



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2016

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 16 March 2016

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 16 March 2016

THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland) took the chair at 12.00 noon, and read prayers.

TONKIN HIGHWAY — SOUND WALL

Petition

MRS G.J. GODFREY (Belmont) [12.01 pm]: I have petition with 54 signatures couched in the following terms —

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

We, the undersigned, say that the gaps in the soundwall along Tonkin Highway are unacceptable. Most parts of Cloverdale are protected by a sound wall, which recognises the increases in traffic noise along Tonkin Highway; however, residents and visitors near the gaps have no such protection. It is frustrating to see how a project as large as GatewayWA can improve our City so much and yet leave some areas worse off, all for the sake of small stretches of soundwall.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to call on the Minister for Transport to work with the City of Belmont and have the gaps in the soundwall filled.

[See petition 351.]

PAPERS TABLED

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

FORMER MEMBER FOR VASSE — ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENT — CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT

Statement by Premier

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [12.04 pm]: I rise to advise the house that the honourable John McKechnie, QC, Commissioner of the Corruption and Crime Commission, has provided me with a report arising from the commission's investigation into the conduct of various people in relation to an incident on the night of 22–23 February 2014 involving the former member for Vasse, Troy Buswell.

The events of that night and subsequently have been well covered in this place and elsewhere, and were the subject of much interest, speculation and inference. The report contains four recommendations that can be represented as addressing issues of policy and process, and each of these is accepted by me and will be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The commission finds there to be no public interest in forming an opinion on the conduct of the former member for Vasse, based on his acceptance of responsibility by pleading guilty to traffic charges laid against him and by personally settling associated damages claims rather than burden the state. It also references the fact that he has left public service and was suffering a significant health condition at the time.

The commission found there to be no evidence of any kind to suggest any misconduct or improper behaviour by members of my office—that is, the Premier's office. However, the commission does find fault with the conduct of the former minister's chief of staff, Ms Rachael Turnseck, expressing an opinion that some of her actions constitute misconduct. It also determines that the conduct of the former minister's electorate officer, Mr Leo Gibbons, be investigated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Since the provision of the report to me, Mr Gibbons' employment within government has ceased. Ms Turnseck was found to have withheld information, thereby misleading her employer, indirectly the Parliament and later the commission itself. Notwithstanding this, the commission sees no particular public interest in itself reporting to Parliament on her actions, partly as she has also left the public service and was never a public figure.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The commission's provision of its report to me is in the context of its finding that Ms Turnseck put her loyalty to a minister above her duty to the state, and the need for all ministerial officers to learn lessons in this respect. I accept the commission's findings, and the lessons it highlights will be learned. The CCC addresses itself in the report to the unique and complex role of a chief of staff in supporting and protecting a minister—part gatekeeper, part confidante and adviser, and part crisis manager. Critically, however, the commission states that a chief of staff's loyalty to a minister should not override their responsibilities as a public officer.

I strongly emphasise the point that Ms Turnseck found herself in a rare and confronting situation, in which she genuinely, and with good reason, seriously feared for the physical and mental wellbeing of the minister she served. Her decisive actions at that time were critical in ensuring his welfare. Although her failure to be complete with her disclosures subsequent to those events is a serious error of judgement, I think it is important to consider that none of her actions were motivated by self-interest, and she has already suffered a serious detriment, arising from events on the night of 22–23 February 2014, which might have been averted had her advice to the former minister that night been heeded.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I now table the report, as I committed to do so.

[See paper 3929.]

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I should have called you more than once; you have continually interjected. I call you to order for the first time.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Women's Interests) [12.07 pm]: Last Tuesday marked International Women's Day 2016. This year the theme was "eliminating violence against women and girls". Violence against women is entirely preventable and we all have a role to play to end this violence around the world.

Over the last week, I was pleased to attend in my capacity as Minister for Women's Interests many events and activities to celebrate the achievements and milestones of women, as well as events that highlighted the plight of women in domestic violence situations. The celebrations commenced for me on Friday, 4 March when I attended the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA Women in Resources Awards. On Tuesday, I took part in a panel discussion hosted by Ernst and Young, which explored how we can accelerate global gender parity with specific actions that assist women's advancement in the workplace. I also had the privilege of attending the WA Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and was deeply inspired at the calibre of women who were celebrated this year. On Wednesday, I attended the United Nations International Women's Day breakfast and was touched by the words of Sister Lorraine Garasu, who discussed the plight of Papua New Guinean women. I attended a domestic violence shelter run by the Salvation Army, assisted by the donations of the Path of Hope Foundation, with my parliamentary colleagues Eleni Evangel, MLA, and Andrea Mitchell, MLA. We were very moved at the work they do there and the hope they offer the women in need of their services. I hosted my own launch of International Women's Day 2016 at the State Reception Centre, with the theme "breaking through". This theme recognises the progress that is being made towards gender equality, while also acknowledging that women's ability to fully participate in the community is influenced by a wide range of interconnected issues.

Each day throughout this important week I attended a number of other functions, events and celebrations, including the Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture, where Dorinda Cox delivered an excellent lecture on the decline of Aboriginal people since European colonisation; meeting with a group of senior police staff and our latest group of cadets to discuss how we can encourage women into leadership positions in WA Police; meeting with several groups of school students to discuss leadership, as well as the opportunities that are available to young women in non-traditional careers; and an event I hosted with women in small business in my electorate to facilitate networking and discussion on superannuation options for women.

I look forward to working further in this portfolio to assist women in economic independence, to address the gender pay gap and to encourage their leadership aspirations. I acknowledge the participation of many members of Parliament from both this house and the other house over that week in celebrating achievements of women in Western Australia.

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — EXHIBITIONS

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.10 pm]: I rise to briefly update the house on two exhibitions that opened at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in the Perth Cultural Centre this past weekend. I had the pleasure of attending the official launch of the annual *Year 12 Perspectives* exhibition last night and presenting the Packers' Prize. This exhibition showcases the finest work produced by the state's visual arts student graduates and gives audiences an insight into the issues and ideas that capture the interests of young people. Themes include war and violence, spirituality, identity and family. The exhibition includes work from 57 artists from regional and metropolitan schools and features a broad range of media such as paintings, drawings, prints, textiles and multimedia pieces. The arts are an important element of our education system and it is important to promote creativity in learning from a young age. The students whose artworks were selected from 320 submissions now have the honour of having their work displayed in the state art gallery, which is a wonderful achievement for any artist.

The other exhibition on display currently is the next iteration of the highly popular *WA Focus* series, which features the work of Trevor Richards, Alex Spremberg and Jurek Wybraniec. These three artists are all based in Perth and have had a longstanding interest in abstract forms. They have created new works for this show, including sculpture and painting. Both these exhibitions have a distinctly Western Australian flavour and are prime examples of the way in which the Art Gallery of WA is engaging with the local arts community to produce exciting, relevant and contemporary experiences for audiences. I congratulate the gallery on celebrating and promoting Western Australian art and artists.

WA Focus runs until 16 May and the *Year 12 Perspectives* exhibition runs until 13 June. Both are free to the public and I encourage all members to visit the gallery and view these Western Australian exhibitions.

MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [12.12 pm]: This week is Harmony Week and it is special to all Western Australians, whatever their heritage may be. Many celebrations and activities are being held across our state this week, commencing with the Multicultural Recognition Awards run by the Office of Multicultural Interests last Monday at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Twenty-seven individuals, organisations and community groups operating in the culturally and linguistically diverse field were presented with awards, including individual contribution, lifetime service, volunteering, local government, private sector, marketing, and arts and culture. I sincerely congratulate all the winners for the work that they do, but, due to time constraints, I will mention just a few.

The nominations for the outstanding individual achievement award were of a very high standard and, as a result, there were two equally deserving winners: Ms Eva Mwakichako, the City of Stirling's multicultural project officer, and Ms Zainon Mohamad, a multicultural engagement officer with WA Police. These two women have shown an exceptional commitment to their work and both have implemented strategies to engage with, and make a real difference to, CALD communities. The outstanding volunteer award went to Mr Materno Biwot, a Sudanese refugee community leader who delivers training on working more effectively with refugee families. In particular, following the tragic drowning of his son, Materno works to educate CALD children, predominately from landlocked African countries, about water safety. The award for outstanding service to multiculturalism was won by Ms Maria Bunn, who has worked in the CALD sector for more than 30 years. Her focus has been on establishing partnerships with aged-care providers and CALD communities, disabilities advocacy and fostering community cohesion. The community organisation award was won by the Financial, Administrative and Professional Services Training Council for its work in supporting the translating and interpreting workforce.

I am very pleased that all the winners have received due recognition for the untiring work that they do, often behind the scenes, to ensure that Western Australia's cultural diversity continues to flourish. The awards ceremony also featured the launch of OMI's Voices in Harmony project—a SoundCloud-based playlist featuring 15 local artists from some of the CALD communities in this state. The playlist takes us on a musical journey around diversity in WA with sounds from our Indigenous heritage, before moving to influences from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, South-East Asia, North Asia, South America and the Pacific Islands. The Voices in Harmony project, created as the soundtrack to Harmony Week 2016, can be used throughout the year to highlight Western Australia's vibrant multicultural society. I encourage all members of the house to view the awards honour roll and check out the playlist. Both are on the OMI website.

ELIZABETH QUAY — WATER PARK — MINISTER FOR PLANNING

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [12.15 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of the standing orders be suspended to allow the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That this house calls on the Minister for Planning to take full responsibility and resign over his failure to properly manage the Elizabeth Quay water park project, and his misleading and inaccurate comments to Parliament regarding water quality concerns and the overall project.

Yesterday, information was provided to this house that showed that two ministers misled this place and the public, but, in particular, the Minister for Planning—the minister responsible for the project —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The minister has indicated that he will support the suspension. As I understand it, the agreement was 25 minutes for each side. If the minister nods his head and agrees to it, I will sit down.

Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House) [12.16 pm]: We will certainly agree to the motion being debated. I do not expect that we will support the motion, somehow. The arrangement was for 25 minutes for each side, but it is probably much more than needed. I therefore move to amend the motion —

To insert after “forthwith” —

, subject to the debate being limited to 25 minutes for government members and 25 minutes for non-government members

Amendment put and passed.

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended

The SPEAKER: Members, as this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, I will need an absolute majority in order to succeed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Motion

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [12.17 pm]: I move —

That this house calls on the Minister for Planning to take full responsibility and resign over his failure to properly manage the Elizabeth Quay water park project, and his misleading and inaccurate comments to Parliament regarding water quality concerns and the overall project.

It is not usual for us to ask the Minister for Planning to resign. Often known as a safe pair of hands in this place, he has been caught out on this project. Time and again, he misled the public and this place about this project. Overall, the documents released yesterday show this house that the water park was opened before it was ready and negative test results were obtained before it was opened. The minister opened the park on 5 February before getting any clear results. The report also confirms that harmful bacteria were spread over the public for at least four days. Other information in the report includes that the project did not cost \$10 million; it actually cost \$13 million. Yesterday, the Minister for Health claimed that the park’s capacity was for 150 children. The government spent \$13 million on a park that can accommodate 150 children! The minister invited thousands of people down there; he never put up a sign stating that the capacity is 150 people. The minister confirmed yesterday that \$13 million was spent on a park that can hold 150 children, and he cannot even get that to work.

I want to go through four key issues: the park was not ready when the minister opened it; he misled on the water testing before its opening; he opened the park without appropriate water testing on 5 February; and he spread a very harmful bacteria over the public for at least four days. Let us go through the report.

The Minister for Planning said that he would not have opened the park if the department did not think it was ready. On 19 January, 10 days before the opening, Department of Health officers inspected the water spray park and identified 13 issues to be completed before the park’s opening. On that day, Friday, 29 January, several compliance issues were raised from the facility inspection on 19 January that had still not been addressed by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. On the day of opening, the minister still had not addressed major compliance issues. A letter was later issued by the Department of Health, but this is how it is termed in the department’s report —

The decision to issue a letter of approval to open the park was based on several considerations ... DOH officers were of the opinion that the spray park had been brought up to compliance with the Code based on the available information about remedial work undertaken between the 19th and 29th of January 2016. Based on this information, there was not considered to be a risk to the public.

That is it! So, based on some consideration, they did not think there was a risk. I will tell members what happened a couple of days later. A couple of days later, they started to detect further bacterium issues. The department’s report states —

The presence of a *Naegleria* ... organism in the actual water treatment system ... indicated some form of contamination had entered the water park and was plausibly due to dust and soil transmission from nearby Elizabeth Quay construction work.

It was a construction site. The water park was not ready to be opened. The report states —

Discussions between DOH officers and the spray park’s operators during the first few days after opening identified further operational and design issues of potential concern.

How could the minister legitimately open the park two or three days later after identifying “operational and design issues”? How could the minister do that? If it was ready, how could the minister identify further concerns three days later?

Mr J.H.D. Day: What document are you quoting from?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: From the report tabled by the Minister for Health yesterday. That report said it was construction work and identified “operational and design issues” three days after it opened. The report then went on to state that the water park needed to be shut down. Remember, the water park opened on 29 January. On 1 February, a few days later, the Department of Health called a meeting at Elizabeth Quay water park with the contractors and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority to discuss the need for remedial action. The Department of Health, which the Minister for Planning said was happy with this project, had an emergency meeting three days after it opened to try to address the issue. On 2 February health department staff met with MRA consultants at Elizabeth Quay to discuss further improvements to the operating systems and facilities, including improving drainage, diverting the first run-off each day to the sewer and operating the balance tank with a certain amount of chlorine each day, removing the layer of debris at the bottom of the balance tank and separating the sample point for each filter.

There we go. The minister said that the Department of Health was happy with it, but a few days later they said maybe they should divert the first run-off to the sewer because that water was not ready to be reused. The report identified major compliance issues. It showed that this park was opened before it was ready.

As my second point, I want to go to the water testing that occurred prior to the water park’s opening. Remember that the minister said in this place —

Bearing in mind the opening was on Friday, 29 January, I am advised that on Thursday, 21 January, clear test results were received, similarly on Monday, 25 January and on Tuesday 26 January.

That is not right. Yesterday’s report showed that negative results were received on 25 January. Again, the minister misled this place about the results. I am trying to paint a picture of the concerns. It was not something that came up later on in the piece. These issues were raised from day one—actually, before day one, because 10 days before opening 13 deficiencies had been identified. The results of the water testing came back, identifying problems and negative results. The minister misled this place on that front. Let us go to the testing conducted on 28 January. Remember, this is what the minister said —

On Thursday, 28 January, the day before the opening, a test result identified non-disease causing amoeba in the discharge pipes; in other words, there was no potential contact with park users and cleaning and filtration was undertaken.

What actually happened? The amoeba were not found in the discharge pipes, but in the balance tank. What was contained in the report from the Department of Health? The report on the results, which was issued on 28 January, stated there was a need for “immediate public health action”. This was not, as the minister described, an issue that did not raise any public health concerns. The results from the tests, which were received on 28 January, identified—it is in the minister’s own report—“immediate public health action”. The government tried to dismiss concerns.

Minister Day said again —

I have just indicated that a test result identified non-disease causing amoeba in the discharge pipes ...

That is absolutely wrong. Then we heard the Minister for Health on radio talking about 28 January with Gary Adshead. The transcript reads —

GARY ADSHEAD

... that clearance was test results, wasn’t it?

KIM HAMES

... It was results ...

GARY ADSHEAD

... It was results that showed that it ...

KIM HAMES

I have it written here in front of me. Results from 28th of January, which is the day the report came back all clear at 1pm.

That is just not right! In that interview they refer to the key point, which is the opening of the water park on 29 January. Basically, the minister tried to claim again and again that results came back on 29 January that gave the water park the all clear. But they did not test the water between 28 January and 29 January. The minister did not have the all clear. What the minister had identified were issues that required “immediate public health action”. Although they had done some super-chlorinating overnight to try to kill the problem, they did not test it again on 29 January, but the minister went on radio and said they did. The minister said that again and again.

The Premier also said in this place that it was tested on 29 January. The Premier said that the water park was retested on 29 January. That is absolutely false.

The water park had been opened and there were crisis meetings about the fact that this park was not fit for use. What happened then? I make the next point: on 3 February, we see a social media blitz from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority about the impending closure of the water park the next day. The minister then said that the water park had been so overused because people are loving it, and it needed some tender, loving care and a little bit of maintenance. That is what the minister said. On 4 February, the minister described the closure of the water park as a bit of cleaning and maintenance. This is what actually happened. The report states —

Discussions between DOH officers and the spray park's operators ... identified further operational and design issues ...

The minister had to go back to the drawing board with it. That is what the minister was doing! The report continues —

... the spray park operator deemed it necessary for the plant and equipment cease operation, and for the park to close on Thursday 4th February 2016.

That is not is not a little bit of tender, loving care; that is the Department of Health saying it cannot be sure this water park is safe! It is not some sort of spin in social media about a bit of maintenance and tender, loving care. It was the Department of Health arriving on site and saying it was not happy and did not believe the water park was safe. At that time the department increased the sampling points from one point to six. They were taking samples from only one point at that time.

What happened then was even worse. They gave the water park this tender, loving care and reopened it on 5 February, without any water testing. The Department of Health said it had serious concerns about its design and operations. Remember, the water was not tested for about a week. The park was reopened on 5 February; they had not retested the water for a week. The last time they tested it, there was a problem. In the meantime, the Department of Health came and said there were serious design issues, but the park was reopened without water testing. What happened then? The Department of Health got wind of it. Maybe it became aware of the social media campaign that the water park was open again. The report states —

Therefore, DOH advised immediate closure of the facility until satisfactory water sample results were returned from PathWest. Accordingly, the park was closed later that morning.

Given all the concerns and all those considerations, the minister reopened that park without any water testing being undertaken. It had not been tested for a week and the minister reopened the water park for two or three hours on that day. There goes that issue.

The last issue I want to talk about is what I understand to be the more significant bacteria, the pseudomonas bacteria. What happened there? Yesterday, both the Minister for Health and the Minister for Planning confirmed that they had misled this house. They said that they had previously said that the first time that bacteria had been found in the water park was on 22 February. They confirmed that that was not the case and that the first time was actually 14 February.

Mr J.H.D. Day: We provided information to Parliament as it was advised to us and that was said yesterday, and you know it.

The SPEAKER: Minister, you will have your chance next.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The minister confirmed that the first time pseudomonas was found was on 14 February. I want to make sure that everyone understands the dates. On 14 February the results came back showing this very harmful bacteria. The test had been taken on 12 February, so that bacteria was present from the 12th to the 14th. The minister claimed that it was in the discharge pipes; fair enough. On 18 February more testing was done. Those results came back on the 22nd, and it was found to be in the balance tank. This harmful bacteria was in the balance tank from at least the 18th to the 22nd. That means this harmful bacteria was sprayed over children for at least those four days—at least. It was first found in the system on 14 February, after tests had been done on the 12th. Why did the minister not do something then? The pattern was—the minister can go through the report—that a certain problem would be found in the discharge pipes and it would appear in the balance tanks a few days later. The Department of Health told the government that there were design issues with the drainage. From my talking to people who understand water parks, there are obviously issues with the filtration, the drainage and the design. The bacteria was first found in the park on the 14th, and the minister let it continue. After further testing on 18 February, the results on the 22nd confirmed that that harmful bacteria was being sprayed for at least four days. How can the minister say that public health was not at risk? He cannot say that because his own report confirms that it was. The minister's own report says that for four days, that harmful bacteria was being sprayed. It is the only logical conclusion and the minister must take responsibility.

Let us go through the key points. There is no doubt that the park was opened too early, and this report from yesterday shows that. During the whole time, the minister misled about the quality of the water. He did not act in the way that he should have. It was all about the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and tender loving care, “Isn’t this pretty”, without worrying about the key structural issue, which was: does this water park actually work in this place? He misled about the results, and it is confirmed that for at least four days, harmful bacteria was being sprayed on the public. That is absolutely confirmed.

Mr J.H.D. Day: It was a judgement of the health department as to what was appropriate.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Water samples were taken on 18 February and the results that came back on 22 February recommended that it be shut down immediately because it was harmful. That is the only logical conclusion. That period was four days. The other overarching issue is that yesterday it was confirmed that it cost not \$10 million, as has been always indicated; it was \$13 million, which is a blowout of \$3 million. The minister said, “Well, it’s the public’s fault because we planned for only 150 children.” Why was the government making phoney claims that 800 000 people attended the opening when it had planned a water park to take only 150? What was that about? Backyard pools costing \$40 000 could probably take more than 150 children at a time. The situation is diabolical. The minister has never been up-front. We raised these issues and gave him ample opportunity. He spent two weeks preparing this report. As the minister knows, freedom of information requests are available to us, and we have made FOI requests. We will keep chasing this down because, honestly, this is a classic example of government promotion or government spin over reality. I have spelled it out. Everything I have said has come from the information that the minister released yesterday. The minister had the opportunity yesterday with his personal explanation to go through everything that I said and apologise, but he did not. He tried to say that he got one figure wrong, but that was okay because the water park was shut down immediately, but it was not. This is an appalling case. I know that the minister feels a little bit of guilt about this because he sent out the Minister for Health to speak. As I said, the slippery Minister for Health can pretty much avoid responsibility for everything.

Mr P. Papalia: Teflon.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He is the Teflon Minister for Health. The Minister for Planning could not go out because he finds it a bit harder.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr J.H.D. Day interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you! Member for West Swan, carry on.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This is your project, Minister for Planning. You have been out there with all the media statements and all the propaganda. It has been yours. I know why he sent out the Minister for Health. The Minister for Health could have covered up Watergate. Seriously! He could cover up anything. I know the Minister for Planning could not talk about it too much because, frankly, he finds that he is not quite as slippery as the Minister for Health.

Minister for Planning, I have outlined four key issues. I expect you to address them and apologise. Frankly, you should resign for one of the biggest mistakes made during your entire role as a minister.

DR K.D. HAMES (Dawesville — Minister for Health) [12.36 pm]: The minister for West Swan —

Mr P.B. Watson: Minister?

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The member for West Swan has turned herself into an instant expert on all things to do with the Department of Health, and has put her knowledge above the knowledge of someone who has worked in the Department of Health for decades, not just years, particularly in this area. It is from that person that all these reports have come. The member for West Swan has put her knowledge in front of Tarun Weeramanthri, the director of public health, who takes his responsibility of protecting public health extremely seriously.

Yesterday, we clarified the detection of pseudomonas. As members will see when they get the FOIs, I was given information, as was the minister, that did not identify that positive test for pseudomonas on 14 February. Subsequently, we came straight into this house to clear the record. Let me go through what the Department of Health experts provided in response to the issues raised. To put to bed some of the comments of the member opposite, I will read to members, to put it on the record, what they say happened in that course of events. They state —

- Water samples were taken at the Elizabeth Quay water park on eight separate occasions between Thursday 21 January and Friday 26 February
- The first sample was taken on Thursday 21 January—and final test results received on 28 January —

That is the day before the park opened —
showed there was no public health concern.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. Saffioti: That's not true.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I am just reading "no public health concerns." It is true —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you!

Dr K.D. HAMES: It is true, but you need to stop and listen.
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Members, the trouble is that this is extremely complicated, not only for the member to read it, but also for us to go through and understand it. Hence, we have said some things which were not fully accurate but which we have since corrected, because it is extremely complicated. That statement is true. Members opposite are assuming that because —

Ms R. Saffioti: Read your own report.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Dr K.D. HAMES: You have to listen. If you do not focus, you will not get it. Naegleria was found on 28 February, but it was not a risk to public health—not a risk to public health. Read that report again and you will confirm that it was not a risk to public health.

Ms R. Saffioti: You got it wrong; sorry, minister.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Dr K.D. HAMES: I am reading the notes and then I will go through the colours again. The member should just be patient and listen and then she can work herself up when I have finished. The Minister for Planning will talk afterwards and the member will get plenty of chances to work it out.

The results received on 28 January showed there was no public health concern. The notes state —

The second sample was taken on Monday 25 January. Preliminary results on 28 January showed the presence of Naegleria—a group of amoeba, one species of which can cause disease in humans—in the balance tank. The Department of Health was satisfied an overnight superchlorination process would eliminate any Naegleria in the system. Final testing results on 1 February showed there was no public health concern—the Naegleria was non-pathogenic to humans.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Dr K.D. HAMES: Let me read that again. The member was not listening.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, you had a good run when you spoke. Now give it a break.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I repeat the previous sentence that the member was not listening to. It states —

The Department of Health was satisfied an overnight superchlorination process would eliminate any Naegleria in the system.

Ms R. Saffioti: You didn't retest the water, though, did you?

Dr K.D. HAMES: No, because the Department of Health was satisfied that it would eliminate any —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

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

A government member: Just chill out.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes, the member should just chill out.

Mr P. Papalia: It's only two weeks old.

Dr K.D. HAMES: The member is so pathetic.

The talking points continue —

- The third sample was taken on Tuesday 26 January on backwash water—which does not come into contact with people at the park. Final results received on 1 February showed there was no public health concern.
- The fourth sample was taken on Thursday 28 January—on areas including both the backwash and balance tank. Final results received on 5 February —

This was after the opening but still, I have gone through why the department felt it was safe to open the water park already —

showed there was no public health concern.

- The water park was opened around 4.30pm on Friday 29 January—based on analysis of the initial sample, and following an overnight superchlorination process which would have eliminated any *Naegleria* species in the system. Again, there was no risk to the public.

This has come from the public health officials. This is not something that I have written; this is something that they have written for me. It continues —

- The MRA closed the water park for cleaning, maintenance and additional work on 4 February.

That is what the member stated —

- It reopened the water park on 5 February.

There was no reason not to open it because nothing had been found to show that it was not appropriate. However, it reopened on the Friday. It continues —

- The fifth sample was taken —

By the Department of Health on that day —

on 5 February ... Due to the prior maintenance activities at the water park and the forecast heat wave —

Because the department was worried about other organisms coming into the system with the heatwave coming —

the Department of Health recommended the MRA close the park ...

Hence, the three hours the water park was opened. There was no evidence of anything being wrong but the department said, “We know it was clear last time. We know it has been opened but there is a heatwave coming and we think you should shut it down just to be safe”, and that is what was done. The talking points continue —

- The water park was reopened on 8 February—following advice from the Department of Health that it was safe to do so. Again, there was no public health risk.

The sample that was taken on 5 February was clear, so it was safe to open the park. The department could have left it open. It was shut down because the department wanted to wait for the test results just in case. It continues —

- The sixth sample was taken on 12 February, and testing for *Pseudomonas* ... Results received on 14 February—showed for the first time, *Pseudomonas* ... in the filters and surface troughs but importantly, **not** in the balance tank that holds treated water for use on the water spray in the park. The negative results in the balance tank indicated that the filtration and chlorination systems were adequately managing the disinfection, and the quality of water returning to the pool was acceptable. On that basis, the Department of Health deemed that it was not necessary from a public health viewpoint, to close the park at that time.
- The seventh sample was taken on 18 February.

As we know, that showed *Pseudomonas*. That result was received on 22 February, and the park was immediately closed down. It could not have been closed in advance of that because nobody knew the *Pseudomonas* was present. I have said that that meant people were exposed and that increased the risk to those people. *Pseudomonas* is a common organism. I challenge all members to volunteer themselves to be tested. We will take their names off the results. There is a high chance that of the members sitting in this chamber today, someone will have *pseudomonas* on their skin, someone will have *staphylococcus* on their skin and some might even have *streptococcus* on their skin. It is an organism that can be found on people in all swimming pools. The individual who managed this —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

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

Dr K.D. HAMES: The individual within the Department of Health who manages this water park is an extremely experienced long-serving officer who manages water testing —

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

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

Dr K.D. HAMES: *Pseudomonas* is an organism that commonly causes pools to be closed down. In recent months, Port Hedland swimming pool has been closed on a number of occasions because of *Pseudomonas*. It is an organism that gets into water and can be difficult to treat. Sometimes it is established in systems. It is why people have to carefully manage their swimming pools and it is why people are sometimes at risk of swimming in public pools. As a GP, I used to see people on regular occasions—between 10 and 20 cases a year; I do not know about the member for Eyre—with swimmer’s ear, which can often be *Pseudomonas*, though not always, or other infections caused by *Pseudomonas*. It is an organism that can cause a nasty infection, mostly in the ears and sometimes in the eyes. Nevertheless, it is a treatable infection. It is not a satisfactory outcome that people were exposed; hence we have closed the water park and hence we are not opening it again until we are sure that it is fixed. The Minister for Planning will probably go into what needs to be done to fix it. It is certainly fixable. We need to recognise the huge popularity of not only Elizabeth Quay, but also this water park that has been a great outcome. It is not a great outcome that kids have been exposed to infection. As to the suggestion by the member for West Swan that the government has been somehow complicit, I looked the Executive Director of Public Health in the eye at a meeting the other day and asked whether he had been subject to —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I asked the executive director whether he had been exposed to any pressure from people pushing him to get a result and whether he had been pressured to open the water park and to give confirmation of when it will open. He said, “Absolutely not. I would not accept any such pressure. In fact, it would be counterproductive for people to put that sort of pressure on me. I have been doing this job for a long time and I greatly pride myself in making sure that I look after the public health of the community.” Any suggestion that the government was somehow complicit in this matter or that pressure was placed on the government or the MRA is totally wrong. This outcome was a sad occurrence but it was managed appropriately. The member is trying to become an instant expert on something that experts have been managing for decades —

Mr P.B. Watson: How’d they stuff this one up then?

Dr K.D. HAMES: I do not think they stuffed this one up. If the pool in Albany was tested on a day that four days later showed a *Pseudomonas*, which is not impossible, and the pool was closed because of that, would the member find the government, or anyone else for that matter, at fault for having closed it before the test results came back to show there was *Pseudomonas* present? I am sure he would not be that unreasonable, as the member for West Swan is being unreasonable.

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Planning) [12.49 pm]: We do not support this motion. I make the observation that the opposition wants to create the impression that there is some major scandal with the water park at Elizabeth Quay and there has been some cover-up by the government and undue pressure applied by the government to the Department of Health or others involved in the Elizabeth Quay project or the water park specifically for it to be opened prematurely. None of that is true at all.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The opposition desperately wants a scandal. There is no scandal around this issue at all. The government made the decision to go ahead with the Perth waterfront project—Elizabeth Quay, as it is now called—some years ago. As I have said on many occasions, this project has been under conception or debate for 30 years or more. This government finally made a decision to go ahead with a project that has been very popular and well received and is a definite improvement to the Perth central business district. The opposition hates that aspect. It opposed this project at the last election. It was going to tear up the contracts, take the bulldozers out and so on. The opposition hates the fact that the Elizabeth Quay project has been popular. Certainly, the fact that the water park is not able to operate at the moment, based on the proper advice of the Department of Health, is a disappointing outcome. It is disappointing for many children, their families and the government that the water park is not able to be used at the moment because of the appropriate and precautionary approach being taken on the advice of the Department of Health. There is no scandal; there has been no inappropriate action by me as Minister for Planning, the Minister for Health or the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

The suggestion that the project was rushed and was opened too early is also not borne out by the facts. The water park, in fact, was being tested and was in some form of operation for some weeks.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

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

Mr J.H.D. DAY: I think I am right in saying that the water park was going through testing phases for some weeks before Elizabeth Quay was opened on 29 January. Obviously, that testing was not able to be done with

a large number of people, and as it has turned out, it appears that the capacity of the filtration system is not sufficient for the great popularity of the water park and the large number of children and adults using it. As I said, that is disappointing. There is clearly either a design or construction issue, or maybe a specification issue, and all those issues are being worked through and examined at the moment. It is intended to make changes to the construction of the water park, the filtration system and so on to ensure that they are able to deal with the high level of popularity of the water park that has been demonstrated so far.

The government, through the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, is in the hands of private sector contractors. The Leighton Broad consortium, as the company was referred to at the time—it is now trading as CPB Contractors, having changed its name—had overall responsibility for construction of the project, and it subcontracted, as I understand, to Waterforms International, which constructed the water park itself, and I recall that design input was also provided by a Spanish company. The government, like a family or anyone else building a home, has a contract with a builder, which has subcontractors involved. The client—the owner of the project—is always in the hands of those who are actually doing the work. Many discussions are going on with the contractors to resolve the issues that have been identified.

All the information the Minister for Health and I provided to Parliament was, at the time it was provided, as advised to us by our respective agencies. We took the first opportunity available when Parliament resumed yesterday after the two-week break to provide corrected information, based on new information provided to us since Parliament last sat. That was done through personal explanations by each of us. As was advised yesterday, subsequent to the previous sittings of Parliament, we were advised that a positive result for *Pseudomonas* bacteria in the water park's filtration system was received on 14 February. The judgement of the Department of Health, as I understand it, was that the contamination was at a level that was not likely to be a threat to public health and that the water park filtration system would be able to deal with the issue. The first time the government and the MRA were advised that there was any threat to public health was on 22 February, and immediately that advice was provided, the water park was closed. The MRA and the government have acted on the advice of the Department of Health at all times. The MRA has complied with the protocols that the Department of Health has had in place for not only this water park, but also other water parks throughout Western Australia. All the requirements of the Department of Health have been complied with by the MRA, as I am advised.

When Elizabeth Quay was opened on 29 January, a compliance certificate and approval to operate were issued by the Department of Health. I tabled those documents in this chamber about three weeks ago. If those documents had not been provided and the Department of Health had not provided clearance to the MRA for the water park to be open to the public, it simply would not have happened. That would clearly have been very disappointing to just about everybody, although not to the opposition. It would have been very disappointing to the government and to the many children who used the water park at the time. There was no risk to public safety or public health at that time, as the documents tabled by the Minister for Health have shown. In subsequent weeks, apparently following extensive usage of the water park, *Pseudomonas* bacteria infiltrated the system. The method of infiltration has been described by the Minister for Health. The bacterium is present in the community, and it is a risk to public health when it finds its way into these facilities. The first time the government and the MRA in particular were advised that there was any risk to public health, on 29 February, as I and the Minister for Health have said, the water park was closed.

The opening of Elizabeth Quay was not rushed, and the opening of the water park was not rushed. In fact, going back two or three months before the opening, the government expected it to be opened prior to Christmas. That was the earlier plan, and in fact the handover from Leighton Broad was due to take place in November, and we were looking at having an opening prior to Christmas. The opening was delayed because the contractor took longer to finish off some aspects of the project, in particular the laying of paving stones and curbing. That all took somewhat longer than we, as the client, would have liked. Nevertheless, there was no alternative but for the opening to be delayed so that the project would be adequately completed. Apart from that, Elizabeth Quay and the water park would have been open prior to Christmas. It was not a case of rushing the opening or the completion of the water park for 29 January at all. As I said, the water park was in some level of operation and was being tested prior to 29 January, but it was clearly not possible to do that with thousands of children and adults going through the water sprays and so on.

