 months?
- (7) What was the nature of the adjustment?
- (8) On what date did the adjustment take place?
- (9) Prior to the adjustment being made, was the review carried out by an external independent consultant?
- (10) If so -
- (a) what was the cost of the consultancy;

- (b) who selected the consultant; and
  - (c) what did the consultant recommend?
- (11) Has there been an outcome of any request made by any of the senior staff for a review of salary or allowances?
- (12) What was that outcome?
- (13) What was the basis of that outcome?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)
  - (a) Director General
  - (b) Crown Solicitor
  - (c) Parliamentary Counsel
  - (d) Crown Counsel
  - (e) Deputy Crown Solicitor/Deputy Parliamentary Counsel
- (2) As per Second Schedule of the Determination of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Gazettal on 25 August 2000.
- (3) 25 August 2000
- (4)
  - (a) 25 August 2000 - by 3.5%
  - (b)-(e) 1/1/2000 - by 4%
- (5) Yes
- (6) See Answer 4
- (7)-(8) See Answer 4
- (9) No
- (10) Not applicable
- (11) Yes
- (12) It was not supported.
- (13) There was not enough work value change to justify a re-classification of the position.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, STAFF TRANSFERS

870. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Ministry of Justice follow a set process in relation to staff transfers?
- (2) What is that process?
- (3) Is the process the same for senior and junior staff?
- (4) How many staff have been transferred (not promoted) in the Ministry of Justice in the last six months?
- (5) Has the process been the same for each transfer?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) No. However, all processes used must comply with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management and the Ministry's Transfer Policy.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable
- (4) The Ministry's human resource information system shows that 92 staff have been coded as transfers in the last 6 months.
- (5) No
- (6) Due to the diversity of the business units in the Ministry, differing processes are appropriate.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, OFFENDER MANAGEMENT AND PRISON SERVICES DIRECTORATES

872. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 520 of 2000, how many positions were created before 1 March 1999 to establish the purchaser provider model?

- (2) How many positions have been created to manage the Corrections Corporation of Australia Transport and Court Services Contract?
- (3) What are these positions?
- (4) What is the cost of these positions?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) One
- (2) Four
- (3) Manager Court Security and Custodial Services Contracts  
Manager Service Monitoring and Investigations  
Senior Contracts Officer (x 2)
- (4) \$277,392 per annum. Calculation based on current Annual EBA Base Rate.

#### HAKEA PRISON, MANAGEMENT TEAM'S ALLOWANCES

873. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question on notice No. 522 of 2000, does Mr Lawrence receive the same rate of on-call allowance as other members of the management team at the Hakea Prison?
- (2) What are the allowances paid to other members of the management team?
- (3) What are the allowances paid to Mr Lawrence?
- (4) Is there any difference between the allowances and what is the reason for the difference?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has supplied the following reply:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Superintendent \$179.72 per fortnight.  
Deputy Superintendent \$179.72 per fortnight.  
Assistant Superintendent \$89.86 per fortnight.
- (3) \$175.44 per fortnight
- (4) Yes - Mr Lawrence receives an allowance at the rate of a Deputy Superintendent. This rate has not yet been adjusted for CPI increases.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SYMONDS FACILITIES AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

875. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did the Health Department of Western Australia (HDWA) commission project management consultants Symonds to report on the maintenance needs of Western Australia's public hospital system?
- (2) If yes, what was the cost of the report and when was it received by the HDWA?
- (3) Did the report identify a backlog of maintenance within the system?
- (4) What strategies does the Government have to deal with this problem?

Mr DAY replied:

1. Yes. Symonds Facilities & Project Management was commissioned by the Health Department of Western Australia to project manage a number of consultants to undertake a statewide "Deferred Maintenance Liability Review" (Condition Audit).
2. The total cost for all consultancies was approximately \$964 000 and the final report was received in August 1998.
3. Yes. Data for the report was collected in 1997/98 and its intent was to provide indicative maintenance requirements (based on known and pending problems) over a ten year period for strategic planning purposes. Routine preventive maintenance undertaken directly by Health Services also addresses such issues. The figure given in the report of \$277 million is an estimate of what is needed to complete the required maintenance of all assets as at January 1998, and to continue to meet the anticipated maintenance requirements through to January 2008. A specific amount was not quoted for a backlog in major maintenance, but it was projected that the amount of \$277m would be required over a ten year period to ensure an ongoing "manageable" standard of

maintenance. As an example, the Avon Health facility is reasonably new and the report indicated that some \$3.3m would be needed over the ten year review period to maintain the facility at an acceptable level.

4. The assignment of priorities for capital funding is a regular part of the Health Department's allocative process. For instance, the Health Department's Capital Works Program currently includes an allocation of \$29 million to address items identified in the review. Other issues identified in the review are being addressed through statewide programs including minor works, WorkSafe Compliance and staff accommodation upgrades and replacements. Collectively over the current forward estimates period (3 years), these total approximately \$40.0 million. Major condition audit issues are also extinguished when major capital replacements or upgrades are undertaken. Examples include Bunbury/South West Health Campus, Perth Dental Hospital (Oral Health Centre contribution), Armadale, and Geraldton replacements, together with major upgrades at Kalgoorlie and Port Hedland. When completed, these projects alone will extinguish an estimated liability in excess of \$24.0 million. The Department has a Strategic Capital Planning Group that will continue to monitor the needs in this area.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ENGINEERING ASSETS WORKS MAINTENANCE SYSTEM SOFTWARE

876. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Health Department of Western Australia piloted new Engineering Assets Works Maintenance System software in several of Western Australia's public hospitals?
- (2) If yes, who were the consultants and what were they paid?
- (3) What was the outcome of the pilot and will the system now be implemented in all hospitals?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Arthur Andersen was the prime contractor, Matrix Australia their sub-contractor and Computer Associates supplied the project coordination. Pilot Costs were funded by the Commonwealth under the then Medicare Strategic Capital Planning allocation and paid as follows:
  - Arthur Andersen / Matrix : \$1 562 000
  - Computer Associates (formerly Platinum) : \$ 261 930
- (3) The system will assist Health Services to manage their facility risks and satisfy the Government's Strategic Asset Management objectives. The pilot was based on the information registration and processing part of the system at 6 major Rural Health Services. Once installed, this was subjected to a formal post implementation review and this showed that the objectives were achieved or exceeded. Use of the system is not mandatory, but as the major Health Services see the benefits, it is envisaged that further Health Services will introduce the initiative.

#### SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL, RADIATION TREATMENT

878. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to patients receiving radiation treatment at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) and ask -

- (a) how many episodes of radiation treatment have occurred at SCGH during the years -
  - (i) 1999-2000;
  - (ii) 1998-1999; and
  - (iii) 1997-1998;
- (b) how many episodes of radiation treatment have been given to public patients; and
- (c) how many episodes of radiation treatment have been given to private patients and for whom Medicare has been charged?

Mr DAY replied:

	(a) Treatment Courses	(b) Public	(c) Charged to Medicare
1999-2000	1459	307	1041
1998-1999	1329	336	904
1997-1998	1298	381	800

#### FREMANTLE HOSPITAL, CARDIAC ANGIOGRAPHY DAY CASES

879. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to cardiac angiography day cases at Fremantle hospital and ask -

- (a) how many patients have been treated as public patients for their cardiac angiography procedures for the years -
- (i) 1999-2000;
  - (ii) 1998-1999; and
  - (iii) 1997-1998; and
- (b) how many patients have been treated as private patients and charged to Medicare for their cardiac angiography procedures in the same years as (a)?