Although these issues are disappointing, they are certainly not unprecedented, judging by comments made to me by various people about swimming pools and water parks around Western Australia. It is a matter of changing the construction and the capacity of the filtration system, fine-tuning things or making substantial changes as the case may be, to ensure that it is able to cope with the demand that has been placed on it. The public expects that to happen and the government also expects it to occur. The onus is on the contractors, the designers and the installers of the equipment to ensure that it is up to capacity. Exactly where all the responsibilities lie is under discussion. The most important thing is that design work is going on to ensure that the capacity of the system is able to meet the demand. The directions of the Department of Health will be followed at all times by the MRA.

The water park will not be reopened until clearance is provided by the Department of Health, as clearance was provided on 29 January.

As I said, there is no cover up; there is no scandal here. Yes, there has been a disappointing outcome, but from the government's point of view, I, as Minister for Planning, and the Minister for Health have acted at all times on the professional advice of the expert officers within the Department of Health. We are certainly not going to support this motion.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.01 pm]: This is either an exercise in incompetence or a cover-up. The Minister for Planning has said that it is not a cover-up; therefore, we can only conclude that it is his incompetence that has led to this situation. The opposition does not hate the water park at Elizabeth Quay. Like all Western Australians, we enjoy using Elizabeth Quay. What we hate is that the government's management of the park has put the children of Western Australia at risk. At no stage has the government talked about its risk management approach to the water park. At no stage has it talked about the precautionary principle of public health. At no stage has it talked about the efforts to which the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority went to communicate an issue of public safety. What the government has demonstrated is that it had scant regard for public safety and had its eyes solely on the prize of the party at Elizabeth Quay.

The Minister for Health's report made it clear that on 28 January a sample required immediate public health action and that by 29 January, despite the treatment of the water, the results of testing for *Naegleria fowleri*, an extremely dangerous bacteria, were pending. The member for Cockburn has given me a fact sheet that also describes that bacteria as a "brain-eating amoeba". Does that strike members as a government that is concerned about public safety on issues of this nature? What we know is that throughout February there was a series of meetings within the Department of Health and the MRA as they went about trying to squirm their way past public health officials to make sure they could keep the park open. We know through the special media campaign that the MRA conducted in the name of the Minister for Planning that it simply tried to gloss over the issues of concern of public safety. There was no risk management in this; why, therefore, did they allow so many kids to use that water park in the first few days? If a risk management program was in place, they would have taken care of that. Also, no precautionary principle was in place in this situation; otherwise, if they had had those samples in hand on 28 January, they would not have allowed the situation to go on. But, of course, the party had to go on. Now, the minister says that there is no cover-up in this situation so there can be only one explanation: that is, the minister is incompetent and he should resign.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [1.04 pm]: The Minister for Planning said that there is no scandal here. What there has been is utter negligence by the Minister for Planning for not addressing this issue early. At no point has the opposition suggested that the Department of Health was not doing its job. It was doing its job. The problem is that the minister was not listening to or asking the department to follow up on the processes. When we debated this same matter last month, the Premier said twice in the space of two paragraphs of *Hansard* that when the water park opens on 29 January, "it was tested" on that day to make sure it was safe and could be used. Again, he said —

Testing was done on the day. If bacteria had been found then, the waterpark would still have been opened, but the children would not have been allowed in it. It is as simple as that.

The reality is that no testing was done on that day. The government had the result the day before that said that immediate public health action was required and it did no testing between then and opening the water park. The Premier came in here and said that all the testing had been done on that day and that there was no way the government would have opened it without it. But the government did not. That is the reality, and that is why, later on in February when suddenly kids were being sprayed with *Pseudomonas* for four days, the response of the Minister for Health was that it was all okay because it is all on our skin somewhere or other. I am pretty sure we do not sign up for that when we let our kids play at the water park; I am not signing up and agreeing to have them sprayed with *Pseudomonas*. That is what this government allowed to happen and the Minister for Planning says that there is no scandal! Stop taking the issues or critiques of Elizabeth Quay personally, minister, and start focusing on the detail of the job so this will not happen again in the future.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [1.05 pm]: The Labor Party just hates Elizabeth Quay.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Elizabeth Quay has changed the face of Perth. Twenty-five thousand people came down to Elizabeth Quay to be part of the opening.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: In the first four weeks of it being open —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Albany, I do not want to hear from you.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: There were 25 000 people at the opening event. It was quite a modest opening.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, a million visits —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, over the —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, if you interject again, you are going to be asked to leave the chamber.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, in the four —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr K.D. Hames interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I call you for the first time.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you for the third time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: In the four weeks following, it is estimated that over one million visitors —

Ms M.M. Quirk: How do you know that it's a million?

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you for the second time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is estimated at over one million visitors in those four weeks. How do we know? It is very cleverly done by monitoring mobile phones.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is right. That is how it was done—using new technology.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Right.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: As Minister for Science, I am delighted to see that technology being used.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: They are rabid.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr W.J. Johnston: That's a lie!

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: All right; member for Cannington, leave the chamber, please.

[The member for Cannington left the chamber.]

Debate Resumed

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Leader of the Opposition will be pleased with that because one of the four conspirators has now been thrown out of the chamber. He has only three conspirators to go.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: At all times —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

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

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Over the last few days, the member for Albany has had a very rare moment of relevance.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: At all times —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: At all times the MRA and, therefore, the government acted on advice from the health department.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: And no results.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, I did say previously, and it was my understanding, that before the opening on 29 January, testing had been done that day. I was incorrect in that. The testing had been done the previous day. That was my understanding.

Mr M. McGowan: You misled the house.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, we were aware that —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

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

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Prior to the opening, amoeba had been detected—well before the opening, it had been my understanding. Obviously, we wanted it to be clear before the water park was to be used. It was my understanding that testing had been done on the morning; it had actually been done, I think, on the previous day. During that morning I was advised that the pool was clear and it could be opened.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (19)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr P. Papalia	Mr P.C. Tinley
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr F.M. Logan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr P.B. Watson
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J. Farrer	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms R. Saffioti	Mr D.A. Templeman (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr C.J. Tallentire	

Noes (35)

Mr P. Abetz	Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Dr M.D. Nahan
Mr F.A. Alban	Ms E. Evangel	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr R.S. Love	Mr J. Norberger
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Ms L. Mettam	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr V.A. Catania	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr C.D. Hatton	Ms A.R. Mitchell	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Mr N.W. Morton	

Pair

Mr J.R. Quigley

Ms W.M. Duncan

Question thus negated.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Suspension of Standing Orders — Motion

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House) [1.15 pm]: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable private members' business to have priority on Wednesday, 16 March 2016, between 4.00 and 8.00 pm.

This motion will allow us to sit past the usual finishing time of 7.00 pm. I understand that members would prefer not to be here later on Wednesday nights and we do not aim to make this a regular occurrence, but it depends on the amount of time spent in debate on legislation that is a priority for not only the government, but also, in most cases, Parliament as a whole. The opposition is keen to have quite a number of speakers on quite a number of bills, and this motion will allow further time for that to occur. I am hoping that we will not be here very late tonight; we will take a reasonable approach. In the last sitting week we were here on Wednesday evening but finished soon after 4.00 pm on Thursday; maybe that will be possible tomorrow. Certainly next week, in the lead-up to Easter, we will aim to not finish late on Thursday afternoon, of course. We aim to take a reasonable approach to this, but we need adequate time for legislation to be considered and for the opposition to speak.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [1.16 pm]: I rise to speak, as I did last time the Leader of the House moved a similar motion. I have previously put on record that I think the standing orders need reform. Late last year a proposal came out of the Procedure and Privileges Committee, but the government did not accept the committee's recommendations. That cross-party committee comprises members of the government, the opposition and the National Party. We put a unanimous proposal to the government. Unfortunately, the government sought to cherrypick from that proposal what might suit it, rather than proceed with it fully. I do not intend to revisit that in detail, nor do I intend to detail again the fact that the sitting hours of this place need to be brought into the modern age. We made some progress more than 15 years ago, and we need to make some further progress. Some of the progress made was that we would not sit on Wednesday nights. Rather than repeat what I put on record relatively recently about family-friendly sitting hours—this is not just about women; it is about whole families and sensible sitting hours—I will focus today on the limited number of weeks we will sit this year.

It is true that the opposition wants to contribute in detail to legislation that the government brings forward. We want to ask questions in the consideration in detail stage and subject legislation to appropriate scrutiny. On that basis, it would be my simple proposal that we need to sit another couple of weeks. The government cannot just spring it on people; it is even more disruptive to families and people's lives when we are not given notice. I get advised by email towards the end of the week before when there is a proposal of this nature, and most people find out on Friday that they are required to sit on Wednesday night if they want to participate in Parliament's proceedings, which of course everyone expects members of Parliament to do. I do not think that is satisfactory. We will sit this week and next week, and then there will be a one-week recess. We will then sit for one week, and then there will be a recess of four weeks. I am not proposing that at short notice the government pull out one of those four weeks now without giving people notice, but I really question why the government put a four-week recess in there. There is space there; there is a three-week sitting —

Mr J.H.D. Day: It is related to the school holidays and Easter.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: There are not four weeks for Easter and school holidays. A combination of Easter and school holidays surely tallies three weeks.

Mr J.H.D. Day: I should have said Anzac Day.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: In any event, even if Anzac Day is one of the reasons, the fact of the matter is that that is just a day, not a week; maybe we could have sat a couple of days that week or sat different hours or something—I am not sure. But the fact of the matter is that there will be a six-week recess midyear, and we will finish on 17 November. I can well understand why the government might want to rush out of Parliament early this year and not face question time and matters of public interest in the lead-up to the 2017 election.

But this is not the way to run Parliament. The government cannot just blame the opposition because we want to subject bills to appropriate scrutiny. If the government has a legislative workload to get through, it should have listed a couple more weeks. In opposition we do not know what legislative workload the government is going to put forward or how controversial the bills it puts forward are going to be. Only the government knows that, so when we see a smaller number of sitting weeks listed for the year, we have to assume that the government does not have much of a legislative agenda or that the bills it is bringing forward are not going to be controversial. It is pretty lame to blame the opposition for wanting to subject the government's legislation to scrutiny. Everyone knows that there is some pretty controversial legislation coming up, particularly with regard to the protest laws and yes, that will be very time consuming for the Parliament. But the way to deal with this is to sit proper hours and for a proper number of weeks for the year rather than just saying, on an ad hoc, week-by-week basis, "Oh well, let's just change the arrangements and sit on a Wednesday night." I do not think that that is good practice or good planning.

Question put and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — DINNER SUSPENSION

Statement by Acting Speaker

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): I also announce that there will therefore be a dinner break between 6.00 and 7.00 pm.

LEGAL PROFESSION AMENDMENT BILL 2016*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mrs L.M. Harvey (Minister for Police)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [1.22 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Department of the Attorney General provides and maintains a law library for members of the judiciary and officers of the department and associated agencies. Under section 548 of the Legal Profession Act 2008, the Legal Practice Board is responsible for providing and maintaining the law library at the Supreme Court of Western Australia. This law library is primarily used by members of the judiciary and legal practitioners and is funded from moneys received by the Legal Practice Board under the Legal Profession Act 2008 and, in particular, from fees charged to grant or renew local practising certificates.

In 2012, the State Solicitor was asked to undertake a project to amalgamate the two law libraries. The impetus behind the project was twofold. First, the Legal Practice Board indicated that it no longer wished to have any involvement with the law library at the Supreme Court. Second, it was recognised that there was a need to provide a law library for the judiciary, members of the legal profession and government legal officers in the new justice complex at the Old Treasury Building, while at the same time reducing the inefficiency and duplication occasioned by supporting two law libraries.

The steering committee for the project to amalgamate the two law libraries consisted of representatives from the Supreme Court, the Legal Practice Board, the Law Society of Western Australia, the Western Australian Bar Association, the State Solicitor's Office, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. Consolidating the two law libraries requires an amendment to the Legal Profession Act 2008. This is to be effected by the Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2016 and the Legal Profession Amendment (Levy) Bill 2016.

Under the Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2016, the Legal Practice Board is relieved of its obligation to provide and maintain the law library at the Supreme Court. Instead, the state is given power to establish and manage a law library for the use of the judiciary, local lawyers and other prescribed persons. The Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2016 also provides for the transfer of the library assets of the Legal Practice Board to the state. Under proposed section 548A, the Legal Practice Board will be required to make an annual contribution to the state towards the cost of providing and maintaining the amalgamated law library. The amount of the contribution will be calculated in accordance with regulations. This contribution will be credited to the law library fund, an agency special-purpose account established under the Financial Management Act 2006. The funds credited to that account may be used to provide and maintain the law library, to provide library services and for other prescribed purposes relating to the law library. A separate bill, the Legal Profession Amendment (Levy) Bill 2016, will introduce into section 548A provision for the imposition of a levy prescribed either by that section or by regulations made thereunder.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.

LEGAL PROFESSION AMENDMENT (LEVY) BILL 2016*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mrs L.M. Harvey (Minister for Police)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [1.26 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Department of the Attorney General provides and maintains a law library for members of the judiciary and officers of the department and associated agencies. Under section 548 of the Legal Profession Act 2008, the Legal Practice Board is responsible for providing and maintaining the law library at the Supreme Court of Western Australia. This law library is primarily used by members of the judiciary and legal practitioners and is funded from moneys received by the Legal Practice Board under the Legal Profession Act 2008 and, in particular, from fees charged to grant or renew local practising certificates.

In 2012, the State Solicitor was asked to undertake a project to amalgamate the two law libraries. The impetus behind the project was twofold. First, the Legal Practice Board had indicated that it no longer wished to have any involvement with the law library at the Supreme Court. Second, it was recognised that there was a need to provide a law library for the judiciary, members of the legal profession and government legal officers in the new justice complex at the Old Treasury Building, while at the same time reducing the inefficiency and duplication occasioned by supporting two law libraries.

The steering committee for the project to amalgamate the two law libraries consisted of representatives from the Supreme Court, the Legal Practice Board, the Law Society of Western Australia, the Western Australian Bar Association, the State Solicitor's Office, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. Consolidating the two law libraries requires an amendment to the Legal Profession Act 2008. This is to be effected by the Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2016 and the Legal Profession Amendment (Levy) Bill 2016.

Under proposed section 548A, introduced by the Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2016, the Legal Practice Board will be required to make an annual contribution to the state towards the cost of providing and maintaining the amalgamated law library. The amount of the contribution will be calculated in accordance with regulations. This contribution will be credited to the law library fund, an agency special-purpose account established under the Financial Management Act 2006. The funds credited to that account may be used to provide and maintain the law library, to provide library services, and for other prescribed purposes relating to the law library.

The Legal Profession Amendment (Levy) Bill 2016 amends section 548A of the Legal Profession Act 2008 by the addition of a new subsection (8), providing for a levy to be imposed by section 548A or regulations made thereunder. The second, separate, bill is necessitated by section 46(7) of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899, which provides that bills imposing taxation must deal only with the imposition of the tax.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.

MOTOR VEHICLE (CATASTROPHIC INJURIES) BILL 2016

Second Reading

Resumed from 24 February.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [1.29 pm]: I rise to speak to the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. I am the lead speaker on behalf the opposition, which will, of course, be supporting this very important piece of legislation for not a huge number of Western Australians, but Western Australians who require significant financial assistance after having sustained catastrophic injuries in a motor vehicle accident and who are not otherwise covered under the current compulsory third party regime.

For a number of years now the opposition has been in clear support of the necessity for a regime to cover effectively what is known as no-fault insurance for those people who suffer a catastrophic injury and are not otherwise covered under the current CTP regime. Indeed, the opposition called for such a regime a number of years ago. In about 2014 the government released a green paper through the Insurance Commission of WA that set out three separate options. That allowed Western Australians to put in their submissions over a 10-week period and to comment on the various options. The government has made the decision to go with option three. The opposition is obviously in favour of this option as is evidenced by our keen support for the passage of this legislation.

It is the government's intent for the scheme to start from 1 July this year, and going on the advice that I received during my briefing with the Insurance Commission, the bill will need to be through Parliament by about 1 May to allow for invoices to go out to enable people to start paying for their cover. In the first year that payment will be a maximum of \$99—I assume that is exactly what it will be—and it will then rise at a rate of about the average weekly earnings across the forward estimates of the budget being assumed.

Members have heard about the tragic cases of people like Warrick Proudlove. This is not retrospective legislation and it will not cover his situation, but I think the Proudlove case was a classic example that motivated a lot of public conversation about the requirement for no-fault insurance—I will refer to it as no-fault insurance because, by and large, that is what people know it as—and motivated many of the submissions to the Insurance Commission. I have not gone through all the 2 300 or so submissions, but I have gone through some that have been made public. I will refer to some of them, but I want to spend a bit of time—not a huge amount—on the main issues raised in those submissions that were outlined by the Insurance Commission in its paper that basically led to the government adopting option three and the introduction of this legislation.

In April 2015 the Insurance Commission released a document titled "Proposal to Add No-Fault Catastrophic Injury Cover to Western Australia's Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme". This effectively gave an executive summary of the submissions that were received. In particular, effectively 13 key points summarised by

this document fell out of those submissions. They were raised by a number of different organisations. The Insurance Commission outlined 13 identifying themes in its document, and I want to deal with—not in huge detail—each of those 13.

The first one, interesting and unsurprisingly, I guess, relates to the responses received. As the Insurance Commission noted in its document, unsurprisingly, the range of submissions had a broad range of sophistication. Submissions were received from the RAC, for example, and people with disabilities who had sophisticated contributions to make, through to people—this is the first point that was made by the Insurance Commission—who simply had a limited understanding of what the current compulsory third party insurance scheme did and did not cover. Throughout this debate, a lot of people, to be frank, were probably surprised that their CTP insurance did not cover the scenario in which catastrophic injury occurred when no fault was identifiable, bearing in mind that Western Australia is the last state, other than Queensland, to introduce a no-fault regime. Advice received from the Insurance Commission is that Queensland is currently undertaking a parliamentary inquiry that I dare say will inevitably lead to a similar no-fault insurance scheme to that which we are now moving through the Parliament of Western Australia. On that first point of limited understanding, at the very least, hopefully this debate has made people aware of exactly what their insurance covers. Ultimately, when people receive their car registration and notice that another \$99 has been added to it, they will naturally ask questions. No doubt that registration form will contain a specific line item that states, “\$99 for covering you for any catastrophic injury that results from a motor vehicle accident not covered by the current compulsory third party regime”. The Treasurer will no doubt address a number of points in his response to the second reading debate or in consideration in detail. I do not intend to delay the progress of the bill, but hopefully in consideration in detail we will get through a number of questions that will fall out of these 13 points, to be frank. The second point that was —

Dr M.D. Nahan: What was your first point?

Mr B.S. WYATT: The first point was that, by and large, a lot of people did not understand what insurance they had under the current compulsory third party regime. Looking at the feedback from the Insurance Commission, it looks as though many people assumed that the current CTP regime would cover them in scenarios of no fault, whereas clearly it does not.

An interesting discussion came in around point two about whether the new no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance scheme should have exclusions. This is an interesting point. For example, should there be exclusions when the person who was catastrophically injured was above the legal limit for alcohol in their blood at the time; or if they were evading a police dispute; or if they did not have the right class of licence? It was quite a good little discussion. Both the Law Council of Australia and Helen Barrett were quoted in this. As outlined by the Insurance Commission, I think the reasons for not supporting exclusions are actually the more persuasive. Ultimately, there will be a situation in which somebody was breaking the law at the time the injury occurred, but that person will still require care. If no fault is at stake, this is still a cost that inevitably will fall to the Disability Services Commission or the Department of Health—it falls to the taxpayers. Ultimately, in my view, the reasons for not supporting exclusions outweigh those that do. The Insurance Commission made the point that those who would be caught in the exclusions are a tiny number; it would almost be an insignificant saving if there were exclusions on that basis. I should have said at the beginning, just to give some perspective, that we are talking about approximately 44 people a year who are catastrophically injured and unable to claim under the current CTP scheme, but who then on average—it is always terrible when people are injured so badly to talk about cost—draw on services over the course of their lifetime to an average of about \$4 million. Even though we are not talking about big numbers of people, it certainly has a significant cost. The point I am trying to make is that if there are exclusions, the numbers are so small that we will not get the sorts of savings that we would otherwise hope.

The third point was interesting and relates particularly to submissions from cycling bodies, for example, to expand the proposed no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance scheme further. There are really a couple of ways in which that can be done: effectively broaden the definition of catastrophic injury, which we will come to probably in consideration in detail, about how that is actually defined, through to retrospectivity, as I referred to briefly a minute ago in respect of Mr Proudlove.

The point around the definition is that there does have to be a clear, transparent medical measure of a catastrophic injury, and the Insurance Commission paper notes —

The definition of catastrophic injury follows the national minimum benchmarks agreed by States and Territories (and in principle by WA). The benchmarks define catastrophic injuries as spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple amputations, severe burns and permanent traumatic blindness.

The government has taken that standard of the national minimum benchmarks for this legislation, but a submission from the Australian Medical Association, and similarly from the Australian Physiotherapy

Association and Occupational Therapy Australia, suggests that the definition of “catastrophic injury” is too narrow. The AMA makes the point —

The AMA (WA) believes that by precluding a range of other serious injuries within this definition, many seriously injured Western Australians would miss out on receiving the care they require. The types of serious injuries that would be excluded under the Green Paper definition of catastrophic injury are peripheral nerve injury leading to the loss of limb function, internal injuries to major organs including the lungs and bowel, and multiple large bone fractures. This is by no means an exhaustive list. Consideration must be given to including those injuries that are likely to require admission to an Intensive Care Unit, multiple surgeries and/or repeated hospital admissions that would result in extended recovery periods of absence from paid work.

The retrospectivity issue was always going to be problematic, because, ultimately, how do we effectively impose on drivers the cost that is currently being borne by taxpayers through the health and disability system? It is very, very difficult, and arguments were made around high-profile cases. Again, I would be incredibly uncomfortable introducing that subjectivity to a decision such as this, because it is not what we should be doing here. However, in responding to these issues, the Insurance Commission makes the point —

The cost of no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance is calculated for providing care and support to those catastrophically injured in motor vehicle accidents. This approach is consistent with the nationally agreed benchmarks and recommendations made by the PC. Expanding the scope of cover would increase the number and cost of claimants in the scheme. Western Australian motorists would be required to pay a significantly higher no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance premium rate.

That is the underlying sensitivity here. In considering the Insurance Commission—we will come to this in a minute in respect of the cost—in some of those online polls and submissions, there was quite a significant push back about that cost. A number of submissions were made from the RAC, from memory, and a few others around the issue of cost shifting. Should we shift the cost for people who are catastrophically injured from effectively the taxpayer to the driver of vehicles? That is obviously a smaller group, but we will come to that in a minute. We have come down on the right side of that third point around expanding it. Ultimately, we are trying to deal with people who suffer a catastrophic injury in a motor vehicle accident, and that is the focus of what we should be doing. Imposing that cost on a person’s car registration is an appropriate mechanism and an appropriate link between the cost—the tax, if you like—and the revenue that we will be spending.

The fourth point is around cost shifting, and this was raised by a significant number of organisations, as identified by the Insurance Commission, the RAC, National Disability Services WA, the Council of Motoring Clubs, Baptistcare, the Spine and Limb Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, the City of Melville, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, the Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance and so on. I have a quote from Baptistcare that makes the point I was making a minute ago. It states —

The proposal to establish a no-fault catastrophic injury insurance scheme is, in effect, cost shifting from the state and commonwealth, to all vehicle owners. ... they are entitled to access services such as those provided by the Disability Service Commission and the NDIS, services we all currently pay for through our taxes. The proposal essentially transfers the cost of something which is currently paid for by all Western Australians including companies, to vehicle owners.

I did not read the Baptistcare submission in its entirety, so I am not sure whether it went on to critique that particular point, but it makes the point that that is the reality of what we are doing here. The green paper identified the fact that a broad range of different state and federal government organisations currently provide that support to catastrophically injured people; in WA, they are primarily, unsurprisingly, WA Health and the Disability Services Commission. I am interested in whether the Treasurer has responded to the RAC’s queries around the double dipping potentially leading to higher than necessary costs. The RAC has some doubts or concerns around the \$99 figure and whether that is too high. It put that in its submission, so I will be keen to hear the Treasurer’s response to the issues the RAC raised about its view on whether \$99 is an inflated figure. It is probably the largest organisation that has made that argument, so I think that is something of worth that the Treasurer will need to respond to during consideration in detail.

The fifth point of the 13 that came out of the submissions is whether cyclists also should pay a compulsory third party insurance premium. This issue gets people quite aggravated. Being a keen cyclist myself, I know that drivers who see cyclists on roads are often aggravated: “Hang on a minute; they don’t pay a registration fee, yet they are taking up the road.” This point was one of the 13 key points that arose by way of the 2 300 submissions. The green paper did not specifically deal with this—I guess it was not an area of specific focus in the green paper—but the Insurance Commission has used a couple of quotes, and this highlights the point I have just made. Mr Brad Cross states —

‘All road users should contribute. NO EXEMPTIONS including push bikes as they are road users. NO INSURANCE NO ROAD USE (premiums should come down if we all contribute)’

There is only a very short response to this by the Insurance Commission. It simply made the point that it is actually a good thing that people are riding their bikes, for a number of reasons, not just congestion, but also safety and health wise. It also made the point: how would we implement and enforce something like this? I do not know and I still do not know. It would be an incredibly difficult and costly task to register bikes or register cyclists and then enforce that if they are not so registered. The Insurance Commission left that particular point there.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Member, some cities in the US used to do it but they gave up.

Mr B.S. WYATT: For those reasons, I imagine?

Dr M.D. Nahan: Yes. They gave up.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I do not know how we would do it.

Off the top of my head, not a huge number would be caught, because, ultimately, we are capturing people in a motor vehicle. I think 30 per cent of people who are catastrophically injured and need no-fault cover were involved in an accident on a motor bike, unsurprisingly, as opposed to a push bike.

The sixth point is the concern about the cost of no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance. I referred to this a minute ago—that is, \$100 a year for 44 people. Somebody—name withheld—said in their submission that it was madness. Clearly, the point is that governments are always pushing costs back onto consumers across Australia at all levels of government, so putting \$100 a year, which is a significant one-off increase, onto the registration for the family car is significant. We understand that; I think everybody is conscious of that cost and the ability of people to be able to pick up that cost. Ultimately, I think that is why this has strong bipartisan support. I think the reason there is broad support for this in the community is that people understand that there but for the grace of God go I. Everybody understands that they think not of themselves but of their family members and friends.

We have seen that played out in the media, and I referred to the Proudlove case—nobody wants their family and friends in that situation. I think that is why people are willing to wear that cost on the registration of their motor vehicles. I do not discount those concerns—I am very aware of them—but realistically what we are providing and creating in this legislation is something that all Western Australians would be relieved to know is there. A lot of people who would perhaps be resistant to it may also have, as I referred to at the beginning of my speech, that first point of confusion about the current insurance cover they have. Given the fact that the current compulsory third party insurance does not cover the scenario of no fault—it does not—I think this is a necessary and good change to be made.

I have some comments about the next point, which is the seventh point about concessions. It states —

Introduce Concessional Rates on No-Fault Catastrophic CTP Insurance Premiums

Should it apply in the scenario of a person owning five motor cars? Should it apply to every car; should there be a sliding scale? Let us say I have a trailer, a tractor, a moped and a caravan. This issue has been dealt with quite clearly and quite well by the government Insurance Commission as I pointed out to colleagues in the opposition. I pointed out that I think we are all very clear that trailers and caravans will not incur an extra cost for this, and the Insurance Commission makes the point that these vehicles are not involved in any road accidents that involve a catastrophic injury. There are reductions for vintage vehicles that are defined and there are reduced rates for mopeds et cetera. However, if a person has more than one car, they pay for each car. People suggest that instead of that, the cost should simply be put on per licence, for example. Of course, there is a smaller number of people with licences than there are registered vehicles, so the cost would go up. I think the Insurance Commission made the point that if that was done, the cost would go from \$99 to \$130 a year. There would be basically a 30 per cent increase in the cost if that was applied only to licences. A number of people, not a huge number, have contacted my office about that point. There are a number of cars in each family and they want to somehow reduce that exposure—to have five cars, they are looking at another 500 bucks; that is the reality.

I want to quote from the Insurance Commission regarding the point I was making before about motor vehicles. The commission states —

While comprising less than six percent of total registered vehicles in WA, motorcyclists and their pillion passengers account for 33 percent of the claimants catastrophically injured (involving a registrable vehicle) for the period 1 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2013.

Over the four-year period, six per cent of registered vehicles, being motorbikes, accounted for 33 per cent of claimants catastrophically injured. Although I love the idea of a motorbike, I guess that is one of the main reasons that I always have been a little bit too scared to go and buy myself one. My mother and father never let me, and now my wife will not let me. I eventually might work the courage up one day, I do not know, but those sorts of statistics terrify me and will perhaps ensure that I never do.

I will quote from the RAC submission referring to the comment I made before to the Treasurer about the RAC. It states —

RAC's independent review found that when using the number of fatalities as a proxy for catastrophic injury, the likelihood of being catastrophically injured is 4.5 to five times more likely for motorcycles than with cars. This is comparable to statistics from the 'NSW Lifetime Care and Support Scheme' which show that motorcycle riders make up 23 per cent of the claimants, despite only being 4.1 per cent of registered vehicles ...

I think that really probably says it all in respect of that issue. For the benefit of Hansard, I make the point that I have moved onto the eighth issue that was raised during those surveys—that is, risk-related CTP insurance—the other issue being drivers and risk, and drivers with bad records. A driver who has a bad record, regularly gets pulled over for speeding and maybe has had a few crashes along the way has a higher risk, and there should be a higher cost for their insurance premium. I dare say that most insurance companies would naturally adopt that position, I would have thought. In fact, the forms people fill in to get themselves insured privately have that. But again, similar to the issue of people having accidents when they are over the legal blood alcohol limit, ultimately, there is somebody at the end of that who is catastrophically injured who would otherwise be using government facilities at government cost. Again, we are not talking about significant numbers of people in that scenario who end up having those motor vehicle accidents.

The ninth point is in respect of alternative funding methods. I made the point before that people suggest that instead of having it apply to each registered vehicle, it is to apply per licence, and I will quote the related statistics. The document states —

... there is a greater number of registered vehicles (2.2 million) than licence holders (1.8 million) in WA ...

The Insurance Commission makes the point that if we went that way—we all know how it works: it is putting a greater cost over a smaller number of people, so the cost will go up—instead of the costs being \$99 a year, it will be \$130 a year. The RAC made a very valid point. When a person renews their licence, they often take the five-year option, like I and many of us do, so suddenly the cost for the licence renewal would be an extra \$600 plus. There was also suggestion about a fuel levy, but unfortunately states cannot do that. We do not have that capacity, and I dare say that if we were going to adopt a national scheme, that is how it would be done. I think as the Productivity Commission recommended back in 2010 or 2011, ultimately, the states are pursuing this and the states look to their own revenue-raising capacities to do so.

I turn to the tenth of the 13 points raised by the Insurance Commission. I would be interested to hear about this point from the Treasurer, or actually more so from his colleague two seats on his right. The tenth point is —

Integrate Road Safety Investment and Promotion with CTP Insurance

The RAC, the Council of Motoring Clubs, People with Disabilities WA, Headwest, Young People in Nursing Homes—National Alliance, Advanced Personnel Management and a range of members of the public all examined the issue of whether we could effectively combine the groups of road safety into one office—the Office of Road Safety and Insurance Commission of WA—as has been done in Victoria under the Transport Accident Commission. Quite an interesting analysis of that was done by the Insurance Commission. I am interested to hear whether the Minister for Road Safety is going to speak to this point. I hope she does speak on this bill, because it is of direct relevance to her, and about whether she has given this point any thought. The Insurance Commission has spent some time talking about it and made this point, bearing in mind what our road safety performance has been like in Western Australia of late, and I quote —

Improved road safety performance would result in fewer and less serious motor vehicle accidents and claims received by the Insurance Commission each year. This would reverse the current trend of increasing claims payments. In 2014, the Insurance Commission paid out an all-time high amount of \$494 million in claims payments, compared to only \$250 million in 2003.

I will turn to the eleventh point of the 13 points that the Insurance Commission raises. As I have said, these are the 13 points that the Insurance Commission distilled out of the 2 300-plus submissions on the green paper. The eleventh point is to reduce the involvement of lawyers. I understand that, and a number of points were made on that. The Brightwater Care Group, which has a huge facility in my electorate, made the point that there was exorbitant expenditure on legal fees, including costs for lawyers who are either trying to maximise the ultimate payout for the person or minimise it on behalf of the Insurance Commission. I am keen to hear from the minister in his reply to the second reading debate what the dispute resolution process will be. That will be key because, ultimately, we will not eliminate the role of lawyers.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1198.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**LORD MAYOR OF PERTH — CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT****111. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the Corruption and Crime Commission report titled “Report on an Investigation into Acceptance and Disclosure of Gifts and Travel Contributions by the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth” released on 5 October 2015.

- (1) Why has it taken over five months and we have still not had a report from the minister’s department in response to the finding in this report?
- (2) When will the minister receive the report from his department and will he ensure that that report is made public?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

I thank the member for his question.

- (1)–(2) For the record, the Corruption and Crime Commission report was received in October 2015. I acknowledge that it has taken a little bit of time—it has been five months—but we have had Christmas and New Year in that time, so it has taken a little bit longer to get to the bottom of it.

It is clearly pointed out in the Local Government Act 1995 that in this situation the department will do the investigation, and then go through that process. If the member turns to the page in the Local Government Act, he will see it quite clearly states that if a councillor does not declare gifts on their annual return, there is a penalty in the Local Government Act that will be implemented through a process.

There is strong public interest in the possible outcome for the Lord Mayor, but I make one point clear: it is in the hands of my department. The department is working through it. I know it is a little bit frustrating for members in general, but also, and more importantly, we have to get to the bottom of this. It will take time. I have made it the top priority for my department to work through it.