Mr DAY replied:

	(a)	(b)
(i) 1999-2000	666	312
(ii) 1998-1999	641	294
(iii) 1997-1998	641	235

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, BUY LOCAL POLICY

882. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Works and Services:

I refer to the Buy Local Policy recently announced by the Minister and in particular to the Regional Purchasing and Regional Content preferences and ask -

- (a) what amount in the budget, across all Departments and agencies, has the Government provided to enable Departments and agencies to apply the preference;
- (b) does the Government have any idea or estimate of the anticipated cost over the financial year of Departments and agencies applying the preference and if so, what is that estimate;
- (c) will the monitoring of the new policy across Government be left to each Department and agency to monitor itself and if not, what additional resources have been provided for the purpose; and
- (d) in what Departments and agencies have those additional resources for monitoring been placed?

Mr JOHNSON replied:

#### STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION

- (a) To the best of my knowledge, no government department or agency has had an increase in their budget appropriation due to the introduction of the Government's "Buy Local" policy.
- (b) Yes. It is expected to be minimal. The actual dollar value can only be determined after a thorough value for money assessment is made taking into account true whole of life cycle costs that the real cost of a purchase can be determined. The prime objective of the "Buy Local" policy is to promote development and employment opportunities by recognition of the capabilities of small, local and regional businesses in the government buying process. The Policy retains the key elements of the past Regional Buying Compact of preference initiatives of 10% for goods and 5% for construction works. The higher local content preference level for regional businesses in works contracts should not have a significant financial impact.
- (c)-(d) No. The State Supply Commission will administer and measure the effectiveness of the "Buy Local" policy. Public authorities are required to report annually on expenditure on goods, services and works purchased from various sectors within the local business environment and to affirm compliance with the "Buy Local" policy.

#### PLANT EXTRACT LIBRARY, ESTABLISHMENT

883. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With respect to the establishment of a plant extract library how many respondents to the call for expressions of interest were shortlisted against the selection criteria?
- (2) Did the number of shortlisted respondents mean that direct negotiations were conducted?
- (3) How many of those shortlisted respondents indicated a desire to establish a screening or pharmacological facility in Western Australia?
- (4) Did the successful respondent indicate a desire to establish a screening facility in Western Australia?
- (5) Did the successful respondent indicate a desire to establish a pharmacological facility in Western Australia?
- (6) What time frame was indicated by the successful respondent as necessary in order to establish a screening facility in Western Australia?
- (7) What time frame was indicated by the successful respondent as necessary in order to establish a pharmacological facility in Western Australia?

- (8) How many expressions of interest were received requesting the screening of samples from the plant extract library?
- (9) Is screening of samples from the plant extract library being carried out?
- (10) If not, why not?
- (11) If yes to (8), where is the screening of extracts from the plant extract library carried out?
- (12) If yes to (8), who pays for these screenings?
- (13) How many expressions of interest were received relating to commissioning the collection and processing of further extracts?
- (14) How many expressions of interest were received indicating a desire to establish a centre to collect, inventory and screen the microflora of Western Australia?
- (15) Did the successful respondent indicate a desire to establish a centre to collect, inventory and screen the microflora of Western Australia?
- (16) Was the successful tenderer awarded the exclusive rights to the genetic material of Western Australian flora?
- (17) If yes to (15), what conditions were attached to the granting of exclusive rights to the genetic material of Western Australian flora?
- (18) Was the tender awarded for specific plant extracts or for areas of pharmacological interest?
- (19) What royalties are received from the successful tenderer?
- (20) What royalties were offered by respondents who required additional screening?
- (21) Does the awarding of the tender for a specific plant extract subsequently exclude the awarding of tenders for the same plant extract by other interested parties looking at different areas of pharmacological interest?
- (22) What safeguards are in place to ensure that plant specimens are not illegally taken from private property?
- (23) Given that there are several compilations which include the identification of use by Indigenous people of plants occurring in Western Australia, why has this important ethnobotanical information not been included in the data base of the plant extract library and so ensure that issues of Indigenous intellectual property rights are at least acknowledged?
- (24) What safeguards have been put in place to ensure that Western Australia will benefit financially in the long term and not only the short term from the sale of the samples?
- (25) If the extract from a plant is sold to a commercial enterprise, can university research groups study independently, from a botanical, chemical or pharmacological perspective the particular plant or extracts from it?
- (26) If yes to (24), does the university research group retain intellectual property rights on the results of their research?
- (27) Who conducted the negotiations for the contract with the successful tenderer on behalf of CALM?
- (28) What commercial qualifications does this person have in order to represent CALM in such negotiations?
- (29) What experience in negotiating commercial contracts did this person have at the time of the negotiations?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