Mr M. McGowan: Five months!

Mr A.J. Simpson: I cannot make it go any faster. It is out of my hands; it is in the hands of my department. I have asked my director general to make sure she makes it a top priority. I am confident —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr A.J. Simpson: More importantly, it cannot be rushed; we need to make sure we get it right.

LORD MAYOR OF PERTH — CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT**112. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:**

I have a supplementary question. What is the minister trying to hide, and why is he sitting by and allowing the standing of the role of Lord Mayor and the City of Perth to be stained in this process?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

As Minister for Local Government, I make sure my local governments implement the Local Government Act 1995. That is exactly what I am doing. I understand there is a fair bit of public dialogue out there, but the department is doing its work, and I am confident we can get to the bottom of it soon. But, what is more important, let us make sure we get this right.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

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

POLICE — DRUGS — OPERATION COLLECTIVE**113. Mr G.M. Castrilli to the Minister for Police:**

The scourge of drugs impacts on all Western Australians and, unfortunately, regional Western Australia is not immune. Can the minister advise the house on how the Liberal–National government is supporting Western Australia Police in ridding drugs from the south west community?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for the question. When he retires from this place, I will certainly miss collaborating with the member on law and order issues and other issues in the seat of Bunbury.

I am very pleased to take this opportunity to inform the house of the amazing successes of our awesome team of WA Police detectives in the south west district. They have been targeting drug dealing and other illegal activity in the south west. Out of the intelligence that has been gathered by police, certainly intelligence that has been put forward by the local community, concerned citizens reporting to Crime Stoppers and other avenues, the police launched Operation Collective in the south west. That resulted last week in a coordinated effort across the whole district through the serving of 51 search warrants. Out of those search warrants, police located and seized quantities of methamphetamine, cannabis, LSD, magic mushrooms, steroids, synthetic cannabis, a replica AK-47, and sawn-off .22 calibre rifle and homemade silencer, a stolen air rifle, pipes and other smoking implements, and other items associated with the cultivation and use of drugs. This was a significant operation and a significant seizure. I am really pleased with the efforts of police in the south west. Out of those search warrants, 58 people have been charged with 151 charges—things ranging from possessing and cultivating drugs with intent to sell or supply, possession of drugs or drugs paraphernalia, possession of controlled weapons and firearms, stealing, fraud and unlawful possession of goods.

The key to this effort was a little bit of old-fashioned policing that the Leader of the Opposition was calling for. We never abandoned old-fashioned policing, particularly that community in the south west, through their intelligence gathering efforts and calls from the community, have resulted in this very significant seizure and interruption to the flow, cultivation and manufacture of drugs in the south west district.

We will continue to highlight the efforts of our police right across the state. They deserve praise and recognition in this place of the work that they undertake on behalf of the community. Certainly, the members for Bunbury and Vasse will be pleased to know that police will soon be launching the next phase of Operation Collective, no doubt targeting the second wave —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Albany, I call you to order for the second time. Can you wind up, please, minister.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The next phase of Operation Collective will target these drug dealers. Clearly, member for Girrawheen, there are enough detectives.

FORMER MEMBER FOR VASSE — ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENT —
CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT — RACHAEL TURNSECK

114. Mr B.S. WYATT to the Premier:

I refer to the tabling of the Corruption and Crime Commission report today into the incident involving the former member for Vasse that occurred on 23 February 2014. How is it that the Premier's department found Mr Buswell's former chief of staff Rachael Turnseck did not breach any relevant policies, including the code of conduct, yet today's CCC report finds that Ms Turnseck was guilty of misconduct and provided misleading information?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

One thing that this government does not do is interfere, as ministers, in the processes of disciplinary actions or investigations—and, Mr Speaker, I think it is fair —

Mr M. McGowan: That's not the question.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will answer it the way I wish to. One of the things that need to be recognised in this case is that Troy Buswell was extremely unwell.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: I just want to tell you something, member for Warnbro: you are on three. The member for West Swan is on three. And if you think that you are going to start from one again, you are not. I suggest that you do not shout out.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: There is no doubt that Rachael Turnseck found herself in a situation in which she was predominantly concerned about his health. You shake your head! I can assure you —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I can assure you that he was in a very serious situation—extremely serious!

Mrs M.H. Roberts: No-one is questioning that.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Well, you did. You just questioned it then. You were in denial about Troy Buswell's health condition at that time. You ridiculed him over mental health issues in this chamber repeatedly, particularly the Leader of the Opposition.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is all on *Hansard*, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Through the Chair!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Speaker, the opposition repeatedly accused my office of a cover-up—no cover-up at all! I think it is fair to say that in the immediate time after—that was my view from what I knew—the care of everyone close to that situation was about Troy Buswell’s health. It was serious, and the advice of medical staff to the head of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the need for him to go into a care arrangement, and the need for him to get out of the state and to be looked after in Sydney, were all factors.

That may well have clouded the judgement of Rachael Turnseck in particular. I think anyone who has an element of decency would understand that situation.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I do not want to hear you.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The member opposite —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time. Premier, through the Chair.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The CCC report —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Unfortunately, once again, members opposite have displayed their bigotry and their attitude to mental health, repeatedly. There are so many instances in *Hansard* of the way members treated that situation. The CCC makes it very clear that Rachael Turnseck failed in her duty as an employee of government. That is true. It made that clear.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The member should ask me a question if she wishes. The one thing we do not do —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I do not want to hear from you. I want a quick answer now through the Chair, Premier.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I made a full statement shortly after those instances on everything I knew at the time. That has not in any sense been brought into question, not at all. I can say that when Rachael Turnseck came to see me —

Mr P.C. Tinley: When?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is all in my report to Parliament, in detail. One would have to be completely and totally insensitive not to understand the stress that she was under. Yes, I guess Troy Buswell was a flawed person in many respects. No-one anticipated the extent of his mental health condition. To use the word “crisis” would not be an exaggeration. You can sit opposite —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Premier, through the Chair, thank you.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Again, members opposite have displayed their lack of sensitivity in mental health. This government —

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: You are appalling.

The SPEAKER: There has been a lot of toing-and-froing. I want a short answer through the Chair and I want to move on.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I repeat: the CCC report—I accept it totally—made it very clear that Rachael Turnseck failed in her responsibility as a government officer and the CCC has made that clear. The CCC has also pointed out the stress she was under; indeed, I referred to that in my brief ministerial statement. The CCC has suggested no further action. She is not an employee of government. The CCC also made the point that in no way did she act in self-interest at all. Perhaps her error of judgement was solely due to the crisis that she was in and her compassion.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Pardon?

The SPEAKER: Premier, through the Chair please. Member for Girrawheen!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The CCC has made its findings very clear, and I accept that. It is a pity that members opposite could not show a little bit of compassion for a former colleague, who was in a crisis. There is no doubt about that at all. He was in an absolute crisis.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: It's not about this. It's about you and your office.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Member for Midland, the Leader of the Opposition repeatedly accused my office of a cover-up. The CCC made it very clear there was no cover-up from anyone in my office at all.

Mr D.J. Kelly: It doesn't say that.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It does. It makes it very clear. There is no cover-up at all.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Where?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The member should read the report.

FORMER MEMBER FOR VASSE — ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENT —
CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT — RACHAEL TURNSECK

115. Mr B.S. WYATT to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. I bring the Premier back to the question about the operation of his department. How does the Premier explain the contradiction of the Corruption and Crime Commission saying, "The Commission is of the opinion that Ms Turnseck knowingly and intentionally provided misleading information" with his department head, Mr Conran, saying that Ms Turnseck responded in a way that was a credit to her?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Because during that first week or so very little was known.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: This is the Conran investigation.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Let me answer the question. Very little was known. The damage to the vehicle became known only probably over a week later.

Mr M. McGowan: But the inquiry was over a week ago.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am just making the point.

Mr M. McGowan: The inquiry was months later.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No. The damage was not known to anyone in government for an extended period.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am not defending the behaviour of Rachael Turnseck or Troy Buswell or anyone else other than to say there was a health crisis and people behave perhaps more with their heart than their mind. The CCC has investigated the matter. It has given me a copy of the report. It has made clear recommendations. We accept those recommendations.

Point of Order

Mr B.S. WYATT: Mr Speaker, I bring the Premier back to the question about the difference between the department's investigation, a credit to her, and what the CCC said. Can the Premier explain that difference and why his department had such a startling difference of opinion?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Victoria Park.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The information that came through was treated on face value by me. Why would I not treat it at face value?

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, leave the chamber please. I have been very lenient with you.

[The member for West Swan left the chamber.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Everyone, me included, from what I knew, was concerned about the immediate health of Troy Buswell. As a friend, I would be, as my colleagues were.

Mr M. McGowan: That is not the question.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Everyone was concerned about that. The information available, to the best of my knowledge, because I was not involved in any investigation at all—that is not the way this government operates; the Premier and ministers do not get involved —

Mr F.M. Logan: And your office was.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No, it was not, and the CCC report makes that very clear indeed.

The information available was limited. People were under extreme stress. The only concern, as I can judge it, by Rachael Turnsek was the health and the care of Troy Buswell. Subsequently, with the CCC investigation, the details came out and the CCC concluded that Rachael Turnsek, in her evidence to the CCC, had not been full and complete. I accept that.

Mr P.B. Watson: Throw her under a bus.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Throw her under a bus! Does that not reflect the Labor Party's attitude to mental health?

GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATIONS

116. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Water:

I understand that royalties for regions-funded groundwater investigations that started in 2012 are producing significant results. Can the minister please provide the house with an update on these investigations?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question. An amazing amount of work is being done in groundwater investigations right across the state; in fact, we could say that we have turbocharged the Department of Water with royalties for regions funding to ensure that we are making this precious resource available for the diversification of our state's economy. We are de-risking investment decisions for the private sector, making decisions easier for local government and for businesses that are already operating, creating new business opportunities and allowing the state government to do its planning on a more fulsome basis.

I will run through some of the successes that we have had along the way. We have projects right across the state. La Grange, along the coastal strip of Broome, is defining water availability in this very prospective area. To date, more than 50 gigalitres per annum have been identified for potential irrigation projects. There is an \$11 million investigation in the west Canning Basin, which is one of largest areas and contains the most exciting projects, adjoining La Grange. It has identified 100 gigalitres of sustainable high-quality underground resource. It is the largest water investigation in the state. It covers a 10 000 square kilometre footprint. We still have another year to run in the investigation. Up to this point, we have proven up a sustainable 100 gigalitres of resource a year. On the Dampier Peninsula, a \$2.9 million investigation north of Broome has produced some very detailed three-dimensional maps of the seawater interface. This is very important when we look at managing our water resource. If we are looking at using them for productive use, in particular, we need to ensure that there is no seawater intrusion into what could potentially be potable water resources. This mapping will also assist Aboriginal communities, camps along the coastline and businesses so that they can access fresh water and supplement their water resources for stock and community supplies.

In the Murchison, member for North West Central, a \$1.9 million project has allowed us to piece together information that we have already had on record. A lot of this is about going back and consolidating information that we already have. Members would have seen in the news recently the fantastic imagery of paleochannels running under the earth's surface up there. They are essentially very ancient riverbeds, and are proving up to be highly prospective in that area as well.

I now move to the south west and the \$1.6 million from the Department of Water that is being used to map the seawater interface along the Scott and Swan coastal plains. It is very important from a public water supply point of view to have this information. On the south coast, \$1.5 million has been invested. We have identified areas of potable water that will allow us to make decisions on deferring expensive desalination options and to look at managing the sustainability of our water resources in and around Esperance and the south coast region.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie-Preston, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, I want a very short answer.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: In addition, of course we have the \$40 million being invested through the Water for Food program and underwritten by royalties for regions that is about expanding our irrigated agricultural footprint across the state. A large proportion in addition to that is funded by royalties for regions. We are determined to make sure that we have the best science applied to understand this very precious resource so that we can not only look after potable water supplies for communities as they grow, but also create economic opportunities into the future for the state.

ASSET SALES — DEBT REDUCTION—STATE EXPENDITURE

117. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Treasurer:

I refer to the debate yesterday when the Treasurer stated that proceeds from asset divestment would go into debt reduction and funding spending, which is contrary to his evidence to the annual reports hearings last year when he said —

... sale proceeds will be used to pay down debt rather than purchase new assets.

- (1) What percentage of the proceeds of the sales will go into debt reduction and what percentage into spending?
- (2) What will the debt cap referred to by the Premier yesterday be?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. The intention is to use the proceeds of assets sales to pay down debt. We have a very large and active capital works program.

Mr M. McGowan: That is what you said yesterday.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes. We have a very large capital works program, including of course the Forrestfield-Airport Link, and Metro Area Express light rail is still in there, and a whole range of other assets, and those are adding to our estimated debt levels in four or five years—in other words, our debt levels in the forward estimates. When we sell these assets, we will use them to reduce debt.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: How much?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Let me finish. In the process of reducing debt, we also fund capital works programs that are committed. They are included in our debt profile.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: In other words, when we pay down debt, we also fund the things that debts are being used for. It is very simple. It might be hard for you, mate, perhaps to understand, but that is what I said. As to what proportion we will use, we will make that decision when we sell it. We have not committed any of the proceeds of the asset sales other than the one we have sold. None of it is in the budget. None of it has been allocated, and will not be until we first sell the asset and know what the value for it will be. The intention is to reduce debt. As to what the debt cap is going to be—the limits on debt—let us get there first before we do it. We already do —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Our current debt level as at the midyear review was \$29 billion—not too high.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Not too high?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The member for Bassendean would not know.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: The previous cap was \$20 billion.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: No; it was \$29 billion.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn! Minister, a quick answer through the Chair. We are not making good time at all.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: It is \$29 billion. It is scheduled to go up to \$39 billion in the forward estimates. That is too high. We will bring it back.

Mr P. Papalia: How?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: It depends upon our effectiveness at reducing expenditure growth, which you guys fought against every inch of the way. It depends upon our revenue flows, and, in part, our reforms, in particular to GST, which you were sandbagging. Of course, it also depends upon the value of the assets sales, and all three of them are yet to be determined.

ASSET SALES — DEBT REDUCTION—STATE EXPENDITURE

118. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Just to be clear, will any asset sale proceeds be used to fund new spending or will they be used to fund the government's fully funded, fully costed election promises?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

As I just indicated, the asset sale program, which the opposition is against, is the main mechanism by which we are going to bring state debt under control and to reduce it. That is the intention of it. Without that—which the opposition is actively arguing against—we have no capacity to either spend more or get debt under control. We do.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION — PERTH—PEEL — POPULATION GROWTH

119. Mr J. NORBERGER to the Minister for Environment:

Can the minister outline in detail how the Liberal–National government plans to protect the environment of Perth and Peel as the state's population grows into the future?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for the question.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Not yet, Treasurer, but thank you very much.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Are you going to extend the public consultation period?

Mr A.P. JACOB: I will get back to the member for Gosnells in a second. First of all, I thank the member for Joondalup for the question.

I would like to say from the outset that when we look at the list of achievements and outcomes in environment and conservation, this Liberal–National government quite simply has achieved more than any other government in this state's history.

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: If the member for Gosnells wants to ask a question, put your name down. Minister, I do not want a very long answer, and direct it through the Chair. Thanks.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Much of that investment up to this point has focused on regional areas.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Much of that investment has focused on regional areas, as we would expect. Western Australia is a large state. However, for the past five years this government has been working in the background on the Perth and Peel strategic assessment. That assessment has now been released. What this assessment seeks —

Mr C.J. Tallentire: No, it hasn't; there are no maps.

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

Mr A.P. JACOB: That is a great comment, because there are maps, member for Gosnells. It has been out for four months.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo! A question was asked. The question has to be answered. I am not going to digress about maps. Could you please answer the question.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Mr Speaker, I am trying to be brief.

What this strategic assessment essentially does is achieve a balanced outcome that will allow the Perth and Peel region to grow from around the two million people who live within that region out to 3.5 million—so, for Perth to almost double or to grow by 70 per cent—but at the same time to achieve that through the mechanism of state and federal environmental approvals and the single largest expansion to a conservation estate ever been achieved in any city anywhere in the world. As an offset to achieve that growth, we are proposing under this plan a 170 000 hectare expansion.

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, I want a quick answer.

Mr A.P. JACOB: It is not only a 170 000-hectare expansion of the conservation estate, but also a fully funded management program from here to 2050.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: It's a scam.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Are the interjections I get not interesting? It has been out there for four months now. The maps are available. The member for Gosnells did not even comment until last week. The most interesting part — Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Right.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It's a serious matter.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, sorry to disturb you. I call you to order for the second time. Member for Wanneroo, I call you for the second time, I believe. Member for Gosnells, I am giving you a bit of latitude. If you shout out again, you are going to get called.

Mr A.P. JACOB: It is a serious matter, member for Mandurah, and if ever there was a moment when the Labor Party completely abandoned any environmental credentials, it was last week when the member for Gosnells, off the back of the Labor Party having no alternative plan whatsoever, came out and made the platform for the opposition's apparent Perth and Peel strategic assessment—that is, to keep the pine plantation. How does that sound, member for Wanneroo?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I thought our biggest environmental challenge was that chain of northern wetlands! Is that now where the member for Mandurah sits?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr D.A. Templeman: He was having a bit of a go at me, Mr Speaker!

The SPEAKER: I feel sorry for you, but thank you. We started on maps, and now we are on to the pine plantation. Come back to the answer, please.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I think what that illustrates —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the third time. We are not making good progress. Minister, through the Chair, and just address what you have to. Thank you.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I did not catch that interjection, Mr Speaker.

I again repeat that an expansion of the conservation estate in the Perth and Peel regions by 170 000 hectares will be the single largest conservation estate in any city anywhere in the world, ever. That is the backbone of this plan, and that is something that, bizarrely, the opposition opposes. Not only does it oppose it, but also it has no alternative plan. I am incredibly proud of what this government is doing. We are delivering a balanced outcome not only with that staggering expansion, but also for the growth of the Perth and Peel regions to ensure that we continue to grow as a city —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, I call you to order for the first time. Have you finished, minister?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: All I would say —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: We have had a bit of fun. I want a short answer through the Chair, and let us move on.

Mr A.P. JACOB: This plan underscores the record of this Liberal–National government in environment and conservation. This plan has now come together across the entire state from the Kimberley to the south, and now includes the Perth and Peel regions. I encourage anybody who has an interest to look at this plan, but the most important part of this for me —

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Importantly, as well, it delivers a balanced outcome that allows this state and our capital city to grow, our economy to grow and us to grow as a city to 3.5 million people in a balanced way that also delivers a significant environmental outcome.

FREMANTLE PORT — ASSET SALES — DEPUTY LEADER OF
THE NATIONAL PARTY'S COMMENTS

120. Mr B.S. WYATT to the Treasurer:

I refer to the statement yesterday by the Deputy Leader of the National Party regarding the National Party's concerns about the sale of Fremantle port, including access and pricing arrangements, monopolistic behaviour and the live sheep trade. Her statement was, and I quote —

In relation to the matters that have been canvassed in this house today, there are no details on the table that give me confidence ... to go to our constituency and say that this deal will not adversely impact key stakeholders, particularly the agricultural sector.

- (1) Why would the Liberal-National government make a decision to sell Fremantle port when within government there are no details on the table regarding those key issues?
- (2) Will the Treasurer be providing those details to the cabinet or to Parliament before the legislation is introduced, which, according to the Premier, will be either this or next week?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

- (1)–(2) The process is that for the last budget we committed to proceeding to a sale; of course, it was contingent upon doing a whole range of work and addressing many of the issues that the member mentioned— access pricing, definition —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Have you told the National Party what —

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Let me finish; okay?

All those issues have been worked on for nine months or so. We have gone through them all in great detail. That issue will be brought to cabinet for discussion, and our intention is to bring legislation through that will deal with all those in great detail and cover the issues. I am confident that through the cabinet process and the parliamentary process we will address the issues mentioned.

FREMANTLE PORT — ASSET SALES — DEPUTY LEADER OF
THE NATIONAL PARTY'S COMMENTS

121. Mr B.S. WYATT to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. The Treasurer said the process has been gone through in great detail, yet the Deputy Leader of the National Party said that there are no details on the table that give her confidence in respect of the impact on likely stakeholders. When will the Treasurer give the National Party the details it needs?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

We will give it the briefing. The Deputy Leader of the National Party is also in cabinet, and we will discuss it in cabinet in great detail. We will then bring it to this house in the form of legislation, and in the process —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: — we will brief the opposition and everyone else on the issue. There will be extensive public consultation and discussion on a whole range of issues, including, of course, moving livestock out of the inner harbour to the outer harbour, access and pricing and a range of other issues, including effective funding and timely movement, when required, from the inner harbour to the outer harbour.

COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND

122. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Local Government:

The minister was recently in my electorate to announce funding for regional local governments through the country local government fund. Can the minister please advise the house on how this investment will enhance the capacity of local governments across regional Western Australia?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

I thank the member for Vasse for hosting us in her electorate last Thursday. It was great to go out and visit a couple of community groups with the Minister for Regional Development. We launched a great campaign through the country local government fund, which is part of royalties for regions, to provide \$5.4 million to build the capacity of regional local governments in Western Australia. This again shows that our government is very supportive of local governments and making sure we build the capacity of local governments to support their communities. A raft of measures in this bundle of money will help support local government. One of the key issues in local government is the ageing workforce and trying to attract and retain young leaders and young managers to our local government sector to make sure they become our next lot of chief executive officers and directors. The important part is that we are putting in a program to make sure we can support and encourage young people to stay within local government.

Of course, there are some tools in there for online management and information and undertaking a governance review; it is very important that local governments ensure that their governance models are correct. All local governments are now going through the process of making sure they draw up their community development plans, along with their long-term financial plans and integrated reporting plans. This money will help with that. It will enable them to consult and work with their communities to make sure they have a better understanding and will be able to connect with their community.

For the understanding of members, since 2013 the Department of Local Government and Communities has provided a capacity-building program that has provided more than \$10 million to support our local councils throughout Western Australia to make sure they can build capacity and deliver good services to their ratepayers. Also, more importantly, providing transparency will be the next measure we look into. I thank the member for Vasse for her support, and the Minister for Regional Development and royalties for regions for making sure we can help build the capacity of regional local governments and make them stronger and more accountable to their ratepayers.

TAB — ASSET SALES

123. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Leader of the National Party:

I refer to reports that the Leader of the National Party's colleague the Minister for Racing and Gaming, together with the Premier and the Treasurer, is to meet with racing industry representatives this week over the sale of the TAB.

- (1) Is it the Nationals' position that the sale should be fast-tracked before the March 2017 election?
- (2) Is it still the Nationals' position to oppose the sale of the TAB unless there are direct benefits to the racing industry and regional communities?
- (3) What specific guaranteed benefits to the racing industry and regional communities will the Nationals demand in return for the approval of the sale?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the member for Collie-Preston for the question. It is probably a question that might be more appropriately addressed to the relevant minister.

Mr M.P. Murray: Again, you don't know as the leader; you don't know.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The minister has consistently said that he will do, and put forward, what is best for the racing industry. He has consistently said that. I will tell you now that he has also done the yards with the sector to get right around Western Australia to connect with the racing industry, to talk it through and get feedback on all the issues that emerge. I am absolutely confident that what he finally puts up to government for support —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie-Preston!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am confident that whatever he finally puts to cabinet for support will have the support of the National Party.

TAB — ASSET SALES

124. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Leader of the National Party:

That was a disgraceful answer. I have a supplementary question. I ask again: will the racing industry and regional communities be made aware of the Liberal–National government's agreement to those demands prior to the Nationals agreeing in any way to the sale of the Totalisator Agency Board?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

What the racing industry will be aware of is the strong level of connection we have in engaging with it about the issues in the sector. That is what it is aware of. The member opposite is not doing the yards; the Minister for Racing and Gaming is doing the yards out there. He is doing the yards and I have absolute confidence that what he brings to cabinet —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, do you want to be number three? You seem ambivalent!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I have absolute confidence that what he brings to cabinet for decision will have the support of the sector and will have the support of the National Party.

Point of Order

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: I draw the house's attention to standing order 75(2) that provides that questions may be asked of —

The Leader of a party in government regarding that party's policies;

The SPEAKER: That is correct.

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS: The Leader of the National Party has been asked about his party's policies and he has not, either in his initial answer or in answer to the supplementary question, actually addressed his party's policy with respect to this issue, which is what the member is asking about.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.T. REDMAN: In response to the member for Midland's point about a question related to policy as asked of the Leader of the National Party, a motion was passed at, from memory, the Margaret River conference we held two years ago that basically said—exactly what I have said—that the Nationals' position in respect of the TAB will be the position that leads to the best outcome for industry. I am confident in the minister and the fantastic job he is doing in trying to land a position to achieve that.

MOTOR VEHICLE (CATASTROPHIC INJURIES) BILL 2016

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [2.42 pm]: Just before question time I was speaking on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, a bill for which I have outlined in some detail the opposition's very strong support. Indeed, it is a bill that we have been calling for for some time and it has been a Labor Party policy for a long time. I was going through the Insurance Commission of WA's document, "Proposal to Add No-Fault Catastrophic Injury Cover to Western Australia's Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme", which is an analysis of the 13 main areas that were raised in the 2 300-plus submissions put in by members of the community and organisations in response to the green paper released by the government. The green paper had three separate options. Of course, that has led us to option 3, which has been embedded in the legislation before us today.

I was up to the eleventh point of the issues raised, titled "Reduce the Involvement of Lawyers". I previously quoted the Brightwater Care Group, which made the point about the cost of litigation and the cost of legal fees. I hope the minister will give us a lot more information around the dispute resolution mechanism. That is something of great concern. Ultimately, these sorts of schemes always rise and fall on how people utilise them and in how disputes are resolved. The issue around whether something is "catastrophic" or not seems to me to be not that heavily litigated. I asked the deputy chief executive officer of the Insurance Commission whether in other states where there are already no-fault insurance schemes an injury that is "catastrophic" as defined under the minimum benchmarks is one that is regularly litigated. For example, I do not want to see a situation in which where there has been a medical finding of a catastrophic injury but the Insurance Commission is feeling particularly aggressive and says, "We're going to litigate that." I am not saying that about the Insurance Commission; I am just trying to give an example. Ultimately, in my view, the decision around catastrophe has to be made quickly so we know.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Member, sometimes it takes a while to find out and make sure it is catastrophic. The waiting period —

Mr B.S. WYATT: Yes, there may be medical reasons why that is the case, and I understand that, but I do not want there to be legal reasons in which a particularly obstinate insurer—in this case the Insurance Commission—says, "We're not sure this meets the minimum benchmarks around catastrophic injury." It sounds to me from the advice I have been given by the deputy CEO of the Insurance Commission that that issue is actually not terribly contentious. No doubt, if there are any personal injury lawyers out there listening to this, they may tell me otherwise, but that is my impression. I was not a personal injury lawyer, so I do not know. That is my impression.

The second point I want to make is that, ultimately, lawyers will always have a role. The reason for that is that we are dealing with an incredibly complicated area of law that has developed over a long period of time in both common law and statute law. That means that when somebody sustains a severe injury that has not yet or might yet be defined as a catastrophic injury, there is straightaway a huge information disadvantage to that person; that is, the Insurance Commission is a big organisation that has lots of lawyers working for it and access to lots of lawyers, so there is always going to be the need for lawyers to provide advice to people so they know how to negotiate the system to ensure that they have their rights recognised and their care taken care of. That is not me as a lawyer defending the rights of lawyers; it is simply the reality of a complicated area of law where we are dealing with something so dramatically important to someone as how they are going to be cared for and maintained after they have suffered a catastrophic injury. That is why I want to hear about the dispute resolution process in the minister's reply to the second reading debate or perhaps during consideration in detail, and how it is going to hopefully not be adversarial and will be quick, cheap and to the benefit of the person who has sustained the injury.

The twelfth and penultimate point of the issues raised by the various submissions is titled, “Care and Support Entitlements Payable as Lump Sum Compensation”. This is not being provided for under option 3 lump sum payments. That is my understanding from the briefing. This was unsurprisingly a point of some discussion for the various law groups, including the Law Society of Western Australia, the Law Council of Australia, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, Slater and Gordon and Ability One. Their submissions were in support of lump sum payments, which does not surprise me. Primarily, I dare say they participate in the common law compensation side of things. The key groups in favour, and provided submissions in favour, of pay-as-you-go compensation included, again unsurprisingly, the RAC, National Disability Services, Brightwater Care Group, Carers WA, People with Disabilities WA, the Australian Physiotherapy Association, Headwest and the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: For fault—that is right. But my understanding is that in respect of —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: That is right.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Under the common law fault claim system, lump sums are the norm. There is a lifetime care option that is not very heavily utilised, I’ve been told.

Mr B.S. WYATT: That is right, and I can see that in respect of the no-fault system, the system we are creating. For treatment, care and support, it is pay over lifetime; it is not lump sum. I support that. I think it is important for the very reasons that are given by Brightwater and Carers WA et cetera. Again, the Insurance Commission outlines the various reasons why there are advantages to both. The advantages of lump sum compensation raised in the submissions include that it maintains common law rights, of course, and provides autonomy and greater control et cetera. In respect of pay-as-you-go, there is the assurance that the funds will be available for the lifetime and that the amount received does not require legal involvement, which is another positive. There is also a lower risk of mismanagement. As the minister knows, there have been scenarios in which a lump sum has been paid and it has been mismanaged and the injured person is left to basically fall back on the state to provide services. Financial and fund management decisions are taken by the government, and that is put there as an advantage, although some people would see it as a disadvantage—but either way it provides the protection that the care, treatment and support will be there over the lifetime of the person with the catastrophic injury. Importantly, one of our consequential amendments seeks to widen the definition of medical practitioner to include allied health practitioners. My understanding from the Insurance Commission of WA briefing is that under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act, which this legislation will amend, it is effectively defined as a doctor only. We want to amend that for the purpose of including allied health practitioners. I am actually surprised that the definition is still so narrow. Perhaps it is something that we should amend in its entirety.

As the Treasurer indicated by way of interjection, the Insurance Commission proposal states —

Option 3 preserves the common law right to access a lump sum payment for care and support for people who can assert fault against a motorist, whereas under Option 2, people would lose this right.

Ultimately, submissions backed different options, but I think that option 3 is the right option.

Dr M.D. Nahan: The other states went for option 2, though, except Queensland. We don’t know what they’re doing.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Obviously, a system of no-fault insurance will come into Queensland at some point. I dare say that is why Queensland is having the parliamentary inquiry.

The thirteenth point, which was raised in various submissions, is about the benefits of Western Australia following the national approach. It states —

Seventy percent of submissions commented that WA should follow the approach of other States and Territories to introduce no-fault catastrophic CTP insurance. These responses mostly came from the pro-forma emails created by National Disability Services WA.

I will read one of those responses because there were many of them. The Insurance Commission of WA document states —

‘In response to the Green Paper I wish to express my support for the introduction of no fault insurance in WA. This needs to be done so that West Australians get the same level of compensation, care and support as in other states, and lessen the financial, physical and emotional suffering of those who are catastrophically injured on our roads, as well as their families.’

Colleagues, those are the 13 key points that came out of the submissions to the government’s green paper. That is effectively the response from the Insurance Commission that I went through, and there are many different submissions from various organisations. I have not had the chance and do not need to go through all the

submissions provided to me. Clearly, all the legal organisations, the Insurance Council of Australia, People With Disabilities WA, Carers WA, care groups and the RAC, which was very vocal about no-fault insurance for catastrophic injuries, provided submissions. There is no doubt that there was and is some push back about the cost of \$100 a year, particularly for people who have multiple cars, but I think—I have made this point before—reasonable Western Australians are happy to absorb that cost. We are not talking about a lot of people; about 44 people a year are catastrophically injured when there is a no-fault component to their accident so they cannot claim under the existing CTP scheme. I like what we are doing with this legislation and that the cost is linked to car registration. I think that is an important link to make. It is fair that it applies to all registered vehicles, simply because if it applied only to licences, for example, as the Insurance Commission pointed out, the cost would go up about 30 per cent. It would be \$130 a year instead of \$100.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Member, a large number of people who have licences do not drive a car.

Mr B.S. WYATT: That is right. That is another issue; people still maintain their licences.

Dr A.D. Buti: It's like ministers of the Crown; they don't need it.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I like that interjection.

Before I conclude, I want to, with some indulgence, because I have quoted her organisation a bit today, acknowledge the retirement of Penny Flett as chief executive officer of Brightwater Care Group. I went to Penny's retirement function last night at Matilda Bay. When I was first elected as member for Victoria Park, Brightwater had a very big facility in my electorate. It was very old and run-down. Penny Flett invited me to see it and she showed me around. It must have been decades old. It was terrible, actually. Penny showed me around and told me about the plan they were just about to embark on for fundraising and building. It seemed so dramatic in my mind that I did not think anything like it could happen in fewer than 20 years, but that project is done and dusted and the facility in Oats Street in my electorate is quite extraordinary. The facility provides an extraordinary service to people who have been catastrophically injured. More broadly, Brightwater cares for people with dementia. Brightwater is an extraordinary organisation that has flourished under Dr Penny Flett's leadership. I want to thank her most sincerely for the effort she has put into serving an incredibly vulnerable section of our community. Penny has always been a great source of advice on this sort of legislation, and I note that the Brightwater submission has been heavily quoted by the Insurance Commission, which I think highlights the regard in which Brightwater is held by people who deal with it directly in providing care for people. Brightwater will be around for a long time. Thinking back to Dr Flett's speech last night, I think she said that Brightwater has been around since 1901. I dare say that it will be around for a lot longer yet, providing services to people who have had terrible injuries inflicted upon them or who have been very unfortunate to have an acquired brain injury. I thank Penny for the work she has done over a long period and wish her all the best. As people like Penny do, they do not retire to the golf course; they retire to do other things. I wish her all the best and thank her for the work she has done at Brightwater in my community.