To answer this question would require considerable research and resources and as such I am not prepared to devote the time to provide the member with the information, however, if there is a particular concern I will endeavour to have it addressed.

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, STAFF TRANSFERS

886. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Are junior and senior staff within the Ministry of Justice permitted to transfer between different positions in the Ministry that carry the same level of remuneration?
- (2) Are staff given the opportunity to apply for such transfers?
- (3) Does the Ministry approach certain staff members to request they transfer into nominated positions?
- (4) Since 1 July 2000, how many staff in the Ministry of Justice have been transferred between one position and another?
- (5) How many transfers have been instigated by -

- (a) the Ministry;
- (b) the staff member concerned?
- (6) What criteria does the Ministry apply in determining whether a person will be permitted to transfer between one position and another?
- (7) Is the same criteria applied across the Ministry to all transfers?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Are transfers allowed or permitted which do not comply with the usual criteria?
- (10) If so, under what circumstances?
- (11) Have any special transfers been permitted by the Ministry in the last six months?
- (12) If so, for what reason or reasons were those special transfers permitted?
- (13) Does the Ministry have any processes in place to ensure that such transfers do not amount to favouritism and/or discrimination against one or more officers?
- (14) Who within the Ministry of Justice is responsible for ensuring that such transfers are not allocated on discriminatory or preferential basis?
- (15) In transferring a staff member to another position, does the Ministry ensure that the person transferred has the skills, attributes and integrity to carry out that position?
- (16) If so, to what extent does the Ministry take into account previous performance?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

(1) Yes

(2) Yes

During a restructure staff are generally requested to apply for transfer into positions at the same level.

At other times, staff can apply to management for transfer into vacant positions at their level.

There is a scheme in existence for prison officers through which they can apply for a transfer to a different prison.

(3) Yes

(4) In the past 6 months, 92 staff movements were coded as transfers in the Ministry's human resource information system.

(5) This data is not available

(6) The criteria as laid out in the Ministry's Transfer Policy are as follows:

- Where it is in the public interest to effect a transfer
- Maintaining staffing levels
- Compassionate grounds
- Medical grounds
- Disciplinary reasons

(7) Yes

(8) Not applicable

(9) The criteria are broad enough to encompass all appropriate reasons for a transfer.

(10) Not applicable

(11) No

(12) Not applicable

(13) Yes. The Ministry has a transfer policy and guidelines and is required to comply with the Public Sector Transfer Standard.

(14) All Managers within the Ministry are required to comply with Ministry policy, procedures and the Standards.

(15) The Ministry strives for a good match between the requirements of the position and the skills, knowledge and personal attributes of the officer involved. Where an unattached officer is transferred into a position, normal

redeployment criteria apply, i.e. the officer should be capable of doing the duties of the position within 6 months.

- (16) The Ministry takes into account a number of factors when effecting a transfer, which may include previous performance.