The opposition supports this legislation. It is very good legislation that any reasonable Western Australian would support regardless of what is really a small cost to provide surety of care, treatment and support for the 44 people a year who are catastrophically injured. Some members would have seen in the media what has happened to Mr Proudlove over the years. Unfortunately, this is not retrospective legislation and will not apply to him. Anyone who has not been directly impacted or does not know someone who has been in the situation in which they fall between that brutal little crack in the law—there are not many of them—and have a severe injury, but there is no-one or no organisation to seek recompense from do not know how terrible it is. I think this is a great thing that we are doing here in Western Australia, and I am satisfied to know that we as a Parliament are doing something important to ensure that people have protection. I cannot imagine being a member of a family in which your son, daughter, husband, wife or lover is in that situation. How do you care for somebody who has sustained a catastrophic injury? I do not know. I am delighted to support this legislation that provides surety and a sense of confidence to families that have been devastated by a catastrophic injury.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [2.59 pm]: I also rise to speak on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. I echo the member for Victoria Park's words and sentiment that we are very glad that this bill has come before the house, and I congratulate the Treasurer for bringing this bill before the house. The bill has strong bipartisan support, and I do not think that any member of this house or the other place would not support this legislation. The Leader of the Opposition in the other place, Hon Sue Ellery, was a driving force to get public discussion going on this issue, and it is great to see that the government has responded positively. Of course, when there is bipartisan support, it is easier to deal with these matters. The member for Victoria Park mentioned that surely no-one in Western Australia would oppose this legislation; however, whenever there is an additional cost, there are always some political ramifications. If there is bipartisan support for legislation, it makes the passage of very important legislation a little easier.

As we know, everyone has to travel on the roads of Western Australia. We may have very good roads in some areas, but accidents will happen and our attention is always drawn to the deaths on roads, and over the last long

weekend there were of course too many deaths. One is too many, but there were quite a number of deaths. That is what the public and the media's attention is drawn to. The people who are maimed and who have serious injuries as a result of a motor vehicle accident are often forgotten. The press does not generally report on those people; it just reports on those who die. Of course, it is the families of those who are catastrophically maimed who then have to carry the consequences of looking after them, probably for the rest of their lives. If it was an accident where there was someone at fault, with blame to be apportioned, the current legal system does allow for compensation, even though in those situations it is not easy. The tort system that they have to go through in the courthouse can be a long and expensive process and it can be very, very stressful. When there is no-one who blame can be apportioned to, or if someone is injured and they were at fault, some people might say, "Well, you are at fault; so be it. You bear the responsibility." A person could have an accident be at fault as a result of falling asleep, which of course is terrible, but it can happen. As we all know, if a person has a very stressful and demanding work environment, that is possible. That one instant when they fall asleep and go through a red light may cause them to be maimed for life. For those people who say that they should bear responsibility, the victims' families were not at fault and it will be the families who have to pick up the pieces and look after them.

The member for Albany has intimate knowledge of the case of Warrick Proudlove, and I am sure he will talk about it. The car that Mr Proudlove was a passenger in was hit by a horse and no fault could be apportioned to the driver of the car. That matter went to the District Court. Mr Proudlove sued the driver of the car in order to obtain some sort of compensation to help in the expensive treatment that he will have to endure for the rest of his life. However, the judge said that no evidence of untoward driving was found before the collision. Those who now bear the cost are his family. As I said, the member for Albany, I am sure, will elaborate on this, but the family has had to move to Perth and deal with the very harsh reality that their son was unable to use the current legal system to obtain some form of compensation. It is unfortunate that we do not have retrospectivity in this legislation to help someone like Mr Proudlove and his family. At least from now on, if there is another Warrick Proudlove who is in a car that is involved in an accident for which no blame can be apportioned, their family will not receive, in many respects, a financial death sentence. That is what it is; it is a financial death sentence. It is something that I am sure the community is prepared to pay that extra \$99 a year for.

Basically, that works out to less than half the cost of a cappuccino a week. That is all we are looking at; half a cappuccino a week. There has been debate that people should only have to pay one levy per driver's licence, not per car. If that is the case, as the member for Victoria Park mentioned, the levy would be higher, or we would have a reduced pool of money. Personally, I have no problem in it being per car. If a person can afford a car, they can afford to pay an extra half a cappuccino per week. If they want six cars, they can pay that. I think that the government struck the right note there. We will look at this in detail, but clause 5 of the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 states —

... Act does not apply to a motor vehicle injury resulting from a motor vehicle accident that occurs on private land unless at least one motor vehicle involved in the motor vehicle accident is —

- (a) a motor vehicle in respect of which a contract of insurance is in force under the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act 1943; or
- (b) a motor vehicle —
 - (i) licensed or registered under the law of another State or a Territory; and
 - (ii) to which a policy of compulsory third-party person injury insurance, or a compulsory motor vehicle accident compensation scheme, under the law of that State or Territory applies.

I understand the issue there that money is being paid into an insurance scheme, but the poor person who has been hit by that unlicensed vehicle may have a claim in negligence, for instance, or occupied liability, but they may not.

Dr M.D. Nahan: It is a big issue with farms.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Exactly.

I know that we probably will not amend this bill as it goes through this house, but I think it is really something that needs to be addressed, because there might be a Warrick Proudlove who may be in a car or may be walking on a private property and is involved in an accident where no fault can be apportioned and the car is unlicensed and, as the Treasurer says, is on a farm or in the regional areas of Western Australia.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Farming accidents are very high. The share of all catastrophic injuries—most of them are not registered and it is a big issue. It is also an issue that one of the biggest issues you have pointed out; we are just restricting this to motor vehicles. You can start going in all sorts of other directions, where the debate will lead us, eventually.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The Treasurer is right, although New Zealand has had a no-fault insurance scheme for a long period and I, too, refer to that, because there is this whole philosophical debate about a no-fault system versus a fault system in which fault has to be proven. There was a very comprehensive study published by the New South Wales Parliamentary Library Service titled, “No Fault Compensation”. It is a few years old now but it looked at the whole issue of no-fault compensation and looked at the situation in Australia and overseas. It is an interesting report that outlines that some Australian states have no-fault compensation schemes and refers to New Zealand’s scheme. It outlined how that has worked very, very well and that one does not really want to go through the litigation avenue. One of the arguments used in New Zealand is that once it has this no-fault scheme there is a floodgate or it becomes incredibly expensive. This is reported in the New South Wales report at page 47. Professor Luntz, who is an expert—I am sure the Treasurer’s wife might know Professor Luntz—mentioned in this report that he strongly supported a no-fault compensation scheme. He argued —

The real solution is to abandon the fault system for compensating personal injuries, —

This was not just for motor vehicle accidents —

as recommended by the National Committee of Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation in Australia, 1974 (the Woodhouse Committee). Such a system has been operating successfully, and sustainably, in New Zealand for over 28 years. Scare tactics put out by some representatives of lawyers in Australia, claiming that the New Zealand scheme has huge ‘unfunded liabilities’, are mostly false. It remains much less costly than the incomplete, partial compensation schemes functioning in Australia, and it represents the embodiment of community responsibility for the inevitable accidents of modern society.

It is true that this argument about unfunded liabilities and the cost of this scheme and the court system in this area is phenomenal. Having worked in my younger days in personal injury law, the time and amount of resources wasted on both sides—the defence or the insurance company and the plaintiff—is ridiculous. It becomes a bit of a joke, really, because there is a list of doctors who work for the plaintiff’s lawyers and there is a list of doctors who work for the insurance, and one basically knows what they are going to write. They basically have a precedent. They just change the names and change the dates and a few other variables. I am sure that is not a system we should be advocating. If we have a no-fault system—here it is only restricted to motor vehicle accidents—hopefully we can overcome that system that really is incredibly expensive and uncertain, and can increase stress and reduce the possibility of commencing rehabilitation until a settlement is made.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Remember that New Zealand system. It is a very complicated system, and I have been told that it led to a whole range of special services being provided. Bungee jumping was invented in New Zealand because of the insurance system. It led to a large number of high-risk ventures. I am not saying whether that is negative or not.

Dr A.D. BUTI: There is interesting.

[Member’s time extended.]

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is always an issue, is it not? When legislation is introduced there are going to be consequences for good and bad that one does not know about or has not thought of. But we do know that this legislation is for good. I do not know of any negativity in respect of this piece of legislation because we are restricted to motor vehicle situations. One of the advantages of this system is that it picks up people like Mr Proudlove, whose family is now trapped in this spiral of, basically, poverty. But for the grace of God go I, as any member of our families could tomorrow be a victim of our accident and no blame can be apportioned under our legal system. I know the member for Hillarys has a personal understanding of this. I am thankful that this piece of legislation is before the house.

As I was mentioning in regard to litigation, it is a very uncertain and expensive proposition, and it can result in incredible stress on the plaintiff and their family. There is also an issue of fairness, and the New South Wales briefing paper mentions this on page 49. It states —

The fault principle has been criticised for being erratic and capricious in operation, ‘If fault is not proved, then no matter how innocent the plaintiff, the common law will leave him to bear the whole burden of his losses, —

It should say their family —

even though they might have been catastrophic’. In contrast to the common law negligence action, no fault compensation may provide for more than a small proportion of the injured. Those who are injured in an accident but unable to establish fault are not excluded, and those who contributed to the incident that caused their injury do not have their compensation reduced as a result.

The negligence action arguably measures liability by the results of the defendant’s conduct as opposed to its worth. A defendant who lost concentration for a moment and seriously injured another, will be

liable for more damages than a defendant who acted recklessly and wantonly for a much longer period of time but caused little damage. This situation is avoided in a no fault compensation scheme.

Some people suffering poor health may have similar needs to those injured in an accident. However, as their disability is caused by illness, they are not eligible for anything in a system that relies on the establishment of fault. It is possible that such inequities may be overcome in a no fault compensation scheme, depending on the breadth of the system.

I think when the green paper was released, there was debate on the radio and someone telephoned who was the father of someone in their early 20s. When they were 17 or 18, they were coming home from work late one night, fell asleep, went through a red light, caused an accident and they became quadriplegic. They had no access to anything under our court system. Under this system they would be able to receive appropriate compensation. The New South Wales briefing paper quotes a prominent professor of tort law, P. Atiyah. It states —

Atiyah argues that, as a means of compensation for personal injuries, the legal system is about as fair as a lottery:

In fact it is not too much to say that it is a lottery, a lottery by law. It is almost a matter of chance whether you can obtain damages for disabilities and injuries; it is almost a matter of chance who will pay for them; it is almost a matter of chance how much you will get.

In regards to efficiency, the briefing paper states —

No fault compensation schemes may be more efficient in terms of time and money. An injured person may receive compensation at a faster rate than if the claim had been pursued under the common law, as time is not consumed by the issue of fault. Unlike tort law claims, the injured do not have to wait until their claim has been finalised before receiving assistance. However, other issues may remain such as the cause of the injury, which can result in the process being as expensive and difficult as the tort system.

The advantages are much greater than all possible disadvantage, and I think it is very hard to argue there is any disadvantage. In regard to payments, the briefing paper states —

It is difficult to ensure the accuracy of lump sum payments under the common law, as the assessment of damages involves the prediction of such future events as how long the injured person will live. As a result, the payment of damages will generally either under compensate or over compensate the injured person. Damages may also be reduced by the contributory negligence of the injured or because the claim was settled prior to trial. In some situations, the injured person may find themselves with insufficient funds because finances were badly managed. A no fault system may avoid the problem of inaccurate lump sum payments as it can allow for periodic and adjustable payments.

On the issue of rehabilitation, the briefing paper states —

Rehabilitation may progress at a faster rate in a no fault system as the claimant does not have to deal with the uncertainty and delay of litigation. Injured persons may postpone their rehabilitation if pursuing a claim under the common law so as not to risk the size of their damages.

That is the silly thing about this, and it also happens in worker's compensation personal injury claims. There can be a disincentive to rehabilitate, because if a person is rehabilitating themselves and therefore the severity of the injury is assessed is reduced, the amount they can be awarded is reduced. That is why by having a no-fault scheme there is not a disincentive. Surely, society is a winner here, not only the person injured and their family. Society is a winner if we do not provide a disincentive to rehabilitate. The briefing paper continues —

According to the New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry:

Injured people ought not to be left in the belief that if they attempt to assist themselves the final award of damages is likely to be whittled away. Moreover, it is very much in the public interest to provide incentives to every man —

Excuse the gender-specific language here —

to get well and back to productive work. The common law form of action undoubtedly prevents it; and for so long as the element of contest remains we do not think the problem can be overcome. In our view the fact presents a strong argument against retention of the common law process.

The advantages are phenomenal.

The Treasurer mentioned that in New Zealand one of the consequences of this now is extreme sports and extreme activities, and that is what no-one ever really notices. Back in the 1990s under the Richard Court government, Graham Kierath changed the personal injury criteria in the sense that to be able to sue under common law personal injury, a person had to show 30 per cent incapacity or disability of the body, and the way people were able to get around that was by referring to mental illnesses. There was a significant increase in stress-related work injuries.

Dr M.D. Nahan: There was also that typing disease—RSI.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That occurred with repetitive strain injuries; that is right. It is better when people do not have to beat the system. Under common law, people have to beat the system, which creates uncertainty, inequality, unfairness and inefficiencies in the economic process of the state. That is why we need a system like this. Tort law is based on what one might call corrective justice; that is, there is a fault and the person at fault makes a correction to the person who is injured by awarding compensation—or their insurer does. With a no-fault compensation scheme, it is distributive justice, and in the case of a person with an incapacity to earn income, the community assists in some way. We have done that by saying that for each motor vehicle there will be a \$99 levy or tax or whatever we want to call it. That will now be used to distribute finances to a person whose income has been severely reduced as a result of an accident for which they were either at fault in some manner or not at fault. Although some people may not be able to get their head around people who cause an accident being awarded some form of compensation, I say to them that this is compensation for their families—and for the people who were not at fault, how can they argue against that in any case?

We need this system for numerous reasons, such as the inefficiencies of the tort legal system that we operate under, the duration or the complexity of the court process and the resources that are burnt up in that court process. As members know, District Court judges have a phenomenal workload. As the Treasurer said, we have roughly 44 such cases a year, so it is not a phenomenal number because we are restricting the scheme to motor vehicles and not taking in all forms of personal injury, but it is still a significant number of people who would have gone through the court system, eating into the resources of the court system. Under this bill, those judges can deal with other matters and reduce the backlog that every court at every level in Western Australia and Australia is trying to fight. There are resource and fairness implications, and the issue of not being a disincentive to rehabilitation. Also, as a compassionate and fair society, we should take the economics out of this issue. Surely as a civil society, we would want to do something that equates with civility and, surely, it is commendable to introduce legislation that will demand that if a person licences a car, they pay the equivalent of an extra half a cup of cappuccino a week so that someone who is in Mr Proudlove and his family's position will be able to be awarded compensation. Like all members on both sides of the chamber, I strongly support the bill before the house.

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys) [3.23 pm]: I will not speak too long on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 as I would like it go through this place as quickly as possible. Like the previous speaker, the member for Armadale, and, indeed, the member for Victoria Park, who spoke about the Oats Street Brightwater Care Group development, I know that development very well. I have been studying road safety for the last 15 years, and also people with catastrophic injuries. We are long overdue in bringing in this bill. I commend the Treasurer for bringing it in. I have met many, many people in that time who have been in the position in which their families have not been able to cope because there was nobody to blame—nobody was at fault in their reckless driving, drunken driving, speeding or whatever—and it is a tragic situation for them. For the people where fault is established, I am pleased that will continue to be a factor in making a claim for not only pain and suffering and loss of earnings but also care, because care is the greatest cost for people with catastrophic injuries. It is an enormous amount. Recently, it has been estimated at \$300 000 a year for somebody like Ryan Marron. It is not unlike that for people with catastrophic injuries from a motor vehicle accident. As I say, I have experience of that in relation to a catastrophic injury. You can never say anything is good that happens out of a catastrophic injury, but if you can draw a conclusion that if somebody is to blame and they are able to claim care, loss of earnings, pain and suffering and all those things, that is a good thing because it helps people to help their loved ones. If there is nobody to blame, if there is nobody at fault or if a person has done something stupid, which is unfortunately what happened in the electorate of the member for Albany, that is a tragic event. I have met many families in the last 15 years who have been in a similar situation in which a loved one has been involved in a terrible car accident, but, if you like, it was their own fault. They did something: they dropped off to sleep, they might have drunk too much or they might have been speeding or whatever. Under this scheme, even if a person breaks the law, they will still get compensation for their care and any medical costs involved. I have seen families who have had to struggle enormously and have had to modify their homes to accommodate a daughter, in the particular instance I am thinking of, to cope with a wheelchair and many other things that people with catastrophic injuries need.

The worse catastrophic injury, if I can say, is brain damage. If a person is in a wheelchair and as long as they can speak, read, watch television, understand what people say and can take part in a conversation with their family and friends, they are better off than if they have brain damage or severe damage. People with brain damage are at a massive disadvantage. I was listening to Gary Adshead's program this morning on my way into Parliament House. It was about a man who lost his wife, I think about a year or two ago. He lost his life partner, his best friend, and that was tragic. He said that he was severely brain damaged, but listening to him on the radio I have to say that he was luckier than some people I know very, very well. He is able to talk on the radio and to understand and converse with his family. He suffered the tragic loss of his wife, his best friend, his partner, but at least he could still carry on living, to some extent, a normal life. He could talk, converse and read books; he

could understand everything. That is not always the case, and some people cannot really talk or swallow; they cannot do many things and they need 24-hour-a-day care and will do for the rest of their lives. I support this bill 100 per cent.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [3.28 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. Members on this side of the house support the bill because it provides a solution to a very troubling situation that is inflicted on many people in our community. This bill deals with providing assistance to a portion of the community who sustain a catastrophic injury in a motor vehicle accident, basically, through no fault of anyone. Before I talk specifically about the bill and how it addresses that issue, I want to pay tribute to people who provide care for people with catastrophic injuries.

Obviously, it is a terrible thing for someone to have a catastrophic injury. To care for those people is work that many of us would find extremely challenging, but people in our community dedicate their whole working lives to caring for people who have had catastrophic injuries. It is incredibly demanding work and it is emotionally and physically taxing. In my previous position as secretary of United Voice, I had the privilege of representing workers in many organisations who provided that care. They were incredible people. They worked for organisations such as Brightwater, Activ and the Quadriplegic Centre. I can name a range of organisations that do incredible work, but the real guts of the work that those organisations provide is done by carers. They often do not get the acknowledgement that they deserve. Those organisations get quite a bit of kudos in the community. Everyone knows Activ and Brightwater. They win numerous awards for the work that they do, but often—I do not intend to be critical of the management of those organisations—the people who deserve, in my view, the most kudos and the most acknowledgement are the people who provide day-to-day hands-on personal care. Quite frankly, apart from anything else, they do not get paid very much. It is rather disappointing that features of our industrial relations system are such that the people who provide personal care to people with catastrophic injuries are paid some of the lowest wages in our community. A personal carer working in an organisation such as Activ struggles to make \$50 000 a year. We all know that in our community, making ends meet on that sort of wage is extremely difficult. Most of those people do not have the benefit of full-time hours; they work part time because that is all the organisations they work for offer. The vast majority of those people work part time.

It is ironic that in some ways as a Parliament we are congratulating ourselves on introducing this legislation, which will provide real assistance to people with catastrophic injuries, but the people we expect to provide that care are some of the lowest paid in Western Australia. I would like to think that we could get to a point at some stage that someone could make a career out of providing care for people with catastrophic injuries and they could earn a wage that would allow them to live in dignity and comfort. Tragically, a lot of people get into this industry because they want to provide this care, but ultimately they have to leave because they cannot purchase a house and they cannot feed their family. I always used to think it odd at times that people would say, “If people are not happy with the wages, why don’t they go off and get a job in a better paying industry?” That is a bizarre comment to make. Do we not want people to make a career out of this sort of service to people? Do we not want the best and brightest to dedicate their life to caring for people with catastrophic injuries rather than people who want to do that work saying, “Maybe I will get a trade and become a diesel mechanic or an electrician or, heaven forbid, do a law degree or something so I can get more money”? If that happens, we lose really good people to the disability industry. If we talk to people at Activ and Brightwater, we find that they really struggle to keep staff. One of their biggest problems is keeping staff, especially when the economy is booming and employment opportunities are plentiful elsewhere.

I support this legislation. We are doing a really good thing by the community coming together to support an additional group of people who suffer catastrophic injuries from a motor vehicle accident through basically no fault of their own. I want to make the point that the people we expect to provide the care that will be funded under this legislation are some of the lowest paid workers in Western Australia, and they remain that way.

One of the government’s claimed great achievements in the social services sector—I have heard the Premier talk about this on a number of occasions, and I am sure he will correct me if I am wrong—is that \$600 million was made available to the community sector to make it more sustainable. Some of that went to the providers of disability services. The government said—the Premier still claims that was one of his greatest achievements —

Mr C.J. Barnett: The government.

Mr D.J. KELLY: It was one of the government’s greatest achievements. When that money was allocated I was working at the union, and we said to the government, “If one of the reasons you are doing this is to improve the wages and conditions in that sector, you should mandate in some way to make sure that that money goes to the workers, or a proportion of it or whatever, rather than just giving it to the organisations and allowing them to spend it as they see fit.” The government saw fit not to do that. The Premier gave that money to those organisations without any requirement that any percentage of it flow through to better wages for the workers.

Mr C.J. Barnett: There may be some exceptions but they used it to increase salaries to maintain staff.

Mr D.J. KELLY: They did not. Significant portions of that money did not go to salaries and it varied from organisation to organisation. At the time, the Disability Services Commission funded over 100 different organisations. There was really no quality control on whether that money was spent on improving the wages of workers or buying better cars for managers, for example. I just make the point that if we pass this bill, it will fund care for people with catastrophic injuries. The money raised by this bill will fund personal care work in the disability services sector. The Parliament and the government have an opportunity to impact upon the wages that are paid to those disability services workers. In the past, the government did not address that issue when it had an opportunity to do so.

One of the best features of this bill is that it is a no-fault arrangement. If someone is in a car accident, they will no longer have to prove that someone was at fault in order to get support. I hate reading those stories in the paper in which someone, for example, has had to sue the local council because the footpath was uneven or because the beach did not have a sign on it saying “Big waves here”, so we had this very painful litigation in which someone sued someone else to prove that their injury was the fault of someone else. We always hear some people say, “Isn’t it ridiculous? We’re living in a nanny state” when someone who has been injured in the surf at Cottesloe Beach, for example, has to sue the Town of Cottesloe because somehow the fact that they hit a sandbar when they dived into the water was the Town of Cottesloe’s fault. They are terrible stories and people have a lot of fun with them. I think the notion of no-fault insurance generally is something that we should look at as a community.

This bill provides for no-fault compensation or payments to be made only to people who suffer motor vehicle injuries, but it is something that we should discuss further. It is done in New Zealand, where there is a more comprehensive no-fault insurance arrangement. I am not sure whether the Treasurer was saying this as a show stopper, but in an earlier debate he said that New Zealand’s no-fault arrangement has led to a growth in extreme sports, like bungee jumping, and that people have set up bungee-jumping operations in New Zealand and people are confident to use them because they know that if something goes wrong, they are not going to have to sue the operator; they will just receive compensation. I do not necessarily consider that a bad thing. We do a whole range of things in our community in which potentially we could suffer an injury. We could say that that no-fault insurance arrangement has provided New Zealand with a growth industry and a boost to its tourism and the like. I hope the Treasurer does not see that as a bit of a show stopper or a negative on the New Zealand arrangement.

Having some sort of broad no-fault insurance scheme is something that we could look at in the future. I hate reading those stories about those poor people who have to litigate often against local governments to prove that their injuries are the result of the negligence of local councils, for example, and focusing on the debate about when personal responsibility kicks in. Those people have to sue, not because they want to blame someone else, but because, if they cannot prove that somebody else was to blame, they are left in the awful situation of suffering a catastrophic industry and not being able to support themselves.

Mr C.J. Barnett: They are often cared for by the state, but your argument might also be not on an equal basis with other people traumatically injured.

Mr D.J. KELLY: That is right. People can access other levels of care, but we should not have a two-tier arrangement in which some people get a court to decide what is reasonable care and other people have to make do with a level of care that is significantly less than that.

I like that this legislation is based around no cost. There has been some debate about the \$99 per year it will cost. I think in general terms \$99 is a modest amount to pay and it shows that when a problem is socialised, the solution is often very modest. That is what is being done in this bill. There is a problem that affects about 44 people a year who are not covered under the existing motor vehicle arrangements, so how can we assist them? That will be solved by spreading the cost of providing their care across virtually the whole of the community—in this case, anyone who has a motor vehicle. The solution is pretty modest—\$99 per year. I am disappointed that often when we have public debates, people are reluctant to come together to solve a problem by way of a small increase in costs shared across the community, such as we have done in this case, because so many times we find that when the community confronts a problem, the solution on an individual basis is very cheap. When we expect individuals to deal with their lot in life, the cost to the individual is often massive. Ironically, when we leave a problem like this unsolved and we leave it to the individual to resolve, often those individuals can simply not bear those costs and there are all sorts of consequences.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.J. KELLY: There are consequences that will result in the community paying more anyway. When a family member has a catastrophic injury, families can be put under enormous stress. When families are left to deal with the problem on their own, there are all sorts of potential knock-on costs to the community, such as other members of the family having to give up work to care for an injured person and so there is a loss of productivity in the community. Children can also suffer when a family is unable to financially support themselves. That can knock onto the health and education of the next generation. Community often can incur

a range of costs because the problems are left to be resolved by individuals. So the principle that applies in this bill—that is, we have seen a problem and as a community we have come together to solve it by the community paying a smaller additional amount every year—is tremendous.

I know this bill has bipartisan support, but it reflects a Labor value. When problems need to be solved, there are two ways of looking at it: leave it to the individual who has been at the rough end of things or bring the community together to share the burden. One of the reasons I am in the Labor Party is that we believe the community should share the burden and assist those who, for whatever reason, are worse off than those in the community who often, not through hard work but through good fortune, are in a better position than others. So I congratulate the government for bringing in this bill, but it is very much based on a Labor principle.

I support the principle of paying \$99 per year for every vehicle, because if people can afford to have six cars, for example, they can afford to pay a little bit more. If a person can afford more cars, it probably indicates that a person is generally in a position to pay more. The only part of this payment arrangement that is less than perfect is that there are people in the community who will find it difficult to pay an additional \$99 a year. I meet people all the time in my electorate who cannot pay their electricity bills, who struggle to pay their water bills, and who, because Perth is such a car-oriented city, need a car for their family to be able to function but who struggle immensely to pay the costs of running that car. That is an imperfect part of this bill, because people who are really struggling will still have to pay the \$99. I am a person who believes as a general principle that the better off should pay more, and the people at the bottom of the finances in this state should pay very little or nothing at all. This is a flat \$99 charge across the board. Some people in our community would not even notice \$99; it is just irrelevant to their finances. But I know there are people in Western Australia for whom \$99 is an issue, just like every water bill and electricity bill is an issue and just like buying food each week is an issue. I was talking to the deputy principal of one of the primary schools in my electorate the week before last, and he said that what really troubles him is that when kids, as they suspect, break into the school, they do not steal the computers; they clean out the fridges in the tuckshop or canteen—the food for the breakfast club. That is what they steal. It is clear that those kids are stealing to feed themselves and, potentially, their families. That is how desperate it is currently for some families in our community.

Although \$99 is not a large amount to most of us—no-one on a reasonable income should complain about it—an imperfect part of the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 is that people who are really struggling will still have to pay. But if this is the best we can do, it is the best we can do.

Again, this bill has bipartisan support, but I could not help but point out that those opposite have not always been as generous in the way they deal with these issues. Not that long ago those opposite, under the Richard Court government, removed journey cover from the workers' compensation insurance system. People used to be covered under workers' compensation from the moment they walked out of their front door to go to work until the moment they came home. Their car journey was covered by the workers' compensation system. The Court government, led by Graham Kierath as Minister for Labour Relations, removed coverage for the journey to and from work from the workers' compensation system. That was in the 1990s. I do not know whether the Premier remembers that; he was certainly in the government at the time. That coverage was removed from a whole bunch of workers who had had coverage—not just for catastrophic injury, but for injury generally—from the moment they walked out of their front door to when they got home. It is still the case today that that is not covered under workers' compensation insurance, and it causes a whole lot of grief for a whole lot of workers in this state. This bill will restore that coverage for about 44 people a year, but will leave a whole bunch of people in this state—up to a million workers—not covered from when they leave their house until they get to work.

That decision was a disaster and people tried to replace that cover. The union I worked for tried to replace that cover and negotiated separate coverage for our members. The insurance companies were more than happy to come forward with schemes to cover union members for their journey to and from work. I am plucking the figures from my memory because it was quite a long time ago, but when we provided that coverage to union members, it cost less than \$5 a member a year. But it seemed that within a couple of years it was \$15 or \$16 a member a year, and it simply became unaffordable for the union to provide that coverage.

The Premier and members opposite have done a fine thing in bringing forward this legislation that will provide coverage to approximately 44 Western Australians who suffer catastrophic injuries, but the Liberal Party's previous actions have created, to this day, a problem in that workers are not covered travelling to and from work, when they absolutely used to be. The only reason the Liberal Party did that was to save a few bucks for the government. I applaud this government for getting this legislation before Parliament, but it disappoints me that the situation of journey cover remains unresolved in this state, because it had previously been covered. As I said at the beginning of my speech, the cheapest way to solve these sorts of problems is to share the burden across the whole community. That is what the workers' compensation system did: every employer paid a premium, and as a result every worker was covered to and from work. It is much, much cheaper than workers insuring themselves individually, it is much, much cheaper than the unions they are members of trying to cover them, and it is much,

much cheaper if it is a community-wide arrangement because everybody shares the costs and gets on with it. That is not to say that the workers' compensation system is not without its faults, but there was a much better arrangement when every worker was covered from the moment they left home to the moment they returned at night. I applaud the government for bringing in this legislation. As I said, it is very much founded on a Labor value that as a community we can solve issues if we share the burden. We can deliver an immeasurable benefit to the community if we all share the costs, and that is why we on this side are supporting this bill.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [3.59 pm]: I told my colleagues I wanted only 30 seconds, and I think that is about what I have!

Firstly, I absolutely concur with the member for Bassendean's assessment that the valuable work that carers do in our community needs to be properly remunerated to such a level that those individuals can have a career and vocation in what is really important and, I have to say, incredibly challenging work. I wanted to speak very briefly on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 because when I was briefly Minister for Disability Services more than a decade ago, the issue of young people in nursing homes arose. There were young people with catastrophic brain injuries who could not be cared for anywhere else, and many ended up in aged-care facilities, which was totally inappropriate. It was a problem throughout Australia, but we made some provision in our budget to get some, but not all, of those people alternative care. In my time in government, I travelled with the then Premier to the Council of Australian Governments meeting, where this challenge was recognised as being Australia-wide and some provision was made for funding to make sure that young people could get out of nursing homes.

Unfortunately, that funding lasted only a couple of years, but it is still a major problem. This legislation can certainly make inroads into a terrible problem that is unsatisfactory all round.

Finally, I want to quickly say that we have had many discussions about road trauma and road safety over the last few weeks. A few years ago, the road trauma trust fund funded a road trauma counselling service.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1232.]

SUICIDE — ABORIGINAL YOUTH

Motion

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [4.01 pm]: I move —

That this house urgently calls for a parliamentary inquiry to determine what more can be done to halt the worrying number of youth suicides amongst Aboriginal youth in Western Australia, particularly in remote communities, and to determine what resources have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue facing our state.

Aboriginal suicide rates have not improved. In my maiden speech in 2014, I spoke about my very personal experience of the extremities of suicide and the extensive, widespread trauma felt by the entire region when an act of self-harm or suicide occurs in the Kimberley. Youth suicide amongst Aboriginal youth in Western Australia is horrifying. Each time I hear of such tragedies occurring, I ask myself, "How can this still be happening?" This government claims to have invested millions of dollars into a statewide suicide prevention strategy, yet we see the frequency of self-harm increasing. It is imperative that an urgent and thorough parliamentary inquiry is conducted to define exactly what has been tried, what has not worked and what has worked, and to strategically determine the amounts required and the best use of funds and resource allocations to tackle this crucial issue facing our entire state.

I am so deeply saddened by the most recent heartbreaking news—the suicide of a beautiful 10-year-old girl. It is not the first time we have had someone so young take their own life and, tragically, it is unlikely to be the last.

In June 2014 I pleaded with the Liberal–National government to not cease funding the Derby community action plan, which included Looma, where this tragedy occurred, and other communities in delivering localised suicide prevention strategies, but I was ignored. The Liberal–National government's policies and responses around child protection and mental health are failing the people of my electorate. I demand that a full inquiry be conducted into this crisis and whether, in the particular scenario of the 10-year-old girl, either department could have provided more or a higher level of obviously required support.

I have been told that this little girl's life was an unfortunate rollercoaster of severe disadvantage and traumatic events. About two years ago this girl actually witnessed her beloved older teenage sister commit suicide in their home community of Kalumburu. I wonder if any members of even the immediate family received counselling or any other support services after that tragedy occurred two years ago. Keeping people in the mindset of wanting to stay alive remains a difficult task in my electorate, particularly with regard to youth. I want young people to know that suicide should not be an option and that it is not a sign of weakness to ask for help; it is actually a sign of strength and great courage. But in remote communities there often are not many available or approachable people who know what to do with that sort of information or have the skills to appropriately respond, assist and secure a person's safety and wellbeing.

I believe it should now become a legislated mandatory requirement for all service-providing staff going into communities to have undergone Aboriginal mental health first aid training, and these are some of the things I talked about with regard to some of our mental health workers who are skilled but need to be upskilled.

I read in an article that appeared in *The Australian* of 14 March that a teacher based at the Looma community said that she was “absolutely horrified”, in light of cuts to the state government’s child and adolescent mental health service, that it had resulted in the complete withdrawal of the service from the Looma community. The article went on to quote the teacher as saying —

“On our first day of term, school staff were told due to budget cuts and staff freezes the CAMHS specialist wouldn’t be coming any more. Yet a convoy of services are sent in after suicide events have happened.”

She said that a 14-year-old student had confided to her recently that she had cut down a teenager attempting suicide from a tree. The girl said that she had not received any form of counselling and that she had just talked to her aunty about it.

On top of cuts to government funding and staff for the Kimberley child and adolescent mental health service, this government also stopped funding the community action plan for suicide prevention programs that serviced Looma, Mowanjum and other communities surrounding Derby. Although there are many strong, positive Aboriginal leaders doing everything possible in their power to improve lives and to strengthen their communities’ wellbeing, they are limited in what they can do, as they are not adequately resourced or supported.

Many children are growing up to be confused, angry, frustrated, bored young teenagers. Even in the largest of the remote communities, there are no or minimal after-school activities, no youth services or formal youth centres, no weekend sporting activities and no swimming pools. We must invest in our youth. We must show them the alternatives to suicide, because right now, many youth see suicide as not just a possible option, but their only option.

I believe it is vital that Headspace-type centres, which Broome youth greatly benefit from, must be implemented in Kimberley towns such as Kununurra and Derby. People are not approached; counselling is not routinely offered to at-risk youth as it should be, to adults showing evident signs of depression or even to grieving family members who are mourning the death of a loved one. There simply are not enough mental health professionals to service the Kimberley. The government should provide subsidised training specifically targeting local Indigenous community members to become mental health workers, drug and alcohol counsellors and clinical psychiatrists. Internal staff succession planning and formal mentoring within the health sector is a vital component necessary to building the level of capacity in Aboriginal communities needed to break the systemic generational cycle of suicide and other health issues.

I wholeheartedly support former State Coroner Alastair Hope’s recommendation 3, cited on page 61 of the state government’s September 2010 document “Local Implementation Plan — Fitzroy Crossing”, which states —

Positive action should be taken, where practicable, to employ Aboriginal people in Government sector activities in the Kimberley Region. In some cases this may require up skilling suitable local Aboriginal people.

In order for this to be achieved in some areas of activity it may be necessary to alter entrance requirements for particular positions so that suitable candidates without existing tertiary qualifications can be employed and trained.

If we look at suicide as distressed psychological pain, I believe it is essential that this government takes immediate action to construct secure mental health facilities at Kimberley hospitals, other than Broome Health Campus, where there could be trained mental health staff and services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This could enable Kimberley residents to be treated for mental health problems without having to travel away from their family and community. That is something I talked about when I mentioned that some communities need quiet houses.

In light of the reported extreme increase in the use of the drug ice throughout the Kimberley, we really need these services implemented in my electorate now. The current drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in the Kimberley are not adequately equipped to deal with the complexities of patient needs and the referral numbers. The Milliya Rumurra rehabilitation centre in Broome offers the only rehab service in the West Kimberley. Chief executive Andrew Amor was quoted in the media as saying —

“We’ve seen an increase in referrals in the last couple of years, so that people with meth problems now make up about 20 per cent of referrals,” ...

“There are lots of Aboriginal people out there who want to access rehab, have the right level of internal motivation to address this issue, but we just don’t have the resources to meet that demand, ...

“At any time, there’s a backlog of between 70 and 100 people waiting for a spot to become available.”

People cannot wait for rehabilitation and they will simply return to using. Most likely, they will not attempt to seek help again due to being turned away from the only supposedly available service.

In recent years there has been a large focus on alcohol consumption in the Kimberley and the impacts of alcoholism on families and communities, but little investment has been made to combat the ever-growing drug scene in the Kimberley. Make no mistake, these factors directly relate to acts of self-harm and suicide and they need to be effectively addressed as an urgent priority. There may be some dispute about the actual number of ice users; however, one obvious indicator of use is that the number of fit packs distributed from Broome hospital has almost tripled in four years. In 2010, 20 000 fit packs were handed out from Broome hospital emergency department. In 2014, that increased to an astonishing 57 000 fit packs.

The suicide epidemic has affected every single community and town in the Kimberley, and changes need to be made. The government needs to assist by investing more resources and funding into preventative support programs, especially in remote communities. I put to each member in this chamber today to stand with me and make real change. How many suicides and how many more deaths will it take to open our eyes and to open our ears to the silent screaming that is coming from the hearts and souls of those who are gone and from those who grieve and keep screaming “Help”? We must do more. We need to look at doing whatever we can to examine and address these cries. We might start with a parliamentary inquiry into this crisis.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M. Cowper): I would like to call the member for Roe—sorry, the member for Eyre.

DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre) [4.15 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. That is very premature.

The ACTING SPEAKER: When I last sat in this chair, he was the member for Roe.

Dr G.G. JACOBS: Thank you very much, but it is very premature. I have to be endorsed and then I have to win the seat.

I thank the member for Kimberley for bringing this very important matter to Parliament. I suppose this discussion was triggered by a travesty that has existed for some time that was highlighted again by the unfortunate death of a 10-year-old girl Aboriginal girl who took her own life on 6 March this year, in the West Kimberley community of Looma. It is estimated to be the nineteenth Aboriginal suicide in Western Australia this year. That rate of Aboriginal suicide is twice that of non-Aboriginal people, and 25 per cent of Aboriginal suicides occur in WA. One-third of all deaths amongst Aboriginal youth aged between 15 to 35 years are attributable to suicide.

As Chairman of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I was commissioned by this Parliament to inquire into the deaths of fly in, fly out workers in mining. Over seven months, the committee did a lot of work to determine some of the factors that lead to the suicide deaths of FIFO workers and made recommendations to government on how it could make a difference. I reply to the member for Kimberley that it is about making a difference, as the member for Kimberley’s motion states, “to halt” suicides in this community.

I want to take the house through some previous inquiries and investigations, including coroners’ inquests, and the current situation. In 2007–08, State Coroner Alastair Hope held a collective inquest into 22 suicide deaths. A media report on Alastair Hope’s narrative in the inquiry states —

... to explore the reasons for the large number of deaths where alcohol or cannabis use was a contributing factor and for the alarming increase in suicide rates ... The Coroner concluded that Aboriginal welfare in the Kimberley constituted a “disaster” for which there was no real leadership or coordination and a lack of accountability in the response by the State and Commonwealth governments. The Coroner endorsed the evidence of witnesses such as Lieutenant General John Sanderson and Professor Fiona Stanley ...

The inquiry report concludes with a very important statement from those two witnesses, which I will share with the house a little later. I want to go through some of the other inquests and inquiries and their recommendations. There was an inquest after the tragedy of five suicide deaths in Oombulgurri, in July 2008. The recommendations from that inquiry relate to restrictions on alcohol sales, child protection, assessing the sustainability of communities, legislative interventions requiring treatment for the abuse of volatile substances and supporting culturally based programs for truancy and mental health for youth. I recognise Wes Morris and his good work with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. He has been a constant communicator with our committee on this matter for some time.

In 2014, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prevention Evaluation Project, funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, was commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of existing suicide prevention services. From that, there has been some preliminary drafting around stating the economic gap between white and black Australians in the Kimberley. That was widening, with disparities relating to extreme poverty, housing issues and homelessness. It elucidated the lack of jobs and economic opportunity directly impacting on the

wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians. Western Australia had 14 per cent of the country's Indigenous population, yet contributed a quarter of the national suicide rate, with increasing disconnection between service providers and the communities they service. Indeed, the National Empowerment Project, NEP, funded by the former Department of Health and Ageing, led to the Kimberley Empowerment Project, and its report of 2012 gave some practical tips. They were of the similar vein I have described. The Kimberley Empowerment Project, KEP, was a research project that conducted extensive community consultation in the aim of developing a dedicated new Aboriginal-led empowerment healing and leadership program. The project report was published in 2012 with the practical tips to develop such a program, starting with community readiness, then a preparation phase, and continuing to nationally accredited training for local people who are prepared to lead in change on a family and community level.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Sorry, member, the title of the document? I missed it.

Dr G.G. JACOBS: That was the National Empowerment Project, which the Kimberley Empowerment Project came under.

I put to members, and I hope the member for Kimberley will understand this as there is no insult or offence meant, but there have been a legion of inquiries. There have been a legion of inquests and recommendations, unfortunately, and that is a tragedy. However, as Professor Fiona Stanley and Lieutenant General John Sanderson have stated, the problem lies not in a failure to recognise the situation, but in how to address that problem and to improve the current situation. What is needed now is implementation of recommendations, which have already been made through strong leadership and accountability, rather than more inquiries and investigations.

This is a social tragedy for the Aboriginal community, for the Western Australian community and indeed, Australia. During the week I was called by various members of the Education and Health Standing Committee, which I chair. A number of committee members said that we know we have set a course on doing some inquiries into independent public schools. We also want to look at the Auditor General's central computing report and we want to delve a little bit more into that and ask some further questions of the Auditor General and the Department of Health. We have a fair bit on our plate. However, the members who called me during the week recognise the enormity of the situation and how important it is, and there is nothing more important than the loss of lives, especially the loss of young lives, in our community. We also recognise we should perhaps consider at our next meeting what our responsibility is as a committee, which is part of the Parliament of WA, and how would we go about looking at this matter. This morning at 10 o'clock, before we noted the member for Kimberley's item under private members' business on the daily program, it was resolved that we look at this issue and how we could perhaps make a difference, without, if you will excuse the expression, reinventing the wheel and having another inquiry going over all the problems that we know. As Lieutenant General Sanderson has said, "We know the problems. It is what we are going to do about it and how we go about it." It was resolved this morning, and I have authorisation from all the members of the committee out of session since our meeting, that I could share with members the action that was determined this morning by the Education and Health Standing Committee. The committee resolved to pursue the following actions: firstly, to request a briefing from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project. It is important to note that it was established in 2014. The project is funded, as I have said previously, from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is located at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia, in partnership with the Telethon Kids Institute at the University of Western Australia. It is evaluating the effectiveness of existing suicide prevention services and programs. ATSIPEP will report to the federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs in mid-2016 and recommend improvements to existing, or alternative evidenced-based service and program delivery models. As a committee we thought we might request a briefing and even ask it some questions about where it is at, in determining some of the effectiveness of some of these programs and perhaps what its feeling is about programs and models that can make a difference. That was one resolution.

The other resolution was to conduct hearings or request information by correspondence to determine the implementation of previous recommendations in relation to suicide prevention and response, and the departments that we have basically decided to look at and ask are the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Regional Development, the Mental Health Commission and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, and in fact, underneath the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, would be the Indigenous Implementation Board of Western Australia. By the nature of the word "implementation", we believe it is an important organisation or group to talk to, because it is about the implementation of programs and previous recommendations of which, as I have said, are legion. These hearings could be conducted individually or collectively. That is what the committee has determined this morning, and I hope that the member for Kimberley can see that there is some merit in not spending a lot of time having an inquiry when in fact the real matter is about implementation. How do those programs look? Are they effective? What are the gaps on the ground?

Mr R.H. Cook interjected.

Dr G.G. JACOBS: Yes, and that is an important point that we talked about previously. Obviously, if we have this, if you like, mini inquiry, I as the chairman would then report back with the vote of the committee on some

of our findings and maybe some recommendations about how we can better implement some of these programs, some of the gaps in the programs and where the communities are being let down and, indeed, where the communities can do something for themselves.

There has been a bit in the news about critical response programs to tackle the high rate of Indigenous suicide in WA, and the federal government has pledged \$1 million to set up a critical response project to tackle Indigenous suicide in Western Australia. As advocates warn and as we have said previously, the state has one of the worst rates across the nation. The critical response project helps to coordinate first-response services to ensure that essential support is provided to not only deal with suicide after it happens, but also prevent it happening, so it is really important to deliver these new models for how we make a difference. I have a very important quote from a news article in which Mr Georgatos, who is leading the critical response project, said —

“The underlying factor is actually a sense of hopelessness. We have to restore hope. And to restore hope, we have to actually create opportunity for people in these communities.”

I suppose that pretty much puts in a nutshell how we can make a difference in these communities. On 12 March there was an article on ABC News online titled “Aboriginal campaigner and suicide survivor shines light on mental health issues”. The article states —

Professor Pat Dudgeon believes full community engagement is necessary to bring down suicide rates.

Another ABC article is entitled “Indigenous suicides to be probed by WA coroner after 10-year-old girl’s death” and refers to the recent tragic death of that girl in Looma. The article states —

The West Australian coroner will hold an inquest into suspected Indigenous suicides across the Kimberley and Pilbara in the wake of the death of a 10-year-old girl who had suffered “accumulated harm and trauma”.

In recognition of the comments around inquiry versus implementation, I would like, with the house’s agreement, to move an amendment to the motion moved by the member for Kimberley. This is not to minimise in any way the very important issue she addresses.

Amendment to Motion

Dr G.G. JACOBS: I move —

To delete “urgently calls for a parliamentary inquiry to determine” and substitute —

supports the Education and Health Standing Committee to continue its work in determining

[Member’s time extended.]

Dr G.G. JACOBS: The motion, as amended, would then read —

That this house supports the Education and Health Standing Committee to continue its work in determining what more can be done to halt the worrying number of youth suicides among Aboriginal youth in Western Australia, particularly in remote communities, and to determine what resources have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue facing our state.

I hope that the house and the member for Kimberley will see that this is an important motion, as was the original motion, but that we need to look at the implementation of programs to make a difference.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.36 pm]: In beginning my contribution today, I want to acknowledge the work of the member for Kimberley in once again bringing a very important issue to our attention. Indeed, it is an issue that has caught the attention of the entire community, because there can be nothing sadder or more tragic than a 10-year-old taking their life. One would hope that a 10-year-old would be facing the enjoyment of life, the hope of opportunity to come and the enjoyment that comes with the usual experience of childhood living. It is tragic that they should see that there is no sense or capacity to go on and that they should be so gripped by despair that they would seek to take their life. This is an incredibly sad issue, but, unfortunately, it is not one that we are unfamiliar with. It is a story that has gone on for some time, and of course it is not dissimilar to the death of Susan Taylor back in 2001, which brought about the Gordon inquiry under the Gallop government. These issues constantly confront generation after generation of parliamentarians and give rise to questions that need to be asked. It is important that we continue to ask these questions so that we as a community, and as members of Parliament and so-called leaders of the community, can continue through these questions to raise the issue and try to decipher and make sense of the enormous complexity and difficulty associated with it.

I thank the member for Eyre for his contribution today and note his amendment to this motion, which in some respects seeks to limit the asking of those questions. I do not want to detract from or criticise the efforts of his committee to conduct that inquiry; I think it is incredibly important. I look forward to the contributions from other members of Parliament to the debate on his amendment, which limits the actions of this place to the mini

inquiry, as I think he described it, that his committee would undertake, and whether we should be limiting our efforts to continue to raise questions about these issues. It is only through questions that we will continue to drive on to try to seek solutions to what is happening. Why does a member of our community, in particular a small child, seek to take their life? We know that poverty and inequality are important contributing factors. We know that a lack of identity is a contributing factor. We know that the policies of the past that have sought to eliminate the celebration of Aboriginal culture and cultural identity are contributing factors. We know that the systemic and institutionalised racism that continues to afflict our community is a contributing factor. We know that drugs and alcohol and their impact on the community, in particular these very vulnerable communities, are contributing factors. We know that accumulated trauma and the sorts of things that these young people may have seen, and should never have witnessed, are contributing factors. We know that the sheer invisibility of Aboriginal people, as people who are largely ignored or pilloried in our community, depending on the social commentary at the time, is a contributing and accumulative factor.

These situations give rise to more questions, and as I said in my opening remarks, it is good that we are asking these questions. It is good that we are continuing to seek answers. It is good that we are continuing to cross-examine ourselves and our governments about whether the solutions we are putting in place are effective enough in their design and in the quantity or strength of that effort. For instance, we know that the government's suicide prevention strategy has a \$26 million project over four years and that the value of that particular allocation for 2015–16 is \$4.3 million. It is important that we ask questions about how much of that money has been spent and utilised in this incredibly difficult task, and what proportion of those resources go to what are clearly very troubled communities.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: We will be talking to the Mental Health Commission, too, member.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is important. We have all seen that the Mental Health Commission is doing some important policy focus work, but it is still largely an experiment, and we continue to wait to see the effectiveness of the model as a way of consolidating policy in that area and effecting service delivery models. In February, Hon Stephen Dawson asked the Minister for Mental Health what value of funding had been spent to date. The Minister for Mental Health said that only three-quarters of the \$4.1 million had been committed for 2015–16. It had not necessarily been expended, but it had been committed and it was only three-quarters of that amount. We are now well into the third quarter of the 2015–16 year, and we think that the minister should have some very concrete and material examples of how that money is being spent to deliver services into these communities. Hon Stephen Dawson's questions go on: how are these services being delivered? I am reminded of a colleague of mine who wrote to me. She says —

Suicide is the last stage of the trauma. It's not rocket science ... It's the feeling of complete hopelessness and despair. What could a 10 year old child possibly think of ending their life? What was going on for her? Agencies knew about her why was there not intensive intervention and prevention support provided to her and the community? Educating and empowering them to understand suicide and trauma. Also what activities were available to her ... other children from the community? Were the community consulted in what they could do to support the family? Were they adequately equipped and supported financially to do that etc?

The questions go on. As I mentioned earlier, the Gordon inquiry was appointed following the death of Susan Taylor in 2001. The Gordon inquiry identified that mainstream services were continuing to work in silos and there was a need for collaboration and wraparound of services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people. My colleague observes that in 2016 nothing has changed. She says —

In fact, it's getting worse. If nothing changes soon the numbers and plight of my people in the next 10 or 15 years is going to be frightening.

There are more questions to be asked. As I said, as this generation of politicians, members of Parliament, it is important that we continue to ask those questions.

The observation that my colleague made was particularly pertinent in the delivery of these sorts of services and Susan Gordon's statement that we were delivering in silos. It invites the question: what is the best service delivery model? I am firmly of the view that these programs should be delivered in a culturally appropriate way by the Aboriginal communities that they serve. I am reminded of the success stories and where we have seen these programs work before. I refer in particular to the work of those involved with the Unity of First People of Australia which was doing some work in this very community that we are talking about, Looma. It was able to halt the deteriorating condition of people with diabetes and obesity in that community by working as a culturally appropriate service to deliver those services. The program was so successful that a minister at the time lauded the program that UFPA was implementing. An article in the *Koori Mail* referred to that minister, Dr Hames, and states —

Mr Hames said there was an emphasis on exercise and sport programs and support provided under the Happy Family Project to promote emotional and social well-being of individuals and families.

He said, and I quote —

“The Looma community members and UFPA are to be applauded for taking control of their people’s well-being, the increased exercise, better diet and heightened awareness that it fosters in individuals,”...

Of course, the UFPA president at that time was Mr Ernie Bridge, who was quoted as saying —

This is a fantastic result,” he said.

“It shows that with a concerted, joint effort by communities, public health departments and government, the prospects for even the most vulnerable groups can be turned around to provide extended and healthy lives for their young people.”

That was in December 2009, Mr Acting Speaker

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): For all members, at the moment we have before the house a motion to amend the original motion and I remind the speaker on his feet, the member for Kwinana, and everyone else in the chamber that we are speaking to the substantive part of the amendment at the moment. I am prepared to give a bit of latitude because this is a very important debate—if members would not mind keeping their comments to the nature of the amendment.

Mr R.H. COOK: On that point, Mr Acting Speaker, does that mean I get another 30 minutes when I am talking to the substantive motion?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr R.H. COOK: I will hold there, and talk about the amendment for the moment. As I was saying, in addressing the amendment, it is incumbent upon us to ask questions. There should not be a limitation to the questions that we were seeking answers for. There should not be a sense of complacency within this place that others are undertaking these efforts and, therefore, we need not bother ourselves with the issues that confront us around such an incredibly important issue as the incidence of suicide, which is endemic in our Aboriginal community.

It would obviously be ridiculous for this house to accept the words that the member for Eyre has proposed in his amendment to this motion. I understand he has put them up in good faith as a practical way forward and as a way to seek some quick desktop answers, which is appropriate for the member’s committee to do, and I commend this committee for taking the initiative to get on and do that, but I do not want to limit an inquiry of this Parliament in trying to seek answers to the questions that the suicide of this young girl throws up. I do not want to limit the efforts of this Parliament to a quick mini inquiry, as the member for Eyre and Chair of the Education and Health Standing Committee has proposed in this instance. I do not think that we can delegate the task of looking into these matters that should be undertaken by this Parliament to a quick inquiry. I accept that inquiries have been done in the past and I propose that inquiries be undertaken in the future because it will not just be us who inquires and asks these questions. It will not just be the next government that inquires and asks these questions. It will not just be the government after that. It will be generations to come and it is not appropriate therefore that we limit our efforts and step back and say that we are happy for someone else to go away and take care of this on our behalf.

The member for Kimberley has proposed an eminently reasonable response to a tragic and urgent issue afflicting our community. It is not just the damage it does by the loss of life; it is the damage it does by the ongoing issues associated with the trauma from a suicide in the community. I do not seek to limit the efforts of the member for Kimberley in what she regards as an incredibly important issue. I do not seek to limit the efforts of this place to put extra resources in to seek the answers once and for all for what should be one of the most urgent and pressing issues in front of this and future generations of members of Parliament.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood — Leader of the National Party) [4.53 pm]: I will not spend much time speaking on this motion but I want to put a couple of comments on the record. I was one of the ministers responsible for the regional reform unit put in place by this government as a product of a subcommittee of cabinet, which the Premier put in place at the start of this term to look at a number of issues. Right from the outset, I do not think anyone in this chamber or outside would not have been moved by trying to comprehend how a 10-year-old girl could get to the stage of what happened in the Looma tragedy and, indeed, any other suicide of young people in our community wherever they live in Western Australia. The tragic circumstances in these remote parts of the state are grossly overrepresented and therefore it clearly needs a better response than we currently get from all governments over a long period.

However, I do not agree with the member for Kimberley’s request for an inquiry. This issue has been inquired to death. In fact, there are at least 50 published inquiries and reviews at the national and state level, nearly all of which were informed in part by experience in Western Australia and/or the Kimberley particularly. These included at least 19 state-based reviews containing some 40 recommendations. They included three separate inquiries by the State Coroner on suicide in Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley. The State Coroner has

announced that she will conduct an inquiry into these most recent suicides. There are more than enough recommendations on the table. People have a good understanding of the issues. It is a case of being able to address those issues.

The member for Eyre has moved an amendment to the motion before us. Given his position on the Standing Committee on Education and Health, that is an appropriate step to take to respond in a quick way to get some information on the table, if that is what this place seeks.

I want to reflect on one of Coroner Alistair Hope's recommendations from the 2008 inquiry—that is, to manage welfare payments to ensure that they are not spent on drugs and alcohol. That is one of the federal government's initiatives in a trial in the East Kimberley—one that I and this government supported. That will occur in Kununurra and Wyndham. There are some discussions about it occurring in other areas. Some things are happening in that space. One of the recommendations was to ban full-strength takeaway alcohol. Again, those things have been enacted using the Minister for Racing and Gaming's powers to put in place strategies to address symptoms. I guess that is what they are. Many of the recommendations that come from the inquiries that have taken place relate to the symptoms and address those symptoms in response.

I turn to one of the main reasons I feel driven to talk here today. It is important to look at and deal with the symptoms. We have agencies that respond to that and recommendations will be made to put in place strategies to hopefully enhance our response, but unless we take a longer term approach to redress the causal factors over time, in a decade or two we will finish up with exactly the same issues and perhaps more people with the same symptoms. That will not be the solution that we can find on this side of the house. I would like to think that that will span a number of governments. When the opposition comes over to this side of the house, which will happen at some stage, if there is support for work that we can get in place now, I would love to see that carried on. We will only get that long-term shift through that continuity.

One of the recommendations in Coroner Hope's February 2008 inquest, the "Hope report", stated —

I recommend that the State and Commonwealth governments identify an individual or organisation to lead the efforts to close the gap between the well-being of indigenous and non-indigenous people. That individual or organisation should be given the power and resources to make decisions, region by region, throughout the Kimberley and to coordinate the response to the disaster of aboriginal health, suicide rates and living conditions.

We have put in place the reform unit and I believe it has taken steps to respond to that recommendation. Recommendation 4 of that report states —

I recommend that the State and Federal governments devise a plan to assess the sustainability of indigenous communities in the Kimberley including Oombulgurri, and in doing so take account of the practical, historical and cultural factors impacting on these communities.

I highlight that for the first time there is a very serious effort, having two ministers on the ground playing a role at the service delivery level and infrastructure level—that is, me and Hon Helen Morton. It has the imprimatur of cabinet. I have had conversations with the member for Victoria Park and the member for Kimberley in the hope that if we can get some of this right—I do not pretend for a second that we can get it all right—when the opposition picks up government, that can be carried on. The point I made when I have had a few chances to address groups and talk to communities is that this is a long-term game. With all the goodwill under the sun we expect that we can get some visible change in two years, and we are hoping to get some significant change in five years, but it will take a generation to get transformational change. It is not something that we can do in one term of government.

We have tasked the unit to find innovative and strategic ways to change the state government's response to longstanding conditions of social and economic disadvantage that are endured by Aboriginal people in remote and rural Western Australia. It is a very small team. That team cannot do it by itself. It is critical that we bring on board the cooperation of all the government agencies, local government, not-for-profits that work in that place and the federal government, but especially the Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal leaders. If we do not have that, we will not have this shift. To get that long-term gain, we believe we need to start the ball down the path to get that shift. It will take effort, coordination and a lot of cooperation. I really encourage all to be on board.

I just wish to make a couple more comments. The government is putting some not-negotiables on the table. It is not negotiable that children are safe and nurtured. It is not negotiable that there is an opportunity for a quality educational pathway, that there is a pathway to employment and a pathway into the economy. Those pathways and a connection to country and heritage and culture are fundamental to all decisions that are made, and that some certainty is given to people who live in these regions about their future.

I also disagree with the member for Kimberley on her point about resourcing. I think there are more than enough resources in the mix. The issue is that a lot of those resources are ineffective. We acknowledge that. Everyone acknowledges that. We have had some scans done of a couple of communities. The amount of resources and the

number of providers is staggering, yet we do not see the shift that we want to see to give a child an opportunity to have a vision for the future and some understanding of how they can pathway into the opportunities that our great state provides. In 2012–13, for example, about \$4.9 billion was allocated directly and indirectly to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. That is about \$53 000 per Indigenous person, compared to about \$20 000 per non-Indigenous person, and that has grown by about 20 per cent since 2008–09. I do not believe that resourcing is the issue, but I do believe how it is directed is the challenge.

Some of the critical factors are long-term education, jobs, homeownership and pathways into the economy, and particularly strategies for those who live in some of the more isolated start parts of the state. I put on the table some of the challenges. I highlighted the fact that this will take time. The minute a government tries to redirect resources and objectively focus on resources that do stuff, and a government says that it does not think something is working and shuts it down, more often than not the government finishes up in a fight. That is because whoever is involved often does not like the fact that resources are pulled, even when the case is made for resources to be redirected. However, it is critical that the directed resources are assessed and interrogated. We understand that if something is not working, resources need to be shifted and directed to another area, even if the government is pushing itself and putting at risk a new project. It is important to test that because, quite frankly, history has not delivered good outcomes for these people. Support for the redirection of resources is important. It will be publicly challenging, and we acknowledge that. The broad support of ensuring that we can redirect money into areas that make a difference is really important.

This will have some tough parts. Whoever looks at the challenge of improving opportunities for people in these communities will have tough calls to make. The reform unit is getting to the point at which some of these things are starting to emerge. Those positions have not been put publicly yet, but it is important to be true to ourselves about what decisions need to be made at government level to improve outcomes. It is important to invest in success. We have reinvested in failure in many cases. It is important to invest in success. We should support those things that are successful and support investing in pathways so that a child born in a remote community in Western Australia has a pathway into a good education and into the economy and that child does not find themselves at a dead end and in the circumstances that we saw in that tragedy in Looma.

I do not think there is any more important issue in Western Australia than this one and it will take the collective wisdom of all who have taken time to inject views into it. There have been more than enough inquiries. We need to challenge ourselves to do some things differently. It is always difficult to do things differently from what has been done in the past, and there will always be people who do not agree with redirecting resources. This is critical to our future. It is, quite frankly, a pretty big blight on our past. I do not want to spend my time in this place, before whenever I choose to exit Parliament, in my role as a minister not putting my mind to and supporting something that needs to fundamentally change. It will not be good enough to wake up in a decade's time to find that we have not shifted these issues forward.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [5.05 pm]: I want to make a couple of comments about the amendment moved by the member for Eyre. We oppose the amendment. To be frank, this amendment makes me a little cranky. The amendment asks that the Education and Health Standing Committee be given a briefing on a particular program so that it can come back to tell Parliament about it. That is the amendment. I listened intently to the Leader of the National Party. I was generally interested in the first part of his contribution, but the second part was all about what government does. If the member for Eyre was legitimate in moving the amendment, he would have come over here and asked the member for Kimberley about the matter. He would have asked whether the member for Kimberley wanted to be involved or to be co-opted on his committee. He should have told the member for Kimberley that he was going to amend her private member's motion calling for an inquiry into suicides in the Kimberley, but he did not tell her about it until he got to his feet. The Leader of the National Party, who has left the chamber, then talked about bipartisanship in the regional reform unit. Let me remind members how that came about after the Premier said that he wanted to close 150 communities. In the chaos of that declaration—people in government call the opposition, too—there was a nightmare in trying to respond to that as the government clawed its way back from that ridiculous statement.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Noel Pearson didn't think it was ridiculous.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I do not care what Noel Pearson said. I worry about what Western Australians think, and I thought the Premier did, too. When the Premier announced the closure of remote communities, and then walked away from that—as he should have done—the regional reform unit appeared. The regional reform unit was fundamentally tainted by that start. If the Leader of the National Party was legitimate—I sat here for a minute listening to him talking about a bipartisan approach and wanting to be able to bed down these things so that they can survive for years and decades—he could have asked the opposition to sit on that. He could have asked the member for Kimberley whether she would like to be part of this process. He could have asked how the opposition will genuinely embed something in a bipartisan way through the years. That is what I intend to do with our policies, and I will announce them in due course. That is what the government should have done if it were serious. It should not have come in here with its rhetoric that it wants to do this and that in five years' time

this will happen and in 10 years' time that will happen. If the government were serious, it would have spoken to the opposition and it would have spoken to the member for Kimberley when seeking to amend her motion. I am not interested in an update from the committee about a particular program. My view is—I have said this in a number of speeches; I think anyone who follows Aboriginal affairs knows this—that the structures are wrong. My great regret at a federal level was the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In retrospect, I think that was a mistake. I agree that it needed to be fundamentally changed and it was co-opted by a terrible leadership. I think those who were around at the time will remember that. Most of you will not, I am sure, but some of us will. A terrible leadership destroyed it, to be frank—and I do not mean the leadership of the regional councils; I mean the leadership that was delivered at the top

Mr J.M. Francis: Robert Tickner.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am not talking about that.

That is what destroyed ATSIC, and in looking back in retrospect through the decade since, I think that we rushed to get rid of the whole thing holus-bolus. As I note the fly in, fly out response from Scullion about those suicides, we will still deliver in the same structures. The member for Eyre was right in that we have had lots of inquiries and they all say pretty much the same thing—that is, local solutions for local problems. If I could summarise it, that would be it. We still do not do it. In our structure with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs et cetera, we cannot do it. I thought royalties for regions was the opportunity to do it. I said as much at the time, and I wrote that for the University of Western Australia at the time that there was an opportunity to do that—but royalties for regions did not change anything at all. It was just a different mechanism to give money from Perth; that is all it did, and not very efficiently in many cases. Maybe I will get the chance to say all that when we get to the substantive debate after the amendment, but I oppose the amendment. I do not believe it has been moved in good faith. If it had been, the member for Kimberley would have been consulted.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: She was.

Mr M. McGowan: Ten minutes beforehand.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Yes. That is not consultation. The member for Eyre knew he was doing this. Apparently this morning he got up in the committee and had this conversation and got approval to come in here this afternoon with this amendment. I do not hear any invitation for the member for Kimberley to be co-opted onto that committee and to be a part of that process. The committee can do that.

Dr G.G. Jacobs interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am not interested, member for Eyre. You did not speak to me and I did not interject on you.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Were you here when I spoke?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Member for Eyre, the member for Victoria Park is not taking interjections.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Since 4.00 pm I have been in this place the whole time. I have listened to the member for Eyre and I do not agree with him. I am cranky that we have gone down this path; I am particularly annoyed that the Leader of the National Party gave a speech and left because I wanted to respond to him and I wanted him to hear that response. Is the government serious about this regional reform unit, which is handicapped by the way it started? Anyone involved in regional Western Australia who speaks to Aboriginal people will know that everything is in the context of which community is being closed. People cannot move and cannot unshackle themselves from that. I know that and I know some colleagues in this place probably know that. If someone wanted to unshackle themselves from that—if they were genuinely interested—they would have said, “We need to get a proper plan, and let’s speak to the opposition.” It may not have been me; probably the member for Kimberley would have been the better person. They would have spoken to the opposition. I do not think that was sincere. I think the Leader of the National Party is a person of good faith who legitimately wants to rescue something out of this, but the birth of the regional reform unit will handicap it. That is the reality of it. If the government wanted to rescue it, it would have spoken to the opposition. We will be opposing this amendment.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.12 pm]: I am pleased to support the amendment to the original motion. It is my understanding that the member for Eyre spoke with the member for Kimberley because the member for Eyre came to speak to me prior to —

Mr P.B. Watson: That’s not consultation.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: And it was agreed.

Mr M. McGowan: She’s not happy.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Thank you. That is fine. It was agreed earlier on, so I am not sure what happened after that.

I am very pleased to speak on the amendment because I think it is important to have this discussion, but it is also important that we make progress and do not do the same thing that has always been done. I also acknowledge the tragic events that have occurred in the Kimberley in the past three months, particularly the most recent that involved a 10-year-old girl. I pay my respects to the families affected by the suicide of the 10-year-old girl, and those affected by the suicides that have occurred in the past three months. For most this is beyond understanding and comprehension. We cannot comprehend or understand, and are at a loss to know how this could possibly have occurred. But I know that all in this chamber will never accept this as an acceptable situation, and it is from there that I believe we need to move forward and make sure things happen.

The Kimberley is a unique and beautiful part of Western Australia. It has its own issues that need to be dealt with. I need to clarify that Looma is a very, very good community, although some people may think that it is not such because of the situation that recently occurred there. Kimberley communities are very, very proactive in addressing areas of concern around suicide. I probably cannot say that about other communities in Western Australia, but in the Kimberley they are very cognisant of and very keen to address it. We do not have all the answers yet, member for Kimberley, and we have not solved all the problems, but the Kimberley communities are very keen and wish very much to be involved. That huge step forward will make quite a difference.