#### ACACIA PRISON, MONITORING OF STANDARDS

887. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Does the Ministry of Justice intend to ensure that Corrections Corporation Australia (CCA) maintains proper standards of conduct in its management of the new Acacia Prison?
- (2) Has the Ministry of Justice nominated one or more officers to monitor the standards at the Acacia Prison?
- (3) If so, what is the management and salary level of the officers responsible for monitoring these standards?
- (4) Has the Ministry nominated one or more officers to carry out investigations of any incidents or standards at the new Acacia Prison?
- (5) Are those officers direct employees of the Ministry of Justice?
- (6) What officers have been appointed to carry out this task?
- (7) Do any of the officers appointed to carry out this task have a good track record of carrying out inquiries on behalf of the Ministry?
- (8) If so, what officers have that experience and track record?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Yes
- (2) A range of external regulatory bodies (eg the Inspector of Custodial Services and the Ombudsman) and Ministry of Justice business units will monitor standards at Acacia Prison.
- (3) It is not possible to develop a definitive list of persons who may from time to time be involved in monitoring standards at Acacia Prison
- (4) A range of external regulatory bodies (eg the Inspector of Custodial Services and the Ombudsman) and Ministry of Justice business units will carry out investigations of any incidents or standards at Acacia Prison.
- (5) Some.
- (6) It is not possible to develop a definitive list of persons who may from time to time be involved in carrying out investigations of incidents or standards at Acacia Prison.
- (7) Both regulatory authorities and the Ministry of Justice have good track records in carrying our inquiries.
- (8) Refer (4)

#### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, STAFF PROMOTION AND SELECTION PROCESS

888. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is it normal within the Ministry of Justice for senior members of management to approach people within the Ministry to apply for vacancies?
- (2) Is an approach of this nature a breach of the selection process?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) To what extent does the Ministry ensure that the staff selection and staff promotion process is carried out impartially and free from patronage?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) Yes. Staff who have potential are encouraged to apply for vacancies as part of the Ministry's succession planning strategy.
- (2) No.
- (3) It does not violate the Public Sector Standard on Recruitment and Selection.
- (4) The Ministry has the following strategies in place:

- A staff selection manual, which is available to all staff.
- Training in staff selection.
- Guidelines for selection panels on all advertised vacancy files.
- Staff selection files are audited by independent validators prior to processing.
- All unsuccessful applicants are offered a right of review of any selection decision made.
- Information on compliance with the Standards is regularly published in internal newsletters.

ACACIA PRISON, CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AUSTRALIA

890. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the failure of the Corrections Corporation of Australia in Victoria in managing the Women's prison?
- (2) In view of that failure, what contingency plans have been put in place in the event that Acacia Prison must be returned to Ministry of Justice management?
- (3) What is the likely risk, as estimated by the Ministry of Justice, of the Corrections Corporation of Australia failing to deliver required services.
- (4) What is the estimated cost to the State Government if Corrections Corporation does not deliver required services?
- (5) To what extent will the Ministry of Justice accept penalty payments from the Corrections corporation of Australia before the contract is terminated for non-performance?
- (6) To what extent will the Ministry of Justice accept penalty payments in favour of enforcing service delivery?
- (7) How many penalty payments will need to be imposed on Corrections Corporation of Australia for the Ministry of Justice to terminate the Acacia Prison Contract?
- (8) If unknown, why?
- (9) What will be the value of penalty payments imposed upon Corrections Corporation of Australia for Ministry of Justice to terminate the Acacia Prison contract?
- (10) If not determined, why not?
- (11) Have the limits not been determined because the Director General of the Ministry of Justice is preparing to allow the contract for Acacia to continue operating regardless of service shortcomings?
- (12) If not, why not?
- (13) As at the date of advertising the Acacia Prison tender, how many-
  - (a) sentenced medium security prisoners from the metropolitan area were to be placed at the prison;
  - (b) were estimated to serve at least 12 months at the prison; and
  - (c) of these were expected to satisfy the minimum criteria needed for measurement of recidivism performance?
- (14) Is this number enough to enable effective performance measurement for recidivism and for other measures?
- (15) If not, why not?
- (16) Were the measures purposefully developed by the Ministry of Justice to ensure that effective measurement was not possible?
- (17) Will the Ministry of Justice be changing the classification system to ensure that there are enough medium security prisoners to fill Acacia Prison?
- (18) If so why was the prison built so large?
- (19) As at 30 September 2000 how many medium security prisoners belonging to the metropolitan area were available to transfer to Acacia Prison had -
  - (a) at least 12 months to serve;
  - (b) six or more but less than 12 months to serve; or
  - (c) less than six months to serve?
- (20) Of these, how many had -