Once upon a time we did not talk about suicide. Firstly, let us put some general facts on the table rather than concentrating on youth suicide in the Kimberley. In Australia in 2014 suicide was ranked as the thirteenth highest leading cause of death, and it was the leading cause of death for people aged between 15 and 44. In Western Australia suicide is the leading cause of death for 15 to 44-year-olds. It is second highest leading cause of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Western Australia. I am quoting confirmed figures, not reported or alleged figures because I must use confirmed figures. In 2014 there were 374 suicides—almost double the number of road fatalities that occurred on Western Australian roads. Yesterday there was massive uproar about road deaths from the other side. Member for Kimberley, I am pleased we are having this conversation because the suicide rate is higher—nearly double—than road fatalities, and yet that gets much more attention.

Breast cancer is a sensitive subject and I should not be comparing them, but in Western Australia about 230 women and men may have died from breast cancer; once again, that is well below the figure for suicide. This is a major issue in our state and in regional areas, and it is time to speak about it. We used to not talk about it and it was swept under the carpet: we must stop sweeping it under the carpet. We must deal with it and recognise the seriousness of the issue.

I will talk about Looma for a minute because I think it is important to clarify a couple of matters that may have been misreported. The young girl was not in the care of the chief executive officer of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support at the time. The child was living in a family arranged placement. It is understood that, most unfortunately, the young girl had had a very, very tragic life. That is no reflection on Looma community. I think it is very important that we recognise that Looma community is one of our very good communities and is very supportive. I will also give a little information about what is available to the Looma community after this recent situation. Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service and the Department of Education's school psychology services are responding to the community, along with support services from the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, and community adult mental health and child and adolescent mental health service personnel are all available to the community. Intensive in-reach and postvention services are available and will be taken up by the community when it is ready.

I move to the broader issue of suicide to talk about all the things being done, as raised by the member for Eyre. The member for Eyre will clarify those things through some of the additional hearings the Education and Health Standing Committee will hold. I commend that, and appreciate that a discussion had started prior to this motion being moved. Unfortunately, as the Leader of the National Party said, some of these things take a little while. A lot of money could be thrown at something, but it may be very shallow, fall away and be unsuccessful. We have all—the member for Kimberley knows this—seen money thrown at something without a solid foundation that does not build capacity.

“Suicide Prevention 2020: Together We Can Save Lives”—the second suicide prevention strategy—was launched in May 2015. Its focus is on strengthening families and early intervention, with priority groups encompassing people experiencing mental illness and alcohol and other drug problems; Aboriginal people and young people in remote communities are also a major focus. In fact, a dedicated Aboriginal implementation plan is part of the suicide prevention 2020 strategy. The Mental Health Commission has appointed Aboriginal consultants Mr Darryl Kickett and Ms Adele Cox who will co-facilitate regional forums. They have extensive experience in this field; they are on board and that process is underway.

I will mention a couple of the action plans that are part of the suicide prevention strategy. There will be long-term support for children bereaved by suicide, the placement of suicide prevention coordinators, follow-up care for people who have attempted suicide and the launch of a small grants program to support local prevention

initiatives. I think the member for Kimberley may have been referring to that when she said some money was taken away; it was a grants program that ended, but there is always more going through and there will be other opportunities. Also, there will be the delivery of targeted culturally and linguistically diverse suicide prevention training programs that must be unique to the particular region; this is not a one-size-fits-all program. The programs that are part of this plan will commence in the first half of 2016, so many are ready to go and underway. I say again that young people are a priority group in the suicide prevention strategy 2020. A dedicated youth engagement strategy was endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention in October 2015. Alongside that, although not part of the suicide prevention strategy, a statewide specialist Aboriginal mental health service that is out on the ground has also been established.

To return to the Mental Health Act 2014, I want to bring up a couple of significant points that will become more and more important. We have to make sure that Aboriginal people understand it. Traditional medicines and therapies are acceptable as a treatment for mental health for Aboriginal people—it does not have to be Western medicine—and they can have their cultural people with them to make sure that all work that is done with an Aboriginal person is well understood and agreed upon by the Aboriginal person.

The Leader of the National Party talked about the regional services reform program. It is unfortunate that the member for Victoria Park feels that it will not go anywhere. I have to say—I have been one of those people at times—that there has been a lack of coordination. We all know it has happened, and we have to stop it happening. I might go into a community one day and find out that, for example, my department, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, was in there the day before, and someone says, “Oh, by the way, the Department of Housing’s coming in on Friday”, and guess what? We are all dealing with the same things. It has been most ineffectual. It certainly has not worked.

Therefore, I think that the concept of a reform strategy that has key agencies working together is an absolutely fantastic situation. We are not there yet—it is not perfect—but when we can have people from the police, Education, Health, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, mental health and all the others at least saying, “Well, what are you doing? Let’s do this; let’s go together rather than three of us going in on three different days”, it will make a huge difference. Those things cannot be verified just yet. We cannot do it quickly; otherwise, as the Leader of the National Party said, we will be throwing in a whole lot of money and then running away. No, this is about developing people, training local people and listening to Aboriginal people. I will admit that often that has not been done; often that did not happen.

Mr P.B. Watson: Did you listen to the member when she spoke? She’s a local person.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I certainly did, member for Albany. I always listen to the member for Kimberley when she speaks, because she speaks from the heart.

I want to give just a couple of examples in which a couple of agencies have been working together, because it is important that that occurs. I am going to give a couple of examples from Education. We all understand how difficult it must be for the Department of Education to have a different program or form for education around the state. It has made changes so that Aboriginal education, particularly in remote communities, will suit that community and they will weave around it. With things such as the Aboriginal cultural standards framework, the child and parent centres and KindiLink, the idea is to improve educational opportunities for Aboriginal students, and we all understand how important that is for their purpose in life and for their ability to feel that they have a role to play within their community, within their families and within the state.

The department has also developed more localised engagement centres so that some students who have difficulty engaging in education straightaway can go through a separate avenue to come back into the main pathway. I am particularly pleased that the Department for Child Protection and Family Support operates with the police in having six fully operational, multifunctional police facilities in the Kimberley, and they are co-located with officers. These are at Kalumburu, Balgo, Bidyadanga, the Dampier peninsula, Warmun and Looma. The Looma one opened in December 2011, and all these multipurpose facilities are staffed at all times. These are ways of working together, and we are doing it in other areas with mental health, police and whatever else within the city. They are important and they are working together. It is not a case of talking to one and then going to speak to someone else and that sort of thing. It is important that we listen and that we work together. It is important that we recognise that there are key issues in the Kimberley because of the distances, the climate and getting around. It is not easy, and we do understand that.

I want to talk about what we need going forward, and I have probably already touched on a couple of things. We have not got there yet—no-one is saying we have—but it is important that we evaluate, assess and keep moving forward. That is one of the reasons why I am a little hesitant, I guess, about having another inquiry, because things get put on hold and therefore we slow down the momentum that is really starting to pick up. I have said it once and I will say it again: money does not solve this. Money assists, but it does not solve it. I say that we need quality services and support, but for me the most important thing is developing people, and those services and support will assist that. As the member for Kimberley has told me, we need people on the ground there,

preferably local people. Unfortunately, we cannot train someone overnight. Unfortunately, people move on. They say, “Yes, we’re going to do it”, and then they move on, but that does not stop us. For me, the most important thing is developing people, and we will do that through the supports and services. That is our intent and our aim.

I have also said that we need to listen to our Aboriginal people more, take on board what they are telling us and work out how to make that work effectively for them. We need to make sure that the connections are happening, particularly in government, to get those better outcomes. We will continue to do that. We will make sure that we can provide a better service, and we certainly need to have more people on the ground who are trained in the areas of suicide prevention and counselling.

As I said, I respect the member for Kimberley’s call for a parliamentary inquiry and I respect the member for Eyre speaking about how we may look at that in a different way, but I can assure the member that this Liberal–National government will continue to work with Aboriginal people to make a difference and to assist her people not to have to deal with these suicide rates or to continually go through what they are going through.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [5.29 pm]: I do not support the amendment to this motion, and I will tell members why. I do support the motion moved by the member for Kimberley. Last week when the information came forward that a little girl had taken her own life in the remote community of Looma, it was shocking. Personally, I struggled for a response. How do you respond to that? What can you say? What can be done? I talked to a few people, but it is difficult to know what to do. This followed on from a young child, an 11-year-old boy, taking his own life last year or the year before in a remote community. It then emerged that, over the course of the last few months, 17 to 19 Aboriginal people had taken their own lives, predominantly in the Kimberley, but throughout the goldfields as well. That is a crisis. I may have used some slightly inappropriate language at a press conference, when I said that if that had happened in the western suburbs of Perth, there would be a royal commission. I thought at the time when I said that that maybe it was not appropriate, but I note that *The West Australian* has picked up on it and said that it is appropriate. I think we all struggle with how to try to improve this situation. We all know that there are long-standing issues in this state that go back 180 years or so. Many of the causes of what has occurred recently go back that far. I communicated with the member for Kimberley about what we could do about this situation and the member for Kimberley’s motion was an idea that came forward. Some of my colleagues wanted a royal commission into this issue because it is an extreme situation when by all accounts a beautiful young child takes her own life. I knew that the government would not come at a royal commission. But we thought a parliamentary committee to undertake what I would term a short, sharp inquiry into the specific issue of Indigenous people taking their own lives in large numbers in recent months might be something we could do.

The idea for a committee was put forward in good faith. It was not like we tried to politicise the issue at all. I hate hearing that the Liberal–National government has done this or our side of the house has done that in these debates. I hate it. It is absolutely ridiculous to say, “Look at all the programs and things we have put in place.” Honestly, who cares? That is a silly politicised response to the issue. The most fundamentally decent person I have ever met in this place is the member for Kimberley. She has no politics in her at all. This fundamentally decent person who knows the people involved and the family of the small child who took her life comes into this chamber to move a motion and talk about the issues around Indigenous communities, particularly, resourcing, which is always an issue, and instead of members treating her motion with the respect that it deserves, we once again saw an amendment put forward to what I think is a good motion. The government wants to amend the motion; it heard the member for Kimberley stand in this place yesterday and give notice of this motion. Government members knew this motion was coming on today and they could have come and spoken to the member for Kimberley, me or the shadow Minister for Health, and we could have worked out an approach that everyone agreed with yesterday or last night. Instead, 15, 20 or 30 minutes into this debate, I get a call down the corridor that the government has moved an amendment. I think it would be fair to say that the member for Kimberley is a bit unhappy about that. Why would the government treat her that way?

I do not agree with what the government is doing and we do not support this amendment. The member for Kimberley has come up with a motion that outlines a specific approach that perhaps she, the member for Victoria Park and the member for Murray–Wellington, who has an interest in this issue, could be involved in to try to come up with something that is short, sharp and immediate to deal with this issue. I think that is fair enough.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Yes, I think I did that.

Mr M. McGOWAN: She advised me that the member discussed the amendment with her between question time and the time she moved the motion, and that she did not agree with the amendment. The government has had 26 hours. The member for Eyre is an honourable man and I do not know whether it is his amendment or the government’s amendment. It annoys the hell out of me that the member for Kimberley, for example, comes up with these ideas and government tries to take them away from her.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: No.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Let me give members one example when she gave in—it is the only time I have seen her do that. The member for Kimberley came up with the idea of Indigenous recognition in the Constitution, but there were all sorts of efforts to pull that away from her.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes there was. I could go over *Hansard* for members if they want me to. They know that is true. I find it offensive that the member for Kimberley was treated that way. I say to members opposite that the member for Kimberley has come up with something with this motion and they have once again tried to amend it. No members communicated with me and the member for Kimberley was communicated with just before the motion came on for debate. There was no opportunity for us to discuss these matters. I have now found out that the member for Kimberley did not agree with the amendment and she is upset by it.

Having said all that, we will not support the amendment. If the motion is amended, we will not vote against the amended motion, because something is better than nothing, but we think that we need a specific short, sharp inquiry into this issue. I think we all agree that there appears to be a crisis in these communities. We all know that these communities often live in a lot of sorrow. I just cannot believe the extent of the number of deaths and the ages of the people involved. We need to do something specifically related to this issue. I have explained the opposition's point of view; no doubt, government members will respond to our point of view.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [5.38 pm]: I rise to address the amendment to this motion. I am sure that we all agree that the words “10-year-old” and “suicide” should never be in the same sentence. When they are in the same sentence, it is a real tragedy. I appreciate the member for Kimberley's desire to have Parliament in some way address this ongoing tragedy taking place in Aboriginal communities. I understand that something like 95 per cent of all Aboriginal people know someone directly in their family who has committed suicide. I am thankful to God that I do not know anyone directly who has committed suicide. I can only try to imagine what it would feel like for those families. In this case, a 10-year-old girl from Kalumburu had been taken into care to be in a safer environment in the very functional community of Looma. Apparently, the girl's older sister committed suicide two years ago. The girl was to be in appropriate care in a family in Looma yet, we are told, she ended up committing suicide. I have no reason to doubt that.

What is happening in our communities? I support the amendment because we are all well aware of the seriousness and extent of the problem. The Leader of the National Party said in his speech that something like 40 different inquiries have been held into this issue. I appreciate that the amendment is not trying to determine the resources that have been set aside to tackle this crucial issue. We know that massive resources have been set aside, but they have not been particularly effective. Some things the government has put in place in the last few years have only just begun to take effect. When a child commits suicide, it is not something that the child just happened to think of on the spur of the moment; it is the result of trauma, brokenness and abuse. Some members may know that prior to entering Parliament, I was involved in counselling adults who had been sexually abused in childhood, and from my counselling training and experience, I know that some of the victims of childhood sexual abuse say that they wish they had been murdered rather than sexually abused. They say that it destroys their soul—their very sense of who they are. The sad thing is that when a child ends up in care, as this young girl did, after coming from the community where I understand sexual abuse was rife, that child has been damaged. She was so wounded that no matter what support services were put in place, that child, growing into adulthood, would continue to limp through life. That is the nature of sexual abuse. We know from the evidence given by many people to the federal sexual abuse inquiry just how they have limped through life. Many others who were abused committed suicide; they just could not face the future. It became all too difficult.

I am supporting the amendment because we know what the problems are in our communities. After visiting remote Aboriginal communities over the last 15 years—some members may know I am involved in taking teams out to remote Aboriginal communities to run holiday programs for the children there—I know that the tragedy is that many of the kids experience sexual abuse. My guess—I cannot prove it; it is only my guess—is that if we could eliminate sexual abuse in our remote Aboriginal communities, the suicide rate amongst young Aboriginal people would be less than the rate amongst the white population. I am told by Aboriginal people that, prior to white man coming to this country, suicide was totally unknown in Aboriginal communities. I do not know whether that is true, but that is what I have been told by people in Warburton. It was a totally foreign concept in Aboriginal culture. We now have a situation in which Aboriginal people have six times the suicide rate of white people in this country. There is obviously something happening here. We know a lot of the contributing factors, so the question we need to address is: what can we do better to prevent those tragic situations from occurring that lead to a child, young person or young adult committing suicide?

Many children who go into care have been either abused or neglected. That is usually the reason they are taken into care or taken into care by an extended family, as was this particular girl, coming from Kalumburu to Looma.

Looma is a very functional community, as the member for Kingsley said. I visited that community at one stage. When I went to that community and compared it with some of the others around there, I thought, "Wow, this is great! There should be more communities like this." Despite being in that functional community, that little girl saw no way forward and ended up taking her own life. I believe we need to ask ourselves how we can best allocate the resources that we have. I think the Leader of the National Party said that we spend \$53 000 per Aboriginal man, woman and child on providing services to Aboriginal people compared with about \$20 000 for the white community. It is not that governments are being stingy and pulling back funding. That is not the issue. The issue is how we can target what we are doing so that families can function well. I would put it to members that the very idea of suicide just would not occur to a child growing up with their mum and dad in a functional home, where they get reasonable food and are loved and cared for, unless they were exposed to sexual abuse or some other horrific trauma. That is the reality.

Some members have asked the questions: What can we do better? Which programs are working most effectively? I suggest that one of the areas that we need to work hard at is helping Aboriginal mums and dads to be great parents. I see it when I am in the Aboriginal communities. There is no question that they love their kids; that is not the problem. The difficulty is how to be an effective parent and how to transition from a very different culture to a western culture. Families often struggle with having one foot in Aboriginal culture and the other foot in western culture, and the difficulty of trying to pull that across. Let me just explain an example to members. I was told in Warburton that amongst the Ngaanyatjarra people, parents do not discipline their children. That is not the role of parents. It is the job of the uncles and aunts to do that. That worked great when everybody was nomadic and they sat around the campfire at night. If a little boy misbehaved, uncle or aunty was there and they would discipline them, and that worked fine. But when mum and dad live in a house with their children, and uncle and aunty live six doors down or perhaps in another community, there is no-one to discipline the children. These are some of the issues that those communities face. People might say that they just have to learn to discipline their kids, but those things need to be taught. They need people who can come alongside them to help them through that. Some really good work is done in the Kimberley by Bill and Joan Grosser, who ran parenting programs in Perth. Since they have retired, they have gone into the Kimberley at their own expense and are training Aboriginal people in some of those skills and are coaching the Aboriginal people they have trained to teach other Aboriginal parents, so that it is Aboriginal people teaching Aboriginal people. It is that kind of thing that we need to do. Interestingly enough, I made lots of inquiries for them, because they wanted to put that on a DVD so that people could watch it on their television and it could be used in communities. I could not get any funding. They did not want much—I think it was about \$10 000 for audio equipment to do that work—but no funding was available for that. That is the sort of petty cash that could make so much difference to the wellbeing of Aboriginal families.

I do not believe that the suicide rate will change very drastically over the next three, four or five years no matter how much money we throw at this problem today, because it is the damage that is done today and that has been done in the past that sets people up for that sense of hopelessness and despair. We need to work at preventing young people and children from being exposed to things that end up leading them to have that sense of hopelessness. We need to ensure that kids are not exposed to pornography. We need to ensure that kids are not sexually abused. We need to ensure that kids get a reasonable diet and enough sleep.

I had the opportunity to visit Woolaning Homeland Christian College in the Northern Territory some years ago. I was intrigued by what I had read about it, so when I was in the Northern Territory I took the opportunity to drive there, just a couple of hours outside Darwin, because I wanted to see how it functioned. It is a community college that the Aboriginal people in that area wanted set up. They set up this school as a boarding school away from their own communities. The Aboriginal elders said that their communities were so dysfunctional that they knew their kids could not learn in them; they needed to be away from the communities to be able to learn. They operate on the basis of a six-week term. They go there for six weeks, then they have two weeks off, and over the three months of the wet season they do not go to school at all. They take kids at the high school level only because it is too difficult for younger children to be away from home. When they begin school, 85 per cent of the kids are functionally illiterate, but within three years in that setting, the bulk of those kids reach the average standard of literacy for their age. That indicates to me that, given the right environment, we can do great things with Aboriginal people. They are intelligent. They are just as intelligent as anybody else.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Member for Albany, we knew what he was saying.

Mr P. ABETZ: Aboriginal people have demonstrated that they are capable of achieving just as much as white people are able to achieve in studying and all that kind of thing. The sad thing that I was made aware of there is that when it comes to the end of the six weeks and the children have to go back home, some of them deliberately self-harm because they are so afraid to go back to their dysfunctional family because they know that they will be abused. That is part of the reality of what is happening in communities. If we want to avoid Aboriginal suicides, we need to address those very difficult questions. I do not claim to have the answer for fixing those issues. To do

so, we need to involve the community; it cannot be imposed from outside. There is great opportunity to improve what is happening in our remote Aboriginal communities. I believe that the amendment moved by the member for Eyre is simply sharpening the focus of the member for Kimberley's motion. The member for Kimberley asked for an inquiry. The amendment does not take away the inquiry; it says that something is happening in the Education and Health Standing Committee, which is doing a mini-inquiry already, and we should support that and see what is happening on the ground and how it can be more effective. I warmly support the intent of the motion moved by the member for Kimberley, but I believe that the member for Eyre's amendment helps to sharpen the motion. Rather than creating another inquiry to add to the 40 or 50 inquiries that have already been held, let us look at what is actually happening and what we are doing to address the problems and what we could do better. They are the things that I believe we really need to address. I will conclude my remarks in speaking to this amendment. I speak in support of the amendment.

MR M.J. COWPER (Murray–Wellington) [5.53 pm]: I wish to speak to the amendment. I understand the comments made by the member for Victoria Park, who is somewhat indignant about the reasons that the member for Eyre moved the amendment. I will see if I can shed some light on it for the house.

I believe that there is probably no more important issue that this place needs to contend with than the way in which we treat certain Western Australians. As we know, that has manifested recently, and tragically, with the loss of many lives. I believe there have been 19 Aboriginal suicides so far this year, which is what the newspapers are quoting.

I had an opportunity to join the Education and Health Standing Committee about 12 months ago, and it has conducted a number of different inquiries in that time. Also during that time I have been privileged to be a member of a select committee, involving the member for Victoria Park and others. That was a committee that exhibited significant cooperation—the sort of cooperation that sets the benchmark for how this Parliament should operate. One of the reasons I joined the Education and Health Standing Committee was so that eventually I could get my colleagues on that committee to draw attention to the very serious issue that the member for Kimberley has bravely brought to this place. Members may recall the debate we had about the recognition of Aboriginal people in our Constitution and the comment I made that although that was a significant watershed for the people of Western Australia, the real issues were not being dealt with—that is, the health, education, wellbeing and hopes of Western Australians in remote areas. These issues are not being dealt with notwithstanding the fact that we have numerous government departments investing a whole lot of taxpayers' money—all well intended. The reason that I joined the select committee was so that we could examine why we have all these various programs, functions and reports but are not getting as much traction as we would like. We are getting successes in certain areas and in other areas we are less than successful.

When I woke the other day and read *The Australian* newspaper report, I immediately became very sad about what had happened at Looma community. For those who have never been to Looma, it is a community about an hour and a half south east of Derby on the Fitzroy River, near Camballin station, now Mt Anderson station. It is a beautiful part of the world—lovely country. At one time there was a proposal to build a massive farm there; in fact, one of the biggest feedlots in the southern hemisphere was constructed there, but it never turned a wheel. That had the potential to create a large amount of employment for people right across the district. A town was built at Camballin, which included a primary school, but unfortunately it failed commercially. There were a number of attempts to try to resurrect it, but it continued to fail. When I read further through the article in the paper, I noticed the resident police sergeant was Neville Ripp, whom I have known for 40 years or thereabouts. I felt that I needed to speak to him to find out what was going on on the ground. Without going into the details of that private conversation, I can tell members that he is a man who has been stationed at various places throughout the Kimberley, including the Dampier Peninsula and Oombulgurri, and I think he has been to Kalumburu. I know he has been at Fitzroy Crossing for the last three years, and a week and a half ago he was at Looma. His affinity with the local Aboriginal people is renowned, so I value his judgment and assessment of what is happening on the ground. He expressed to me that he is somewhat dumbfounded as to how to proceed. He said there have been many attempts to try to deal with the issues, but, unfortunately, the traction is not there. I am not sure whether he is in a state of shock at the moment over what has occurred, but certainly he is very keen to keep communications open because he, like many other people in not only the Kimberley, but also right across Western Australia and Australia, wants to deal with these issues. I do not believe that we can apply a panacea to resolve the issues that have presented in recent times.

I recall as a young police officer going to the Kimberley back in 1981, when the notion of suicide was quite rare. There was a manifestation of deaths in custody that resulted in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which became quite an issue for the state, but it appears that we have a growing culture of self-harm.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Mr M.J. COWPER: Prior to the dinner break I was discussing the phenomenon of self-harm in the Kimberley. When I arrived in the Kimberley in the early 1980s, self-harm was not a common practice. However, over time it has become an increasing phenomenon that is of great concern to all Western Australians. I understand that it

manifests itself in different ways in different locations. From some preliminary examinations that I have conducted, Fitzroy Crossing seems to have a high incidence of self-harm, predominantly revolving around the slashing of one's arms. I know that police in the Kimberley have been very conscious of the way it has been manifesting right across the north. A former local superintendent, who recently left the north to take up a position in Bunbury, took it upon himself to examine the issue. I am very keen to catch up with him in the not-too-distant future to tease out some of the information that he has gleaned. When police officers have attended an incident involving persons with either a mental health issue or a domestic violence issue, he examined whether the circumstances could be interpreted as self-harm. It may simply be the use of words, it may be an injury to oneself, or it could ultimately be as serious as an attempt to do away with one's life. It is a great initiative by the police inasmuch as whenever there is a critical incident in Western Australian society, inevitably the first respondents are the police. Although they are given a certain amount of training to deal with it, and they gain a lot of experience through the course of their duties, police are relied upon to make assessments. I am very pleased that the superintendent had the foresight to instruct his officers in charge to look at these matters and also to formulate localised plans to try to deal with it. He may be touching upon an issue that the Education and Health Standing Committee would be most interested in; not only the committee but also on a broader scale. Really, it is probably the first attempt, albeit not a terribly accurate one or one that can be relied upon 100 per cent. In the context of what has happened in the past, we have a lot of well-intentioned government departments that perhaps have not been as interactive or in concert with each other as they might have been, and that in essence is the challenge that presents itself to the state. Part of the reason I am still speaking to the question that the amendment be agreed to is that although I would not want to limit the potential for this house to conduct a more serious inquiry, I think the amendment put forward by the member for Eyre is an attempt to move forward. I can understand why the member for Victoria Park might be upset, but I think we should set aside our differences on this matter because it is such an important issue. I believe it is one of the single most important issues that this place could deal with, certainly in the 10 years I have been here. I believe we should work together in a bipartisan fashion and deal with this issue if it means that the Education and Health Standing Committee can look at certain aspects of it. Again, I know that that committee is very conscious of not hoeing the same paddock and going over the same ground. I think it has been mentioned by a number of members in this place that there is a library full of reports on the issues but not necessarily a great number of programs that have been successful on the ground, albeit that they were well intentioned.

I support the member for Eyre's amendment, but I say that on the proviso that it should not impede the will of the Parliament to, if it sees fit, make an inquiry, whether it be a parliamentary inquiry or even a royal commission. I think it is of such a serious nature that it is incumbent upon all Western Australians to do something about it because the single most shameful thing that is occurring in our society today is the manner in which certain Western Australians are living in a state of hopelessness. I do not say that specifically about Aboriginal people in remote areas; I am talking about the whole scope of Western Australian society. This is an area that we, collectively as a Parliament, need to address. I also believe that there is no single panacea for the ailments that we are presented with, but I do believe the police have perhaps touched upon a potential way of at least trying to understand the issues and how we are going to deliver certain services. The inclusion of information like that, which is being compiled by the Kimberley police, is commendable. I understand that one of the issues with that, though, is that once we have a whole lot of information, we need an analyst to be able to decipher what it means, and that may be of great significance to a number of organisations, including the committee from the University of Western Australia mentioned by the member for Eyre that will present to the Education and Health Standing Committee shortly—it has an acronym that I do not remember, but it is a fairly long one—and other government departments such as the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the Mental Health Commission, the Department of Health and so on.

On that note, I support the member for Eyre's amendment, notwithstanding the fact that I do not want to detract from, restrict or impede the capacity of this place to look at this issue as a most serious ailment that will afflict the people of Western Australia into the future. I understand that there is anecdotal information that in certain circumstances it is a combination of a number of issues, such as domestic violence, alcohol and ganja—or drugs. I understand that the Kimberley is not immune to the ice epidemic and that it is quite prevalent in the bigger towns of Derby, Broome and Kununurra, but not so prevalent in the smaller communities out from there—the satellite communities. Certainly marijuana, or ganja as they call it locally, is a major issue. I notice from the preliminary information that I have received that about 45 per cent of the causal factors of self-harm are still unknown. Those unknown factors take up a big chunk of the reasons why people are causing harm to themselves.

There is one thing that I might ask the member for Kimberley to address. Former State Coroner Alistair Hope will be inquiring into nine of the more recent deaths. I hope that number will be expanded to include the recent death involving the 10-year-old girl. I hope that will be the case. I put that on the record in the hope that someone in some government department will hear that and initiate to have that death included, because I believe that would help significantly in addressing these issues.

I will now sit down and allow other members to speak in the time that is left for this debate, and hopefully we will be able to progress this matter. This is one of the single most important issues that we can present to the house. Thank you.

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [7.11 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the speech that I made. A lot of things have been said today. This is the message that comes from the Kimberley, and this is what they want. For too long, we have had a lot of our young people take their own lives. I do not know how many of you people have experienced a loss in the family through suicide. I lost my grandson to suicide. He was only 15 years old. I have spoken about that from the day I came into Parliament. I have heard all you people make accusations about why some of these kids take their own lives. My grandson was never sexually abused. He did not come from a broken home. That is what I taught him. But there are issues that our young people face every day. I do not think that we all sit down and think of these things. It is not just about all the things that people have talked about. Some of it may be true, but not every suicide that happens or has happened has been for those reasons. I think that came out of some of the things you people have said here. I want you to know that the message that I have brought down here comes from a lot of these families in the Kimberley. They have asked me to make sure that we push this. What I said in my speech is what these people would like. I am just the messenger. I am the member for Kimberley. The people of the Kimberley want a parliamentary inquiry to be held into this matter.

I have heard members talk about how money has been spent here and money has been spent there. Last year, I talked about Balgo. The funding for the person who was placed at Balgo as a mental health professional to work with the people in Balgo has been cut. I do not know whether members remember, and they can go back to *Hansard*, but I put in a request directly from this person who worked out of Balgo. He came to see me at my office in Halls Creek and told me what had happened and that his funding had been cut, and he asked whether I would request that some funding be made available for the work that he was doing in that community. He was doing tremendous work with the young people at Balgo. Our fellow member of Parliament over there, Mr Cowper, knows what Balgo is like. He knows the situation that a lot of these young people are in and the displacement of everyone in the community. This has not happened just recently. This has happened over time. This fellow who was working out of Balgo came and asked whether I would read this; I brought it to Parliament last year. I do not know whether funding had been reinstated to make sure that he was re-employed, but I can tell members that that fellow has worked with a lot our young Aboriginal people from the desert and he has had a tremendous effect on changing some of the ways that they live and their attitudes. Last year, through the work that he has done with the young men out of Balgo, he has helped them overcome a lot of issues with alcohol, domestic violence, and issues with any other drugs that people may say are out there. He contributed a lot of his time. He even spent time with the Wirrimanu Tigers, which is the football team for Balgo that is made up of the three communities out there. He nurtured these people and he even went out of the area he worked in so that he was part of the community. He went out camping with them and learned about the environment and the culture, which made a tremendous change and had a tremendous effect on those people. I think it is really bad that people such as him who worked out there are having the funding for their positions cut for no reason whatsoever.

We have seen some of the young kids and since then some of those younger ones now want to go back to sniffing petrol again. How do we get somebody to go back out there to continue the work that he has done without that financial support? We do not talk about money; we talk about support. Sure, to do some of those things and those programs we need money, but I noticed the way that someone said here today—I listened to the speech—that we have thrown this much money there, we have thrown that much money. I would like to see how much money has been spent on some of these programs for the Kimberley. From what I know, the Kimberley has received only \$3 million. That is distributed right across the Kimberley—that is, east and west. But people have had enough of suicide: the young people, the ones whom they have lost and the most recent occasion with the young girl. We have to look at ways to stop this thing from going on. That girl should not have been in Looma; that is not her country. So there are a lot of psychological issues that I think sometimes we do not take into consideration.

This is why I brought down this message from the people of the Kimberley. It is because everyone is at their wit's end. They do not know what to do. How can we as a Parliament change that? That is why I brought it to the Parliament. I have said yes, we would seek a parliamentary inquiry into suicide. We are in the Kimberley. You people are here in the cities. I am sure that these things happen in your cities—the drugs, the alcohol, and the sex abusers and that—but we never hear about them. But we are an open book in those Aboriginal communities; anybody can tell our life story about what is happening out there. All I am asking for is the request of these people from the Kimberley to be considered; it should not be ignored. I stand here and I say that I do not accept this motion because I believe in what I believe in. That is all I am going to say. Thank you.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Division

Amendment (deletion of words) put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr P. Abetz) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

Ayes (31)

Mr P. Abetz	Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Mr N.W. Morton
Mr F.A. Alban	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr R.F. Johnson	Dr M.D. Nahan
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr R.S. Love	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr V.A. Catania	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr C.D. Hatton	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Ms A.R. Mitchell	

Noes (16)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr P. Papalia	Mr P.B. Watson
Ms J. Farrer	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr C.J. Tallentire	Mr D.A. Templeman (<i>Teller</i>)

 Pairs

Ms W.M. Duncan	Dr A.D. Buti
Mr W.R. Marmion	Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr J. Norberger	Ms M.M. Quirk

Amendment thus passed.

Amendment (insertion of words) put and passed.

Motion, as Amended

Question put and passed.

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2016*Second Reading*

Resumed from 24 February.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [7.25 pm]: I would like to speak to the motion before us on the notice paper, which is a private members' bill, the Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2016, that was introduced by the member for Butler.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): There are too many conversations happening all at once. The member for Mandurah has the call, so let us take our conversations outside or hush our voices a little. Thank you.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Earlier this year members would be aware that I tabled a substantial online petition signed by over 20 000 online petitioners and a petition that complied with standing orders of this place that was signed by two members of the public—Margaret and Ray Dodd. Margaret and Ray's daughter Hayley went missing a number of years ago and she has never been found, and, of course, it is presumed that she met a tragic end. I do not want to talk about their case because it is before the court and I do not want to prejudice or have any negative impact on the proper procedures in this case. Margaret and Ray are like a number of parents and families in not only Western Australia but Australia generally who have loved ones, daughters or sons, who have gone missing—some who were murdered but their perpetrator has never been found or indeed the perpetrator has been tried for murder and been found guilty. Margaret and Ray have never, ever given up on making sure that justice is delivered for their daughter Hayley and for their family and for many other families affected by what is unimaginable trauma and grief. In the intervening years, both they and other parents and family members have campaigned for the introduction of a law or an amendment to current laws throughout Australia in the states and territories for what is coined "no body, no parole". This is along the premise of essentially creating a strong sense in legislation that a person who has been tried and found guilty of taking another person's life or lives is given an ultimatum that if they are not willing to cooperate with authorities and divulge the whereabouts of the deceased, then they should not be eligible for parole.

The member for Butler in introducing this bill into this place highlighted a number of other jurisdictions, including other states, that are either in the process of introducing this law or this proposal has been introduced already and is in practice around the world. We know that the Victorian and South Australian Parliaments now have similar bills before them and I understand that New South Wales and Queensland are contemplating such a move as well. I do not believe we, as Western Australians, should be the last state or territory to fall into line with the general mood of concern, as we seem to be in many other areas.

The member for Butler made an important point about the Attorney General's initial response to a matter. It was very disappointing that when this matter was brought before Parliament, via the petition and some prior media attention, it was dismissed by the Attorney General as a stunt. In fact, he described it as being simply a reaction to a woman's or a family's grief. This was particularly offensive to Margaret and Ray, because I can tell the minister and her government members that it was Ray and Margaret Dodd who approached the opposition and, indeed, the Attorney General. He and I, as the member for Mandurah, were the two members of this Western Australian Parliament who were highlighted in the original online petition. The petition was framed to the Attorney General of Western Australia and me as the member for Mandurah. I understand why the Attorney General's name appeared on the online petition because, of course, he is the Attorney General; he has jurisdiction over such matters. The reason that I was mentioned in the online petition was that I have known Margaret and Ray for a long time. Their daughter Hayley attended Coodanup College, or Coodanup Senior High School as it was known when she attended as a student before she went missing a year or so later. Up till the time I presented the petition in Parliament in February, over 20 000 people had signed it. Currently, there are some 38 000 signatures on that online petition and I will take the opportunity, probably next week, to table the additional signatures to the petition that have been collected online since the original 20 000 were tabled in this place.

I want to tell members unequivocally that this was not a stunt, as the Attorney General described. This was not an example of a woman's grief. This was a genuine effort by a family to seek justice for their daughter and for the daughters and sons of many other families across this country and in Western Australia, and for a number of families who still grieve and still want to find the final resting places and remains of their loved ones so that they, in their words, can finally lay them to rest. That is what they want. I can tell members that I admire Margaret Dodd; she is a feisty lady, but she was outraged by the Attorney General's response. I understand that subsequently, some days later, he did apologise but, to my knowledge, he has not apologised to her directly.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: He has in writing, yes.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am glad to hear that because that is essential. Margaret and her husband, Ray, were outraged. The Attorney General attempted at the time to dress this up as an opposition-led stunt; it was not. The government needs to be called to account for that. The simple fact is that this legislation is—it is a peculiar word to use in some ways—an incentive for someone who has been tried and found guilty of murder to divulge the whereabouts of the deceased in order to, essentially, have any eligibility for parole in the future. The legislation that has been introduced by the member for Butler has unequivocally included and is based upon the legislation that was introduced into South Australia.

Mr J.R. Quigley: And the Northern Territory now.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Every state and territory now seems to be falling into line. It is not as though it is an out-on-a-limb-type proposal that has been clutched out of the air; it is a genuine attempt to say to a person who has been tried and convicted of murder that they should have the decency to identify the whereabouts of the deceased—the person they have been committed for and found guilty of murdering. In his comments after his accusation that the legislation was a stunt, the Attorney General then sought to highlight that this legislation was unnecessary and that we already had measures and procedures to deal with that. This legislation makes it unequivocal to anyone convicted and found guilty of murder that if they do not divulge the whereabouts of the person they have been tried and convicted of murdering, they will not be eligible for parole. It is as simple as that.

I am very hopeful that the government will see fit to support this legislation that will send a very clear and unequivocal message to the perpetrators of murder out there that if they are tried and found guilty and convicted of murder, this is a condition of any future consideration of parole. As the member for Butler very clearly and effectively articulated, this legislation sends a very clear message to those people.

I plead on behalf of not just Ray and Margaret but other families in Western Australia who still wait for news of the whereabouts of the remains of their loved one—the member for Butler highlighted a couple of examples in this place—that we will have a situation in which Western Australia can demonstrate a maturity to progress this legislation through Parliament. It will be seen as another measure of sending a message to those people who perpetrate murder against their fellow citizens.

I know that the member for Girrawheen would like to make a comment. I do not expect that we will get to a vote this evening, but I can assure members that we will bring this bill forward in the coming weeks and take it to

a vote. I will be looking very closely at members opposite, many of whom profess to be on the side of the citizen, profess to be tough on crime and profess to support families experiencing grief and trauma. This is their chance to step up. They should not listen to the rhetoric of the Attorney General when he says that this is unnecessary legislation. I know that a few members on the other side will support this bill, but we need the majority of members in this place to support this bill so that it can move to the other place and progress to become a landmark piece of legislation. I assure members opposite that their support of the bill will be gratefully accepted. If they choose to oppose this bill, be it on their heads.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [7.40 pm]: It is a well-established principle in criminal law that we sometimes strike bargains with criminals. The most obvious example is a discounted sentence for pleading guilty. The rationale behind that is that it saves the state the expense of a trial and the trauma to witnesses in giving evidence and it streamlines the court waiting list. In those circumstances we give a discount. It is also a sign that the defendant has admitted his wrongdoing. For all those reasons, he or she is given a discount. What the shadow Attorney General proposes in this Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2016 is akin to that sort of arrangement. Most important, this bill is about saying to secondary victims of homicide that we will give them closure; we will ensure that they are not in a position of never knowing what has happened to their loved ones. If this is the kind of incentive that has to be given to offenders, so be it. The government might say that it cares about victims of crime, but the fact that it is not prepared to support this legislation shows to me very clearly that that is only rhetoric and it has little regard for the secondary victims of homicide, in other words, the families who remain.

As we have heard, this legislation has been enacted in South Australia and is being contemplated in other jurisdictions. I read today on the 3AW website, the Fairfax network, along with 6PR, about the father of a victim in a state where they are contemplating similar legislation. The article reads —

Ken Larcombe, whose 21-year-old daughter Jodie was murdered in 1987 but has never been found, told Neil Mitchell the law would help hundreds of victims' families.

“We are the ones doing a life sentence,” Mr Larcombe said.

“If a guy won't say where the body is, he's laughing at the families.

That's the last power these animals have over the families and the victims.

I think they would be sentiments shared by many secondary victims of homicide. If it is within our power to locate their loved one, we should make every endeavour.

Thirdly, this is legislation that the police support. We hear in this chamber on a daily basis how difficult the job of police is. If this is something that will mean, in the course of their investigation, that a suspect is more willing to disclose where a body is or maybe a co-offender is given greater incentive to disclose where a victim can be found, that is something the police want, and I do not think it is unreasonable. One of the arguments against this legislation, which has been levelled by the Attorney General is, “I have that discretion anyway; I have the discretion to refuse a parole application in those cases when it comes time to consider an offender's parole application.” We are talking about 15, 18 or 20 years hence. How do we know who will be in the job then? The Attorney General saying, “Trust me, I'll never release a person in those circumstances”, is, firstly, worthless because he is unlikely to be the Attorney General in 18 years. In any event, it seems to me to be legally flawed to say that he will refuse those applications in all cases when it is his sworn duty to consider each case on its merits. That undertaking is both meaningless in the sense that he is unlikely to be there and in the sense that his legal obligation is quite different from the political rhetoric which, as he said, is that he will not support applications in any event.

There has been some argument about what would happen if an offender were to get his parole but it turned out that the body had been moved. Surely, that is a difficult situation: should the offender still be released on parole? I think that shows a misunderstanding of or a failure to comprehend the exact nature of what is in the bill. It is not a large bill. It is four pages long. I would have thought that most people would be able to read and understand it. However, for the purposes of this legislation, the Prisoners Review Board has certain matters that it must take into account, including the nature and extent of the prisoner's cooperation, the timeliness of the prisoner's cooperation, the truthfulness, completeness and reliability of any information or evidence, and the significance and usefulness of the prisoner's cooperation. Therefore, in the remote circumstance that a body has been moved, the board can still take into account how timely the provision of that information was and how truthful, complete and reliable it was. So it would be a furphy to say that if the body has been moved, this will not advance the case further one way or the other. We say that because of the value for secondary victims, for family members and loved ones to have that closure, this legislation is very important.

One last thing I want to raise about the Prisoners Review Board more generally relates to the failure to publish reasons for refusal of parole. Previously, under the former Labor government, reasons were published about whether an offender was granted or refused parole, and that gave people a much better understanding of the

justice system. That was also particularly helpful because it enabled the community to pinpoint whether parole was being refused because an offender could not, for example, do a particular course whilst in prison. That kept the prison authorities honest because if they wanted to reduce the numbers in prisons, they had to make sure that people who were going to become eligible for parole had the capacity to do the necessary courses that would be a prerequisite for them getting parole. Now we have a situation that reasons for granting parole are published only when someone is successful. In terms of putting a magnifying glass to the system to see whether there are logjams, for example, in prisoners being able to get training before they get parole, it is very helpful. It is yet another example of how this government has failed to be transparent and disclose that it is partly responsible for prisoners not getting the training they need and going out in the community having served their full time without having done any rehabilitative courses whatsoever.

I, too, support this legislation. I congratulate the shadow Attorney General for bringing it to this chamber. Most of all, I say to all those families who are wondering where their loved ones are that if it were up to us, they may well get the opportunity to have that question answered.

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [7.49 pm]: I rise to speak on the Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2016. I and my Liberal–National government colleagues are just as serious and hard on crime as any other government could be. More than anything we would love to have a piece of legislation that could achieve what this bill purports to achieve. All of us would like to be able to put pressure on a prisoner to 'fess up and tell us where they put the body. No-one on any side of this place would argue against that. To think otherwise is absolutely ridiculous.

The issue I have about voting for this bill is trying to see where the bill articulates the notion that a prisoner must tell us where the body is. I will step the member through that. First of all, proposed section 12B(2) reads —

A report given under section 12 or 12A must not make a release recommendation in relation to a prisoner unless the Board is satisfied that the prisoner has satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the murder (whether the cooperation occurred before or after the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment).

My question is: what does cooperation entail? It is not actually defined. My second question is: what time frame does this cooperation have to take place in?

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: There is no actual defined time limit. It says “whether the cooperation occurred before or after the prisoner was sentenced”. The prisoner could be sitting in a jail for 15 or 20 years.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It is better than never knowing.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The people who want to know might well be deceased themselves by that point in time, so what point does this bill have?

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: My criticism, member, is that the issue of getting a prisoner —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Listen to what I am saying, because you will actually agree with me.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Listen to me. The issue at hand is that we want the prisoner to give up the location of the missing body. That is the issue. There is absolutely no argument on this side of the chamber with trying to solve that issue.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Member for Warnbro, you are on three calls. If you interject again, I will ask you to leave the chamber.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Proposed section 12B(3) reads —

For the purposes of subsection (2), the Board must take into account any report tendered to the Board from the Commissioner of Police evaluating the prisoner's cooperation in the investigation of the murder, including —

- (a) the nature and extent of the prisoner's cooperation; and
- (b) the timeliness of the prisoner's cooperation; and
- (c) the truthfulness, completeness and reliability of any information or evidence provided by the prisoner; and
- (d) the significance and usefulness of the prisoner's cooperation.

Again, I have questions about what this actually means. How do we get to a point where we have to hold the police commissioner to account on the prisoner's cooperation? How does that work practically? If the Commissioner of Police is doing his or her job, is it not their job to lock this person away for as long as possible? Is that not what they are there to do—find the murderer and put them away for as long as possible?

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Member for Butler, you said no?

Mr J.R. Quigley: It is the court's job to impose a sentence.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I agree. That is exactly right—it is the court's decision to do that; it is not the police commissioner's place to do that.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: It is interesting that the member for Butler interjects, and this is his bill. Maybe he thinks that the Western Australian public are simpletons, because the way he has drafted this bill does not reflect what he has been purporting in the media. They are different things. Nothing in this bill relates to the disclosure of the location of the deceased by the prisoner. It is not in the bill, and the member knows that.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Do you want me to answer that?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Absolutely.

Mr J.R. Quigley: The question will be asked by the police during the investigation: where is the deceased body? It is a question of whether the person cooperates or not. It is simple—the same as in other states.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I thank the member for that interjection. A key component of the member's bill is his faith and trust in the Commissioner of Police. Does the member for Butler agree with that? The member nodded, so he agrees with that. Let me read from an article in WAToday, titled "Police lie even under oath: Quigley". It reads —

Shadow Attorney-General John Quigley says he has no faith in police to give truthful testimony at a Corruption and Crime Commission inquiry into the Taser of Aboriginal man Kevin Spratt.

The member for Butler says he has no faith in police, yet a key component of his own bill is to rely on the Commissioner of Police's evidence.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Corrupt police who have been convicted of offences, I was talking about!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The member for Butler is like a jellyfish in a mire of Labor uncertainty! That is where he exists. The member has a spineless argument on this issue, and he does not know what he is talking about. He is out there trying to politicise the Sentence Administration Amendment Bill 2016 and he is a disgrace. He is trying to politicise this bill and take advantage of the emotions of a highly emotive topic.

Several members interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Families are in enormous distress out there in the community, and this side of the chamber would love nothing more than to be able to go to those people and say, "We want a bill, we want an act, that will help you find your loved ones sooner." But, member, this bill does not do it. This bill fails on all fronts, and this bill —

Several members interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: That is interesting, because —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): Members!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am on my feet, member for Butler. Let us just settle down and continue.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The member for Butler opposes mandatory sentencing.

Mr J.R. Quigley: You're going to vote for the murderers!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Butler!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Let us not forget that. The member for Butler opposes mandatory sentencing, yet he is trying to advocate leaving people in jail forever. He is advocating that he can do that with this bill.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Vote for the murderers! Vote for the murderers!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Butler!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: This is a flawed bill. Explain why it is not flawed.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Vote for the murderers!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you for the third time.

Point of Order

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I think it could be the second time; I do not want to lose my credit.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz): There were two marks again your name already, member for Butler, so I am afraid that is what I need to go by.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Third, is it? You said the first time.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is right; you have already been called twice, so I am calling you for the third time.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: You said the first time!

The ACTING SPEAKER: No, third; I meant to say third.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I just wanted to correct you because I did not want my previous interjections not to get full credit!

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is for the third time. If I need to call you again, you may be heading home a little early.

Debate Resumed

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I refer members to the last paragraph of the member for Butler's explanatory memorandum, which reads —

Clause 6 also mandates that the Board must take into account any report tendered to the Board from the Commissioner of Police evaluating a prisoner's co-operation including the extent of the prisoner's co-operation, the timeliness, truthfulness, completeness and reliability of the information and the significance of usefulness of the prisoner's cooperation with the investigation of the victim's remains.

Member, show me where that appears in the bill. Can the member for Butler show me?

Several members interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Show me where that is in the bill.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: It's not there.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Where is it? Who wrote the bill? I will read that last bit again —

... reliability of the information and the significance of usefulness of the prisoner's cooperation with the investigation of the victim's remains.

The explanation is false. The explanation relates to nothing in the bill. What type of a joke is that? That is a disgrace! This is a topic of enormous importance to a vast number of families who would love nothing more than to find the body of their loved one. The member for Butler is playing with the emotions of the Western Australian public; that is outrageous!

Several members interjected.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: That is outrageous. The member for Butler has not even gone to the trouble of checking his own bill.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Vote for the murderers!

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The member has not even looked at it!

Mr P.T. Miles interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Mr J.R. Quigley: You're voting for the murderers too, are you?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: When the member for Butler was doing a news conference on radio 6PR, he brought up the Dodd murder inquiry situation. This is a very sad case. Everybody on this side of the chamber —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You don't even care anyway.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We absolutely care. We set hard minimum sentences for murderers.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Where does it say "hard" sentences?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: That is what we do, member.

Ms M.M. Quirk: It is not in the bill anywhere, is it?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I get it! When we identified that the bill presented in the chamber —

Mr P.B. Watson: Sit down!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, given the hour, under standing order 61, this business is suspended.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

MOTOR VEHICLE (CATASTROPHIC INJURIES) BILL 2016*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [8.02 pm]: I am going to speak for another couple of minutes on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, but, before I do, I want to raise another matter first. In recent weeks there has been considerable road trauma. The statistics for fatalities and serious injuries has been less than edifying. One thing that was introduced by the previous road safety minister, Hon Rob Johnson, was the road trauma counselling service. That was a fantastic idea. It was similar to the last bill we were talking about; that is, those people who are left behind need support. The goal of the road trauma counselling service is to counsel victims, first responders, family members and other occupants of the motor vehicle. They receive counselling to ameliorate the trauma acquired through motor vehicle crashes. The original model that I looked at some years ago included not only the counselling model, but also mandated sessions for offenders. Offenders could be ordered by the court to attend a session with a victim of road trauma and be told how similar offending behaviour affects others on the road.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Excuse me, members. If you are having a discussion other than what is before the house, would you please go outside.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: In this context, it seems to me that a person who has an acquired brain injury through a road crash will not be able to speak on their behalf to the offending driver, but certainly the family members could do that. I would certainly be very keen for the road trauma counselling service to also include, similar to the very successful service in Victoria, mandated sessions with victims of road trauma ordered by the court as part of the sentence. I am told the service is very effective. Over 20 such sessions are conducted every month throughout the state of Victoria. It is a way for the offenders to empathise with those impacted by their offending behaviour. As a lot of us know, quite often those involved in serious crashes begin poor driving with lesser offences and it tends to escalate. In the context that much of acquired brain injury is through road trauma, and in the context of this bill, I ask the Minister for Road Safety—also the Minister for Health, because I think it may come under his portfolio—to consider extending the road trauma counselling service to include the capacity to recruit volunteers who are in some way victims of road trauma so they can tell their stories to offenders, and that such sessions be compulsory as part of any sentence.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [8.05 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to speak to the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. I have previously brought a grievance to the minister about the circumstances of Warrick Proudlove, a young boy from Albany, and in the upper house Hon Sue Ellery has given a very emotional speech on this issue.

First of all, I would just like to talk about Warrick Proudlove. It is the worst nightmare of every person in a regional town to hear on the radio that there has been a car accident just outside Mt Barker and that someone has been seriously injured. Being in Albany, our young people go up the highway every weekend. They go up to school and come home, and every time there is something on the news about an accident, fear goes through every parent whose child is in Perth and comes home at the weekend.

This particular night a friend of mine, Bob Dixon, was the police sergeant on duty, and I contacted him to find out who it was or whether he knew any details. He did not know many details. He just said that it was a young local boy and that he was very seriously ill in hospital. Unfortunately, some very good family friends of mine, Kevin and Trish Proudlove, got that horrible message: “Your son’s in Albany Hospital; we don’t think he’s going to survive the night.” What must have gone through their minds then about what had happened to their son? They did not realise the repercussions that would go on. It is now five years later, and they are still suffering.

I think I came up to Parliament the following week and I dropped in to the hospital. Everyone had gone from the room. I went in and there was Wazza, laying there on the bed, not a mark on him, and I thought, “Oh, he’s okay.” Then Kevin and Trish came in and said, “Oh, look, they think he’s got brain damage”, but just to see him there was just like the Wazza I knew. He was lying there on the bed with not a mark on him—maybe a little scar on the shoulder. What had happened was that they were coming home from Perth and a horse came out onto the road. The young guy who was driving swerved, went off the road and hit a tree.

When they tried to get compensation, the insurance company said, “Oh, no, the horse didn’t cause it. It was when it hit the tree.” It was just something minor like that. The fact that the horse was on the road meant that it came under some bill that was brought in by some British lord in 1900 that said that if a horse goes on the road, as long as the fences are up, it is not the fault of the owner. Therefore, there was no compensation. The family had to actually take to court a young man they had known for a long period of time to try to get the money. Obviously, they did not succeed, so a group of parents in Albany set up the Proudies Foundation. I would just like to mention some of the people who set that up, because these are people who, like me, had children who

drove up and back along Albany Highway all the time, either for uni or, in the case of young Wazza, to play footy for Claremont colts. He had a chance at being drafted. He was a lovely young boy; you could not ask to meet a nicer kid. All the chicks loved him; he was just one of those lovable young guys, and he was in this horrible accident. The people involved include Andrew and Michelle McGovern. Young Jeremy McGovern was absolutely distraught when I got up there the next day; he was great mates with Wazza. I also mention Jennifer and Steve Shann and Craig Dew—D-E-W. I always spell his name the wrong way and get into trouble! Craig Dew is an accountant. There is also Danielle Ryle, also an accountant, Greg and Jenny Lloyd, and Jamie Hodgkinson. We set up this charity or foundation. It has been amazing to see how people have chipped in. Claremont footy club has been great, and the West Coast Eagles. A young bloke called Harry Garland organised people to swim to Rottnest to raise money. They raised \$24 500 this year, and I think they raised \$25 000 last year. That is total of \$50 000 that was raised. The West Coast Eagles also had a fundraiser.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): Just one moment, member. Members behind the Chair, would you care to leave the room, please.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I cannot say enough about these people. Because this bill was coming on today, I rang Trish Proudlove up tonight and asked her how things were going, and she said, “I’m just very tired”. Sometimes when I go to see Wazza, I will say, “Do you barrack for Collingwood?”, and his mum will tell him to blink with his right eye if he does not barrack for Collingwood, and we can see it going through his mind, and two or three minutes later, we will see him blink. However, these things come and go. We have been trying to keep the family’s spirits up. However, they have to rely on people to raise money. We have raised a lot of money. We have changed the house that they have. We have changed the car and put in a hoist. However, these things should not be left to the community to do. I applaud the government for introducing this bill, because it will help people in the future who suffer a catastrophic injury. If Kevin and Trish and their family did not have the support of the Proudies Foundation and all the people who have given up their time, and continue to do so, they would be in a very difficult situation. When I rang Trish up tonight, she said, “I thought you were ringing up to say you couldn’t help anymore.” That is because after five years, people have dropped off. I said to Trish that I will be there for the long haul. It could have been any one of our kids. It could have been any one of my children, or anyone from anywhere else in town, who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I congratulate everyone involved with the Proudies Foundation. I hope I have mentioned Harry Garland. He is a young boy who used to play footy with Wazza, and he has raised \$50 000 in two years through the Rottnest swim to help look after his mate. For the family, their life has gone. Their life now surrounds Wazza. I am worried, because Wazza now has a seat at the Eagles games. The Eagles have given him a wheelchair seat. I still have not stopped hoping that he will become a Collingwood supporter.

Dr M.D. Nahan: The Eagles will do!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes. The Eagles have been fantastic to him. They have had him at their games. They have held fundraisers for him. Claremont footy club has also been fantastic. It is great that everyone is doing this. However, every year, about 44 people suffer a catastrophic injury. When we look at how the road toll is going, that number will increase in the future. Has that increase in numbers been taken into account?

Dr M.D. Nahan: The actuaries do it. It does not fluctuate a lot. There is not a great trend line in it so far.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is interesting to learn that some catastrophic injuries cost the Insurance Commission of Western Australia as much as \$15 million a year. I am sure the family of Ryan Marron would be interested in that, because they were offered only \$5 million. Ryan Marron is another Albany boy. I wrote a letter of reference for Ryan Marron to Michelle Roberts, the then Minister for Police, when he first wanted to get into the police force. The family of Ryan Marron has also had to shift to Perth. The Marron family look after their son every day, along with his girlfriend. I know these two families. These peoples have had their whole lives changed. But for the sake of God, that could have been us.

A bill such as this is tremendous. I was just looking through it today. I know we will ask a lot of questions at the consideration in detail stage, but I note that the explanatory memorandum states —

The Insurance Commission may also approve other kinds of treatment, care, support or services not listed either generally ...

I know the Proudies and young Wazza have had to find alternative treatments. So it would be interesting to see what is on the list. They have used things such as acupuncture, shock treatment and all this. It would be interesting to see the actual list. I do not know whether there will be a list or how that is going to work.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Member, I can provide you with a list. It is probably not altogether comprehensive, but I can provide you with an indicative list of the types of services, allied health and others, that are provided for catastrophically injured people. Of course, it varies from person to person.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, for male, female, child or adult.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Brain damage versus spine.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The explanatory memorandum states —

Application to participate

Under this clause, a person injured in a motor vehicle accident may apply to the Insurance Commission to participate ...

Probably about 50 per cent of the complaints I receive about insurance companies are about them not coming good on their promises. I do not know how we will do something such as this. Is there an actual board? The people on the commission —

Dr M.D. Nahan: No. I will go to that in my response to the second reading debate.

Mr P.B. WATSON: No worries. I refer to overseas treatment. The bill provides that participants are to be suspended from participation while they are absent from Australia. I know young Ryan Marron was not in this scheme, but he had to go overseas for three months. Would he not have got that support while he was away?

Dr M.D. Nahan: I tried to answer that one. It is for a period of time.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The explanatory memorandum states —

This clause provides that the Insurance Commission is not liable for legal costs in respect of legal services provided in relation to a participant's assessment of treatment, care and support needs.

Does that mean that the family would have to go through all that and pay for all the costs to have them assessed before the commission would look at them?

Dr M.D. Nahan: No. If they are catastrophically injured and qualify for this, the Insurance Commission will pay for all the assessment and all the advocates and the medical advice that goes to the panel that makes the decision.

Mr P.B. WATSON: There are other questions here I will probably ask at the consideration in detail stage, but I congratulate the Treasurer on bringing forward this bill. My stepdaughter was in an accident when she was probably 10 years old. She had a back injury and she still gets physiotherapy treatment occasionally and it gets charged back to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services because the accident happened over there. It is just great that this has happened. Will this legislation be in place from 1 July?

Dr M.D. Nahan: If we get it done.

Mr P.B. WATSON: And there will be no backdating? The Treasurer just cannot give one back for the Albany people. Congratulations to the government and the Treasurer. It is a great bill and I fully support it.

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [8.20 pm]: I too rise to speak on the very important Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, better known as the no-fault insurance scheme. I thank the other contributors to this debate. This issue has been debated in this house for some time and although we on this side congratulate the government for introducing the bill, with every bouquet there can be bricks. My brick to this is that when I debated workers' compensation legislation before the 2013 election with the then Treasurer, Hon Troy Buswell, the former member for Vasse, he rose in this place prior to the election —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): Excuse me, member. One moment, please. Members, the member for Mirrabooka is on her feet and about five different conversations are occurring in this place. Hansard is having difficulty hearing the dulcet tones of the member. Could people please show some respect and go outside if they wish to have a conversation and allow the member on her feet to proceed.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I would just like to remind this house that that there have been a number of occasions on which the then Treasurer, Hon Troy Buswell, spoke on this. I remember at least two occasions on which he addressed a debate on workers' compensation or other aspects of insurance schemes. I think there was a bill related to the Insurance Commission of WA at one stage as well. At that time he said that the government was thinking about and disposed to introducing a no-fault insurance scheme, and it was certainly part of the discussions with the federal government about the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Although this side of the house, the Labor opposition, congratulates the government, these changes could not really come at a worse time. The government is about to put a \$99 fee at the end of a boom and a downturn in the economic cycle and when there is an increase in unemployment and an increase in fees and charges.

When the Treasurer stood up all those years ago prior to the last election, if, instead of just big noting that the government was thinking about a no-fault scheme, he had actually brought it in, people would have had a much better capacity than they do now to absorb the increase. What is really fascinating about this whole thing is that not only were there opportunities then, there were opportunities when the member for Albany raised the issue in this house in respect of the case he just spoke about, which was the tragic circumstance of the young man who suffered considerable injuries in an unfortunate accident with a horse; and there were other times. We all say it is great that the government is doing this, but it has been a long time coming, and unfortunately it now comes at a difficult time.

Given that both sides of the house support this legislation, there needs to be a community campaign to make people realise the benefits of it. I point out that the Queensland Labor government launched an awareness campaign on 26 February, just recently, for the introduction of its injury insurance scheme, which is the equivalent to our no-fault scheme. That public awareness campaign is being conducted with the celebrated Paralympian Marayke Jonkers. It seems to me that with all the other glitz, glamour and hype the government is generating with its advertising of so many other things in the community, this is one thing that needs to be promoted as a necessary change, because \$99 a year is quite a significant change.

Mr P. Abetz: Very significant.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Yes, it is very significant—an additional \$99 a year.

The scheme will start from 1 July 2016. One of the nuts-and-bolts questions I have for the Treasurer is: I have just paid my car licence for 12 months, does that mean I do not have to pay the \$99 until the following 12 months? My son, who is on a minimal income and survives on bugger-all wages as a music teacher and university student, has paid his licence for three months. I can afford to pay my car registration for 12 months.

Mr P. Abetz: You might want to lend him some money.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: It is too late now! He has paid it; he has to pay his own bills.

Mr J.H.D. Day: Maybe you could help him!

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I could, minister, but I have to say that many people in the community I represent, and perhaps in the community the minister represents, do not have rich mothers, or mothers who are paid a good income and could help. I am also trying to encourage my 20-year-old son to realise that the world is full of people managing their finances. Those people who have less advantage in our community and who pay their licence on a three-monthly basis will be hit with this levy a lot sooner than those of us who have the privilege of paying the \$600-odd for a whole year. I am not sure whether the minister is aware that the only way to pay a licence fee every three months is by credit card. People who pay six-monthly and 12-monthly can go into a post office, transfer the money from an account, or pay by BPay, or any number of methods, but someone who pays three-monthly has to pay by credit card.

Mr P. Abetz: That has just changed. I have just got a letter from the minister. I had a constituent who had that problem and they've just changed the policy so they can now pay it in cash.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: That was not the case for the most recent round of licence charges, because my 20-year-old son, who works as a music teacher, could not pay by cash.

Mr P. Abetz: It has just come through.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The member says it came through this week. It is a real inequity for someone on a low income. Someone can front up to Uniting Aid, an organisation that does great community work in Westminster, Mirrabooka and the Stirling area through financial donations it receives to assist people with a financial payment. Uniting Aid often pays car licences for people who are unable to pay them, because it means they can access employment, get their kids to school and go to the shop and a whole range of things. If someone is really struggling to make ends meet, a car licence is one of the critical bills that this organisation is happy to meet. They will pay this bill only once a year, and only the three-monthly payment because they do not want people to become dependent on handouts. Some people live from Centrelink payment to Centrelink payment and the knock-on effects from driving an unlicensed car are such a disadvantage to people. I am pleased to hear from the member for Southern River that that has changed. I wrote the same letter to the minister, only to be told something different, although it was some time ago. I am surprised to hear that a three-month licence can now be paid at a post office and by other means.

Dr M.D. Nahan: If it isn't, I will make sure it is—the point is taken.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Yes, because it is such an inequity. The other question I have to ask, which will not come as any surprise to members in this place, is because I worked for WorkCover on workers' compensation cases for a long time. Insurance premiums are the bane of WorkCover, because it has to set the premium rate in workers' compensation. It is not an exact science. We all know that premiums for workers' compensation have come down over the last eight years since the Liberal-National government changed the system. That is good for employers, but I really question the \$99 levy, given we already have a body of payment through third party insurance. I am sceptical of insurance companies, the Insurance Commission of Western Australia and premium increases, given my experience. I know that it is all done by actuaries, and there are only about two or three actuaries of that sort in Western Australia so we have to rely on those.

Dr M.D. Nahan: We went to both of them for that reason.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The Treasurer went to both the actuaries that exist in Western Australia! He cannot do much more than that. The RAC also questioned the \$99 cost, which it considered to be inflated, although I think it saw the previous green paper with a hundred-and-something-dollar cost, which was more inflated.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They also went to the Productivity Commission's report that used older data. I'll go through that explanation.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Yes. I notice from the RAC's response that the cost in New South Wales was \$71, it was \$34 in the Australian Capital Territory and it was \$106 in South Australia. I am sceptical about these things, having a history of both being an advocate and sitting on the board and seeing how the actuaries work.

My understanding is that the stakeholders have requested an advisory committee structure to guide and support the Insurance Commission in implementing the scheme. It will actively support the commission in implementing its new role. An advisory committee would be particularly important for dispute resolution, as the member for Albany so aptly pointed out. I can imagine that it is never an easy job for insurance assessors. They see many difficult, trying and tragic stories, so, in some ways, they become desensitised to them. Although they want to have regard and respect for the individuals, the assessors have to respect that each person who comes to them does not know that the workers in the Insurance Commission have seen 10 or 20 people in that situation or worse. Each case needs to be treated with respect. I have no doubt that dealing with tragic situations, and having to put a dollar figure on them is never easy.

I refer to the 2011 report "Evaluating the Costs, Accessibility and Availability of Services for those with Catastrophic Injury in WA" from the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health and the Centre for Health Services Research in the School of Population Health at the University of Western Australia, by Dr Caroline Bulsara, Beatriz Cuesta-Briand, Associate Professor Rachael Moorin and Anne McKenzie. I know this to be true because I have seen it, but this paper mentions the following issue —

Trust was a major issue with some carers believing that the lawyers were working in the favour of the Insurance Commission rather than themselves.

The paper states that one carer said that when they got to the office, the lawyer and the SGIC were "going off to talk". It continues —

So, they left us sitting alone in an office and they went and had their little round table about what they thought they could throw at us to keep us happy.

They experienced that feeling of being completely rejected. The following is another example, from the paper, of a carer who states —

"What happened was, James was just a number to the Insurance Commission. They paid wages to staff because what happened, after he got out of the nursing home, he cost \$14,000 a week. And the Insurance Commission didn't pay that. It was just massive."

People are dealing with these sorts of tragic situations of catastrophic injury, which is why these insurance payments are being given to people.

As I understand it, the definition of "catastrophic injury" includes spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, multiple amputations, severe burns and permanent traumatic blindness. These injuries are extreme and these people are at the quite harsh and debilitating end of the injury spectrum.

Timeliness is absolutely essential. It is hard to have timely dispute resolution procedures when lawyers are involved. That is just the reality of processes and procedures. When we add doctors and medical opinions into that equation, we can lose the importance of timeliness for rehabilitation purposes, whether that is just rehabilitation to the best life possible. That is quite an important issue for me.

I think the no-fault aspect of the scheme has to be honoured. The no-fault aspect of workers' compensation matters is often corrupted by insurers trying not to accept claims. For me, a no-fault scheme is really about putting all the documents on the table, honesty, transparency and a capacity for people to feel included and is part of a process that leads them to a resolution and enables them to move to the next stage of that traumatic experience.