- (a) at least 12 months to serve;
  - (b) six or more but less than 12 months to serve; or
  - (c) less than six months to serve?
- (21) Will the occupancy of Acacia be kept at 100% or near to 100%?
  - (22) Will Acacia be kept full even if State Prisons are run at less than 100% occupancy?
  - (23) If yes, is this to provide Corrections Corporation of Australia with the full benefits of economies of scale at the expense of the State system?
  - (24) Is this a Ministry of Justice strategy to advantage the private sector in efficiency and smoothness of operation?
  - (25) Will Acacia Prison double bunk at the same rate as the State system?
  - (26) If not, why not?
  - (27) What methodology will be adopted by the Ministry of Justice to ensure that comparisons between Acacia and the State system are like with like?
  - (28) Will the Minister table the methodology?
  - (29) If not, why not?

Mr BARRON-SULLIVAN replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The processes and procedures for Ministry of Justice intervention in, and termination of, the contract is outlined in Division 5 of the Prisons Amendment Act 1999 and Clause 30 of the Acacia Prison Service Agreement.
- (3) Minimal.
- (4) The current cost difference between public prisons & Acacia is approximately \$45.00 per prisoner per day.
- (5) The grounds for termination of the contract are detailed in Division 5 of the Prisons Amendment Act 1999 and Clause 30 of the Acacia Prison Services Agreement. They are not linked to penalty payments from Corrections Corporation of Australia.
- (6) The Ministry will always enforce contracted service delivery standards, irrespective of penalty payment.
- (7) Refer (5).
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Refer (5).
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) No.
- (12) The Ministry of Justice has the means to enforce contracted service delivery standards and is prepared to use them.
- (13) (a) 750.  
(b)-(c) a significant proportion.
- (14) Yes.
- (15) Not applicable.
- (16)-(17)No.
- (18) Not applicable.
- (19) As at 30 June 2000, 781 medium security prisoners were accommodated in the metropolitan area. The remaining sentence length of these prisoners is not readily available.
- (20) Refer (19).
- (21)-(22)Yes.
- (23)-(25)No.
- (26) The movement of prisoners to Acacia Prison will relieve overcrowding in public prisons, allowing double bunking arrangements in public prisons to be significantly reduced.

- (27) Acacia Prison will operate under the same legislation, policies, rules, performance standards and performance measures as public sector prisons.
- (28) Refer (27).
- (29) Not applicable.

#### WORKCOVER, MEDICAL ASSESSMENT PANELS

891. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many cases have gone before a medical panel convened by WorkCover in the year 2000 and up to what date is this figure accurate?
- (2) In how many of these decisions made by medical assessment panels did the decision uphold the claim of the injured worker?
- (3) In how many of these decisions by medical assessment panels did the decision go totally against the injured worker?
- (4) In how many of these decisions by medical assessment panels was the decision partly in favour of the injured worker?
- (5) Will the Minister provide the names of all doctors who have served on medical assessment panels this year and the number of medical panels which each doctor has served on?
- (6) How many cases have come to WorkCover in the year 2000 where the employee is appealing against the cutting off of weekly payments?
- (7) In how many of these cases were weekly payments re-instated?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) For the period 1 January to 17 November 2000, a total of 91 medical panels have been convened. Of those, 85 determinations have been received.
- (2-5) Statistical information of this nature is not maintained and I am not prepared to devote the time to allow the considerable research and resources which would be required to answer the question. If the Member has a particular concern then I will endeavour to have it addressed.
- (6-7) This question is not clear in terms of its intention.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR, GERALDTON-NORTH EAST GOLDFIELDS

893. Hon J.F. GRILL to the Minister for Resource Development:

- (1) Has the Government approved an infrastructure corridor from the Geraldton region to the north east Goldfields?
- (2) What is the route of the corridor?
- (3) What is proposed to be entailed in the corridor in the short and long term?
- (4) What is the rationale for such a corridor?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Government has approved a process to identify and establish a suitable infrastructure corridor.
- (2) Yet to be determined through technical studies.
- (3) Government is undertaking studies to determine which services can be accommodated in the corridor.
- (4) To facilitate the expansion of the existing infrastructure network.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA CONTRACTS

901. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Does the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia have any contracts with the Department of Employment and Training?
- (2) If yes, when were the contracts awarded?
- (3) For what services were the contracts awarded?
- (4) What is the duration of the contracts?
- (5) What is the value of the contracts?
- (6) To date how much has been spent on these contracts?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) The Department has one contract with the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia. This contract is part of the LearnScope 2000 project which is funded by the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA).
- (2) 1 August 2000.
- (3) The funds have been awarded to the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia to fund a work based learning project to provide them with the professional development that they need to incorporate new learning technologies in the delivery of their accredited courses.
- (4) Four months.
- (5) \$10 000.
- (6) \$6 600.

#### HEALTH, ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA FUNDING

904. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Health:

For each financial year from 1996-97 through to, and including, 2000-2001 -

- (a) how much money was given to the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia by Healthways; and
- (b) for what purpose was the money allocated?

Mr DAY replied:

(a)

1996/97	\$ 50,000
1997/98	\$133,562
1998/99	\$ 82,000
1999/00	\$ 55,000
2000/01	\$ 27,500

(b)

1996/97	\$ 50,000 was provided for Community Pool Lifeguard Program
1997/98	\$133,562 was provided for a Drowning Prevention Program
1998/99	Two projects were funded as follows :
	- \$ 5,000 The 1999 National Championships and
	- \$ 77,000 A Drowning Prevention Program
1999/00	\$ 55,000 was provided towards the Swim and Survive Program ( Vacation Swimming )
2000/01	\$ 27,500 was provided towards the Swim and Survive Program ( Vacation Swimming )

#### CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

917. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) What type of Citizenship educational material for school children, both at primary and secondary levels, has been developed under the auspices of the Minister's Citizenship Advisory Council?
- (2) Has any liaison taken place between the Citizenship Advisory Council and other bodies undertaking Citizenship Education for children such as -
  - (a) the West Australian Education Department;
  - (b) the West Australian Constitutional Museum and Centre;
  - (c) the West Australian Curriculum Council;
  - (d) the One World Centre;
  - (e) the Cyril Burt Law Education Centre; and
  - (f) multicultural community organisations?
- (3) What form has this liaison, if any, taken?
- (4) What educational materials for school children relating to the Centenary of Federation Celebrations been developed under the auspices of the Minister's Citizenship Advisory Council?

Mr JOHNSON replied:

- (1) Council is aware that materials on citizenship for children are developed as part of a Federal civics and education project. This programme is called 'Discovering Democracy' and will allocate \$13.4 million from November 2000 to June 2004.

- (2) (a)-(e) Discussions and consultations have taken place and have included all bodies listed. NB With regard to point (e) it is assumed the Member is referring to the Francis Burt Law Education Centre.
    - (f) The Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia has conducted community workshops on citizenship which included the views of young people.
  - (3) Consultations, workshops, professional development events on civics and citizenship and exchange of citizenship information materials.
  - (4) All primary school children in WA will receive a gift of a Federation Medallion and specially developed educational resource materials, which will help teachers to raise students' awareness of Australian history.
-