In closing, I commend the workers and the families who work with people who have had catastrophic injuries. They are the heroes of our community. They give above and beyond. Most workers in the disability sector would barely earn a minimum wage over the years because of part-time work but they will always give of their time, above and beyond. Then we add the families to that. It is a fantastic development that communities come around to help people with disabilities. Let us always remind ourselves that many people who have had catastrophic injuries have gone on to do amazing and great things. We should be using this insurance scheme to make sure that they have the opportunity to do great things, such as the Paralympian whom I spoke about before, Marayke Jonkers, who was catastrophically injured in an accident in Queensland. She has obviously met adversity through her disability but her other abilities have come through and she has achieved great things. We in this house always need to remind ourselves that when we speak of people who have had those injuries, it is with the greatest respect for their capacity to confront those injuries and make the best possible life for themselves. This bill can go towards doing that.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [8.39 pm]: I rise to support the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. Although it has been a long time in the making, I just hope that all the ends have been tidied up. I have certainly seen people impacted by catastrophic injuries, as have most of us in this chamber. I believe those injuries are more prevalent in country areas, which do not have support services. People have to travel. The care generally falls back onto the parents, who incur a huge impost and never grizzle about helping out but would like some help themselves. We have seen the strain—I am sure I am talking for all members in this place who have had to deal with these issues—on those people’s faces but they battle through. They put themselves last and look after the person who is injured first. It is great to see this legislation. I had some concerns that were addressed just recently. I was concerned that a lump sum may be paid to people. I have seen actions in the civil court that have resulted in people getting a lump sum. Some may have slight brain damage while others are more severely damaged, which affects their mobility.

We worked very hard with the family of a young person—he did not have parents, but he had a family group—to try to stop him spending too much of his lump sum. When someone buys seven Commodores in seven weeks, the only person who is happy is the owner of the caryard they were bought from. That is what happened. He wrote off the cars and looked like almost killing himself again because the money was available for him to grab. I am glad that this Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill will not allow that because it is very difficult to get people to say that they have to pull someone into gear, but then they say that the injured person is still capable of making decisions, but when we stand back and look at it, we find that is not quite the case. That is a major positive.

On the negative side, I believe collectors of vehicles such as motorcycles will incur a fee of \$30 a vehicle but someone might own 30 motorcycles. They are not costly to collect but people might want to ride them at rallies and that sort of thing. One collector around the Jurien Bay area has something like 50 motorbikes.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Are they all registered?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes. When a rally is held, the owner gets people in to ride the bikes. I think we should look at that because it is probably an impost —

Dr M.D. Nahan: Does he charge people to ride the bikes or let them ride them for free? Is it a business?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No; it is not a business. People can put their name down to ride a 1980 Rudge or something like that. It has been raised with me several times. It is mainly about motorcycles because they can be bought at a reasonable price. It is not that someone is a multimillionaire because they have that many. As collectors’ items, they can be bought for between \$3 000 and \$5 000, unless it is an extremely rare one, of course. There are those sorts of smaller issues. Certainly, the good aspects of this bill far outweigh the negative aspects, but that impost on multiple vehicles is something that I would like to be considered further down the track.

The other aspect mentioned briefly, as seen in other areas, is when the Public Trustee gets hold of the payments. It is very hard to get the trustee to release money for items over and above those required for day-to-day living. For example, a person might want to buy a large plasma TV, but the trustee says that it is a luxury item so they will not release the money or reluctantly pays it even though the money belongs to the injured person. Those sorts of restrictions must be freed up so that the person has some dignity in being able to choose what they want to put in their room or to make their life a bit more comfortable. They should not have to squabble with the people who hold the purse strings. It is a matter of dignity for the person. It is soul destroying if they have to go to court to get the money or threaten to go to court and write letter after letter to get what they want.

All those issues aside, I certainly strongly support this bill. The only other criticism is that, although many people have said that they support the bill, they would rather have the fee attached to their driver’s licence. I understand it is attached to vehicle registration fees because of the sum required. If the fee is attached to our driver’s licence, it is a direct cost to the individual rather than indirectly due to the type of car or the number of cars we own. I will argue not for owners of two or three cars paying the fee, but for collectors who own multiple vehicles. Maybe there should be a cut-off point for how many vehicles are classed as vintage or veteran.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Vintage cars are \$30.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I am not too concerned about those people. I do not think \$30 will be out of the ordinary for them. There is someone sitting on the government back bench who has an old HJ, I think!

Mr J.M. Francis: It’s a ’68 Camero, WB.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: He is the only one in Parliament who is getting here for \$30. A very pointed comment was made by the member who spoke before me about the work that has been done by parents, relations and siblings to make sure this bill is up and running. I take my hat off to them.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Parliamentary Secretary) [8.46 pm]: I rise to make a short contribution on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. I would like to reiterate thanks to the government for bringing about the circumstances whereby people who are catastrophically injured in an accident that has been their fault will now be covered at least for the cost of their treatment and their long-term care. I believe that an average of about 44 people in Western Australia fall into this category every year. There is another group of people under the compulsory third party insurance scheme who lose a portion of their support through contributory negligence and who will also benefit from some of the new charges to be levied on vehicles.

At the moment, as we know, people who have caused and are at fault in an accident have no access to compulsory third party insurance benefits and must rely on the normal disability access and services that are provided, which puts a great impost on their families and communities. This bill will seek to address the need to meet those costs and provide the necessary support for those 44 people a year. I understand that no return from any of the money received will go to the government in a dividend or in any other way.

I wanted to speak tonight because I represent a farming area. One of the concerns that farming groups have expressed as recently as only a week or two ago—the new president of the Western Australian Farmers Federation also made the point—was about the extra impost that this bill will impose on farmers. I understand this concern, because many farms have multiple vehicles, many of which are not used very often or not used very often on the road but which require, if they go on the road, to be registered; so, there will be an increased impost on the farmers due to that. I wanted to make a few points about that.

First of all, farm vehicles that are classified as business vehicles will benefit along with all other business vehicles registered in Western Australia. I think there are about 500 000 such business vehicles that will have a reduction in the compulsory third party element of their insurance due to the fact that their risk profile is considered to be quite good compared with that of private vehicles. That extra impost that people now pay for a business vehicle is being removed. Farmers as well as other businesspeople will benefit from this.

Secondly, thanks to arguments by regional members in this place such as me, farmers will be granted significant further concessions on standard contributory charges for the many classes of vehicles that they hold, such as a farm registered utes, fire trucks, tractors, spraying equipment et cetera, and that will cut those costs that would otherwise have been applied by about 50 per cent. I thank the Western Australian government and the Treasurer for making that concession available for the farming community. I still acknowledge that there is a real cost to many farmers. Speaking as a wheatbelt resident and farmer myself, I say to farmers who are concerned about this extra cost that, realistically, it is our family members, our sons and daughters, our workers and community members, who more than anyone else, disproportionately to the rest of Western Australia, will benefit from this scheme. Sadly, for a long time in the wheatbelt area, as we heard the Minister for Road Safety say in announcing the results of the wheatbelt safety review the other day, there has been a problem with “killed and serious injury” accidents—as they say, KSI incidents. The national average for these types of accidents is around 4.9 per 100 000 people per annum. In the wheatbelt, the rate is 49.8—that is, 10 times the national average. It is very clear that some of the biggest beneficiaries of this legislation will be the residents of the wheatbelt, the midwest and other farming areas. Once again, while I acknowledge that these extra costs are there, the farming community needs to look closely at the accident statistics in their areas and understand that they and their families will benefit. I hope they never have to use the provisions of this legislation, but if they do, unfortunately, find themselves involved in a catastrophic accident and it is their fault, they will have access to this level of care that they would not otherwise receive. In country areas it is probably more important and more costly than anywhere else to get that type of cover. A further note to make is that this cover will actually apply to registered vehicles, whether or not they are on a road. If a farmer has an accident on the farm, and not on the road, and it is with a registered vehicle, and he or she is at fault, they will still be covered by this insurance provision. That should be noted by the farming community.

I am glad of the concessions that the Western Australian government has applied to these costs, but I make no apology for the cost being imposed, because I consider that the overall actions are part of a compassionate response to a very serious problem.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler) [8.53 pm]: I am the last speaker of the evening on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, and I will therefore try to keep my comments reasonably brief. Much has been traversed already, and we have consideration in detail to come. Obviously, I rise as a member of the opposition, which supports this bill. I want to raise a couple of points with the minister, but they might have to wait until consideration in detail. Although the opposition supports the bill, I query a few little hooks in it. The first relates to the issue raised by the member for Moore of vehicles used on private land that are nonetheless registered vehicles. In those circumstances, they will come within the scheme. As I said, I will try to keep this brief, because I will raise these issues in consideration in detail. I am not seeking to simply nitpick but, having been in legal practice for some time before becoming a member of this place, I know how things here can be assumed to be fairly clear but can become matters of contention in another place, or other places. One of the things that I raise, arising from the contribution by the member for Moore, is the definition of “private land” in clause 5 of

the bill, “Motor vehicle injury to which Act applies”, if the vehicle is registered and part of the insurance scheme, either here or elsewhere, and is on private land. The definition reads —

private land means land that is —

- (a) alienated from the Crown for any estate of freehold; or
- (b) the subject of a conditional purchase agreement, or of a lease or concession with or without a right of acquiring the fee simple in that land.

I am thinking now of remote areas. I am not quite sure whether land vested with traditional owners under native title becomes alienated from crown land. I am thinking of a lot of Indigenous people here, because a lot of them—I do not want to put them down as a class—often drive either without a driver’s licence or in an unregistered vehicle. It might become a point of contention that land upon which they were driving had become alienated from crown land by reason of it being vested under native title. That is one query I raise. The minister will have his advisers at the table during consideration in detail, and I flag that now so that they can contemplate that beforehand. These matters are all on the fringes. The actual scheme of the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016 was published in a green paper that was reviewed by the Law Council of Australia and reported on in December 2014. The general scheme of this bill would fit with best practice as identified by the Law Council of Australia, and better than that of other jurisdictions. I am not addressing the main, to put it colloquially, guts of the bill, but looking at the edges of the bill as to its reach. That is why I raised unlicensed vehicles driven on land that has been alienated from crown land under the native title scheme as one.

Another area, Treasurer, is that the Crown has issued leases; I am now thinking of pastoral leases, although there are some mining leases. I have certainly not travelled as far as the member for Kimberley on pastoral leases; my experience of that is a little limited, although I worked on a pastoral station for a while as a jackaroo in the early days. I will use Gnaraloo station as an example because it is now quite famous. It is situated just north of Carnarvon and attracts a lot of tourists. The tourist attraction is really the beach on a pastoral lease that has been alienated from the Crown, nonetheless it gets a lot of tourist traffic —

Dr M.D. Nahan: Yes, it does. Literally thousands of grey nomads go there every year.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Thousands. I remember that when Billabong did secret surf spots of the world, Gnaraloo was featured. No-one could talk about Gnaraloo; no-one mentioned the name because no-one wanted any crowds there. Now, lots of people go there.

Dr M.D. Nahan: They even have a barber shop and a bowling green.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Gnaraloo is one. Another favourite of mine is a station called Warroora; I do not know whether the Treasurer has been to Warroora.

Dr M.D. Nahan: One of the committees did a review of caravan parks, and we went to all those. I went with the member for Collie–Preston.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The Treasurer is a very lucky man; I wish I had been on that committee. I have spent some wonderful days at Warroora station, and there, of course —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): Peter Evans was managing it.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Peter Evans?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I do not know whether it was, Mr Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It was.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I am just trying to think of the guy’s name or the lady who owned Warroora; it will come to me after. There are station tracks because there are different beaches at Warroora. There is a lovely pool on Warroora; there are a number of different places on Warroora station.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Maggie’s.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes, that is another one.

As I understand it, they are all on land that has been alienated from the Crown by way of leasehold. The access roads are on private land. People on this private land use all sorts of vehicle equipment—beach buggies and the like—some of which are not licensed. There are vehicles on private land that are not licensed, not because they have not been registered but some of these beach buggies are never intended to be licensed. There are also station vehicles on there. What happens on these pastoral leases when there is an accident resulting in a catastrophic injury, but it was on private land in an unregistered vehicle? It seems that the legislation does not cover that and I want to raise that.

Another thing I raise with the minister now, at this time of night, is that although the opposition agrees with the spine of this legislation, I want to make a general criticism of the bill. The general criticism of the bill is not what the bill is trying to achieve, but how it is presented to this Parliament. Between clauses 3 and 33—that is 30 clauses—I have counted that 10 are subject to regulations. The determinations of at least 10 of those clauses between clauses 3 and 33 will be the subject of regulations, which we do not have before the chamber. It is a not uncommon feature in government at the moment that bills are brought in without the accompanying regulations. As people say, especially in insurance schemes and policies, the devil is in the fine print. For example, it is stated at clause 11(1) —

If the Commission accepts a person as an interim participant then, subject to subsection (2), the person remains a participant in the CISS —

That is, the catastrophic injury support scheme —

for a period determined in accordance with the regulations.

We do not know what those regulations are. Clause 14, “Suspension of participation”, states at subclause (2) that the regulations may confer power on the commission to suspend a person in prescribed circumstances. We do not know what is contemplated there. It is the same at clauses 16 and 17. It is stated at clause 18(3) —

The Commission is not liable for any expenses in respect of the following —

...

(b) treatment, care and support needs that are not assessed treatment, care and support needs;

(c) treatment, care and support needs excluded from the operation of this section by the regulations.

When we go to the interim support scheme, we do not know what is in and what is out because we do not get to see the regulations. It is the same at clause 18(4)(b), which states —

any monetary or other limits on the provision of particular treatment, care and support needs to a participant in the CISS set out in the regulations;

That could be capped by the regulations. Although we agree with the philosophy and with what the government seeks to achieve, in so far as scrutiny by this chamber to make sure people are properly protected, so much of the real operative clauses of this bill are subject to regulations to be determined by the executive. We know from experience in this chamber that regulations are not subsequently debated in detail, though they will be required to be laid before Parliament for 21 days. That can happen at any time, and then they become law. People ask, “How did this happen?” and the reply is, “It’s in the regulations.”

Another example of this is the anti-association laws introduced to this Parliament by the then Attorney General Hon Christian Porter. When the government introduced the anti-association laws—the anti-bikie laws, the anti-gang laws—so much of it was subject to regulations that the act actually did not come into effect for years after the passage of the legislation through this chamber because it was all waiting upon regulations. There has never been an application brought under that legislation because it all seemed to die on the vine whilst everyone was waiting for regulations. As you would know only too well, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr M.J. Cowper), being a former police officer and having an interest in these matters, no application has ever been brought. We await the regulations but we do not know how long it will take for these regulations to come.

To take the matter raised by the member for Victoria Park about disputes over adequate care and support in any particular case, that is covered by clause 26 of the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, “Review of treatment, care and support assessment”, which states —

If a participant in the CISS —

The catastrophic injuries support scheme —

disputes a treatment, care and support assessment, —

This is what the member for Victoria Park was referring to —

the participant may apply to the Commission, in accordance with the regulations, for a review of the treatment, care and support assessment.

We do not know whether there are time limitations on that or what the process is for that. So often, regulations set out a delimitation of time for applications but we as a Parliament do not get to see that. I said that between clauses 3 and 33 there are 10 clauses subject to regulations. As I said, we can look at the scheme; it is terrific and is what Western Australia has been waiting for, but can we give our final verdict? We will certainly support the passage of the legislation, but can we give our final verdict? No, because we do not know what is contained in the regulations or what is contemplated in the regulations. I stopped at clause 33 because we then come to

clause 34, which provides the statutory power for the Governor to make regulations, and that is normally drafted as wide as possible and is so here. Clause 34(1) reads in part that, for giving purpose to this legislation —

The Governor may make regulations prescribing matters —

- (a) required or permitted to be prescribed by this Act; or
- (b) necessary or convenient —

We do not know what is contemplated there. The whole scheme could be drastically diminished or enhanced by what is contained in regulations.

I will not go on for much longer because I am at the end of the operative clauses. Clause 35 provides that the regulations may adopt codes. Clause 35(1) reads, in part —

In this section —

code means a code, standard, rule, specification or other document, published in or outside Australia, that does not by itself have legislative effect in this State;

The regulations can adopt something from another jurisdiction. It even contemplates—we will get to this during consideration in detail—codes published outside Australia. I do not know what the government's thinking is there as to what could be adopted that has been published outside Australia without being debated in this chamber—that is, a rule from another jurisdiction that is not debated in this chamber but is imported into the law of Western Australia by the promulgation of a regulation.

Clause 35 goes on to state —

- (2) Regulations may adopt, either wholly or in part or with modifications —
 - (a) any code; or
 - (b) any subsidiary legislation made, determined or issued under any other Act or under any Act of the Commonwealth, another State or a Territory.
- (3) The adoption may be by —
 - (a) incorporating the code or subsidiary legislation in the regulations; or
 - (b) incorporating the code or subsidiary legislation by reference.

That means that a whole structure that we cannot forecast or contemplate might be imported into the scheme. This is not to be taken as a particular criticism of this bill or of the Treasurer. It is a general criticism of the way in which a lot of government legislation is now coming forward—that is, the substantive bill that is to become the act comes before the Parliament, but no draft regulations are laid on the table of the house. That means that members do not have the advantage of perusing the draft regulations and discussing them during consideration in detail. There is also no elucidation in the second reading speech of what is to come by way of regulations.

I have talked about clauses 3 to 33 of the bill. Ten of those 30 clauses are subject to the promulgation of regulations. Clauses 34 and 35 are broad clauses that deal with the making of regulations. As I have said, those clauses are so broad as to empower the executive, by regulation, to incorporate legislation that has been passed in other state jurisdictions, or even in jurisdictions outside of Australia. I will be interested to hear what the Treasurer has to say on this subject during consideration in detail. Given the hour, we will raise those matters further during consideration in detail. Thank you.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer) [9.13 pm] — in reply: I first want to thank members for their very good comments on the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016. This is a very important bill. This is a bill for which people and families in Western Australia have been waiting for a long time, and we finally are getting there. I would like to follow up on the lead speaker's 13 points and try to deal with those.

Mr Acting Speaker, did I hear something?

Several members interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: We have a compulsory third party insurance system in this state that has been in existence for seven years. It is based on the traditional common law fault-based system. Our approach in this bill is to sustain the current system and not change it. All the other states, with the exception of Queensland, have adopted legislation similar to what we are enacting today—that is, a complete no-fault system. They have done away with fault-based common law rights. We will be keeping the common law rights and a fault-based system. However, that will be augmented for people who are catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle accident for which no fault can be found by another party. Those people will now be covered through a no-fault system. That is what we are doing in this bill. As members have said, it is estimated that each year in Western Australia, 44 people on average are catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle accident for which no fault can be found.

The purpose of this bill is to set up a catastrophic injuries scheme and fund to provide support for these 44 people on average. The number of people who are catastrophically injured will vary from year to year.

This bill needs to be put in the context of a range of changes that are taking place in disability services. We have the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which is evolving over time. A couple of trials are underway in Western Australia—one federal and one state based. Other systems are operating around the country. In the move to the NDIS, there was a need to look at what systems can be put in place to cover people who are disabled.

The National Injury Insurance Scheme is also under debate. That is evolving. That augments through various insurance mechanisms the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The commonwealth government had the commonwealth Productivity Commission about five or six years ago do a review of the NIIS and it specifically dealt with catastrophic injuries in motor vehicles and it recommended the move to a no-fault basis. By the way, it recommended a move to the no-fault basis across the board and to do away with common law rights. We have chosen not to do that. We have taken a different appropriate and I think the member for Butler in referring to the Law Society of Australia —

Mr J.R. Quigley: Law Council of Australia.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The Law Council of Australia supports that.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Best practice in Australia.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The member for Victoria Park and I had some discussions across the chamber. I suspect the issue about covering the issue of insurance more widely outside motor vehicles and, indeed, catastrophic injuries outside those will be a discussion for the future. The issue is how we fund the disability services in addition to the NDIS whereby no insurance mechanism is possible. This scheme restricts it to people in registered motor vehicles in Western Australia who are injured when no fault is found, whether it is on roads or private land. The member for Butler raised a good point and I have to seek advice from my advisers about what “private land” refers to. He made some really interesting points, including that we do not want to narrow the definition of “private land” to exclude the many pastoral leases, native title lands and other things in this state.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: ALT land.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes. I will get advice on that and we will go to it in consideration in detail. The scheme applies to drivers, passengers, pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists, who can claim if they are catastrophically injured in a motor vehicle crash. The member for Victoria Park raised the issue about bicyclists. They do not have compulsory third party insurance or this insurance if they are injured and no fault is found. If they are injured by a car and the car is at fault, they are covered by the CTP system. Under this system, if there is no fault, whatever can be determined, they are covered by it. Catastrophic injuries, as I think others have mentioned, include spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, multiple amputations, severe burns and permanent traumatic blindness. As everybody has identified, most of us deal with people in the community who are struggling and we have come across people who are taken care of or who have personally suffered severe injuries such as this. It not only is soul-destroying, but also changes the family’s life permanently. It is something that simply a society needs to assist them with. That is why we are doing this.

Catastrophic injuries and treatment and care and support are defined by national minimum benchmarks, member for Butler. Those are being set up in the context of the NDIS and we are working on it. It is going to be shared across the country. One of the issues that we, unfortunately, cannot deal with effectively is the retrospectivity. The Warrick Proudlove accident is a classic example that brought to attention the need for this legislation and this fund. He was injured in an accident in which the vehicle avoided hitting a horse, if I remember correctly, and the driver was not at fault. By the way, we are considering legislation to address the issue of stray animals on roads, which is a really big issue in Western Australia, and that will, hopefully, provide some assistance to people in accidents such as Warrick’s, which was the result of a stray animal owned, hopefully, by somebody. Nonetheless, we are not going into retrospectivity because the difficulty is when we start and when we do not.

It is estimated that, on average, lifetime coverage per catastrophic injury is \$4 million, but it varies significantly. In fact, it varies between about \$2 million and \$15 million per person, which is a large variation. Importantly, there was a debate on an issue that the member for Victoria Park raised about exclusions. The issue has been raised and I have talked on radio about it. People raised the question of what would happen if someone contributed negligence to their catastrophic injury because they were drunk or fell sleep or whatever. This is a no-fault system and the principle of no fault is simply that there is no fault. Also, we do not want to go into the legal cost of finding fault. There is another important issue. In our system, if no fault is found, people are not left behind; they are taken care of across a range of agencies, including the Disability Services Commission and the Department of Health. I cannot say that this is adequate in many cases, and that is why we are going to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but those people are taken care of. This system basically relieves the burden on the safety net system we have, if you like, and funds it directly. Also, there are no deductions for

contributing negligence in this system, so if a person is not wearing a seatbelt and they are catastrophically injured, they get 100 per cent of the care. It is care that is both necessary and reasonable and includes medical treatment, dental treatment, rehabilitation services, ambulance, transport, respite care, attendant care, domestic assistance, aids, prostheses, education, vocational training, and home and transport modification. That includes not only medical treatment, but also the full range of allied health services.

Another issue that was raised was the quickness of this response. It is very important to respond quickly. Under the fault-based system in which people often have to spend a contentious time proving fault, particularly if the injuries are not catastrophic, there can be a delay. The way this will work is that people will be immediately appointed a care coordinator. It will often take time to assess the extent of both the needs and injuries, and I have been informed that it often takes up to two years. Sometimes for children, because they are growing, it takes longer, but there is a system in place to identify catastrophic injuries quickly and also an interim arrangement can be put in place so they can move to more permanent care in the future. Under our existing compulsory third party insurance, most payments are lump sums, so the catastrophically injured person or their carer is given a lump sum of some sort and the injured person is taken care of by their families, a carer or a public trustee of some sort. Under the Insurance Commission of WA system, there is also the option for ICWA to make periodic payments, so there are two streams—lump sum and periodic payments. Under this no-fault system, the payments will not be lump sum; periodic payments will be determined.

One of the major issues that we have to deal with is disputes. We have had a large number of debates around the community about whether or not the dispute system will be adequate. The member for Victoria Park raised in a very constructive manner the role of lawyers. I am not going to say anything disparaging about lawyers. My father was a lawyer and dealt with this type of issue for most of his adult life. My wife is a lawyer also, although she has not dealt with this issue. Under our fault-based systems, lawyers have a prominent role, particularly in determining fault in the courts and otherwise, and of course the extent of the injuries, catastrophic or otherwise. Their role there will continue. Under the no-fault system, the focus is mainly on medical processes rather than legal ones. There will be scope for lawyers in the non-medical determination.

New South Wales and Victoria have a similar no-fault system. New South Wales has had this system for 10 years and there has not been a single non-medical dispute requiring lawyers.

Mr J.R. Quigley: You're more reticent and kinder to lawyers than the Bard in *Richard III* in Dick the Butcher's great speech to the proletariat in which he said, "First, kill the lawyers!"

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I am trying to stop myself from making those sweeping statements—I avoid that. The system that we have here is that the Insurance Commission of WA will start out by appointing a care coordinator, who will take on the advocacy for the person. They will be trained in assessing the needs of the patient, the catastrophically injured person, and in identifying and arguing the case. We have an agent for these people, who is a care coordinator appointed and paid for in full by ICWA, and that person will be the catastrophically injured person's agent through the system. They will also have access to medical assessments, medical experts and medical advocates, and they will be paid for in full by ICWA. If it is required that the medical expert be flown from some other place or, indeed, that the patient be flown to some other place in Australia for an assessment, that will be paid for by ICWA. If the assessment of the catastrophic injury and the services goes before a medical panel—I will get to the appointment of the panel in a minute—they will be medical experts. If there is a dispute about whether the injury is catastrophic or the extent of care that is required, it will go before a medical panel. If a disagreement is put forward by the catastrophically injured person or their care coordinator, there is an alternative medical dispute resolution committee. My concern was: who will set up the medical assessors and the members of the dispute resolution committee? My experience with my father—I think the member for Armadale raised this—was that in this business there are people working for the insurance companies and people working for the lawyers; they never meet, and we know what they are going to say. ICWA initially put forward the idea that it would appoint them. I have changed that; the minister will appoint them. Of course, the minister does not know very much—this minister does not know one doctor from the next—so it will go to cabinet, and I am sure that future ministers will also bring it to cabinet to decide.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: That is a very important distinction, because if you had only Insurance Commission-appointed doctors, there would always be doubt about that. I hope that the minister of the day would be mindful about the perception of the decisions.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes. I hope that the minister of the day does not take the advice of just the Insurance Commission, but talks to their ministerial colleagues in health and disability services and, in the future, the National Disability Insurance Scheme to make sure they have a wide panel. I might be putting words in her mouth, but the Minister for Mental Health told me that these assessment panels are in existence now. The minister has very little clarity around them, but they are assessed and appointed separately from the Disability Services Commission. There is a lot of process in there that we will look at, but my decision was that the responsible minister will choose the medical assessors. Taking it to cabinet will bring some transparency into that process, which I think is very important.

A lot of this is fleshed out, if the member is interested, in the review undertaken recently by the Queensland government, because it is exploring introducing a no-fault system. There simply have not been too many disputes in New South Wales and South Australia, even of a medical type. The major medical dispute was not about whether someone was catastrophically injured—that is usually quite obvious; it was about the extent and nature of care. The extent of care is what we have to focus on. As I say, it surprised me, but there are no records of non-medical disputes. This system does not provide for lawyers to participate in the medical process.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Except on appeal.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes, that is right; of course. In the case of determining whether someone is catastrophically injured and if it is appealed to the District Court, of course lawyers are available in the system and if the court awards damages against the Insurance Commission of WA, ICWA will pay for the damages. That is accepted.

The member for Butler raised the issue of regulations. They are explored a bit in the explanatory memorandum and I can go through them if the member wishes. They are long and boring, but if the member wishes, we can go through them in consideration in detail.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Do you have a draft of the regulations?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I have a list of the regulations that are provided for a whole range of things.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I don't think there's any point in you reading them out, but it might be of some use if you can provide something.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes, okay. There are regulations for eligibility to participate in the fund, which is limited to persons who cannot be established under the compulsory third party insurance, as defined by national minimum benchmarks.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: That's what sets up what is a catastrophic injury.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes. The regulations outline the definitions of assessment tools that can be used and the timing of assessments to be eligible. Regulations regarding assessment tools determine eligibility and levels of care. There are regulations for applications to participate, forms, time limits and all that sort of stuff. There are regulations about the commencement of transition from interim—the first few years—to lifetime care. There are regulations related to the suspension or termination of participation; people have to have them. There have been very few cases in which people —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Sorry, Treasurer; what would require suspension—if later down the track, fault was found or something?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: No. Let us say that a person is getting a certain type of care or they are authorised a certain type of activity and it is not authorised—I do not know what it would be—then they suspend the moneys for that purpose. Termination is on the basis of fraud, largely. In this world, there are all types of people.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I'm not sure how you could fraudulently do that, but anyway.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Anyway, it has to be done. There are regulations for treatment, care and support. There are provisions for what defines “necessary and reasonable” and “necessary and reasonable factors to provide benefits”. There are definitions for what is necessary and what is reasonable and the criteria and the factors. There are assessment procedures, methods and timings and detailed protocols associated with entitlements and inclusiveness for prostheses, footwear, walking aids, and appliances and equipment. There are regulations relating to modifications of homes, vehicles and equipment and there are considerations for renting or buying equipment. There is a whole range of things.

One thing that ICWA allows is for people to self-manage. If ICWA deems that the person or the carer of a catastrophically injured person is able to manage their own care, with funds from ICWA, it will allow them to self-manage with periodic assessments. I think that is very important indeed. There are also regulations for dispute resolution matters, some of which I will refer to, and regulations that apply to payments from the catastrophic injuries support scheme, including self-managed funds, recovery, how expenses are paid, the type of treatment and care that are excluded from them and the fees payable in reference to the schedule—the amounts paid and whatnot.

As everyone has identified, the fee will be \$99 for the no-fault section. The fee is lower than that in most other states for that section. The fee for no-fault claims is \$99 in Western Australia, \$110 in South Australia and \$77 in New South Wales. If we put the CTP insurance and the no-fault insurance together, it will cost about \$402, whereas it costs \$488 in South Australia, \$494 in Victoria and \$614 in New South Wales.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Their CTP insurance is obviously very expensive.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes, it is; it is \$530. I emphasise that we retain the common law right in this one.

I turn now to the insurance premiums for vehicles. For family cars and motorcycles above 75cc, the fee will be \$99. We had extensive discussions about motorcycles. The member for Victoria Park indicated that the number of catastrophic injuries caused as a result of motorcycle accidents is highly disproportionate to those caused in a car accident. We even discussed having higher fees but we decided not to. A small scooter is 75cc, so we are pretty rigorous in applying a fee of \$99 to the insurance premium, but it will be heavily subsidised. Like the member for Victoria Park, I love motorcycles. They are dangerous as hell. We capped the premium at \$99. As indicated, caravans and trailers attract no additional insurance, tractors attract a fee of \$25, while mopeds, farm vehicles, fire-fighting vehicles and vintage cars will attract a fee of \$30.

I wish to emphasise a couple of things related to the rural sector. The member for Moore went through that quite appropriately. There are some important things to note. Farmers have tractors and those small four-wheel drive things. I do not know what they are called but they are bloody dangerous. As the member for Moore said, people in the wheatbelt are 10 times more likely to have catastrophic injuries on farms and accidents —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: They always roll them for some reason.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes, they roll over. The farmers will benefit from a couple of things. A farmer will now be covered if he rolls his insured tractor and suffers a catastrophic spinal injury. Farmers often have many other vehicles. They do a lot of travelling on the roads, particularly during the wheat season. Regional drivers are heavily subsidised by non-metropolitan drivers, but concessions of up to 50 per cent already exist in CTP schemes for vehicles used for farming purposes. Vehicles used for farming purposes get a 50 per cent reduction on CTP insurance. That will be retained for the no-fault section. There is a substantial reduction on that now.

No insurance premiums will be required for caravans and whatnot.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Trailers?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: And trailers. Vintage cars get a discount.

A couple of things were raised by the RAC. The RAC is a major insurer and has a great deal of expertise in insurance. It thought the \$99 fee was excessive. It is lower than those in the other states but I think the RAC used old data. It went to a Productivity Commission report of some years ago and used 2003 data. Back then, the claims cost for catastrophic injuries was \$13.6 million in Western Australia for six claims. In 2014, the expenditure was \$261 million for 44 claims. I think the RAC used old data.

I think the member for Collie–Preston asked about the growth of catastrophic injuries. I go back to that data. There were six claims in Western Australia in 2003, which was not that long ago. In 2014, there were 44 claims. There has been quite a bit of growth in the number of claims. The average cost of claims has grown significantly, in both lump sum and lifetime care. In other words, this is probably going to grow in cost. Also, the life expectancy of people in catastrophic permanent care in 2003 was 78 years. In 2014, it was 84 years. It has grown significantly.

The member for Armadale asked about pedestrians who are hit by a car. They will be covered. If they are hit by a car even if there is no fault, they will be covered. There is no doubt there will be a degree of cost shifting. As I indicated, in our system if someone is catastrophically injured without fault, they are covered by the Disability Services Commission and a raft of others. We have not attempted to estimate the extent of that cost shifting. It is very hard to do. We suspect it is mainly in the Disability Services Commission and the Department of Health. All I can say is that the move to the National Disability Insurance Scheme will press the fiscal capacity of all governments going forward, and the Disability Services Commission will use the budget money saved through the no-fault system to cover other people catastrophically injured otherwise outside motor vehicles and other purposes, so there is a degree of cost shifting here that we must recognise.

Someone raised the Transport Accident Commission of Victoria as a good model. It is and we will be looking at that into the future. Let me make sure I go through all the issues the member for Victoria Park raised.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I think you're fairly close; I'm trying to think.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: One of the issues raised a couple of times is whether the fee should be attached to licence fees as opposed to vehicle registrations. We dealt with that. The biggest issue there is that a lot of people, particularly older people, have licences for identification, not for driving cars. I have received a number of complaints from my lawyer friends about lawyers but I think they are adequately taken care of.

On overseas travel, it will be up to the Insurance Commission of WA. If someone goes to Bali, they will be okay. If they go to Europe for an extended period, cover will stop during the period of overseas travel. The member for Mirrabooka raised a very good point about communication and the member for Victoria Park raised the issue of lack of understanding. We put out a green paper and 2 000-plus comments were received and there was some discussion in the media, and that is good. We plan to have an extensive media campaign to explain this new no-fault legislation and the fundamentals of our compulsory third party system. That is where I think there is lack of understanding. There is a growing understanding of this issue due to the wider debate around the NDIS and the very extensive networks that have been developed to communicate disability issues generally. I think people are starting to understand this.

We need this Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill to be passed through both houses by 1 May so we can get the billing system done. During the first year, 2016–17, from memory—I can confirm it—ICWA expects to be short \$70 million because many people will renew their vehicles before 1 July, as did the member for Mirrabooka, who registered her vehicle for the whole year recently. She, of course, has not been charged the \$99, but when her son registers his vehicle on 1 July, he will be charged that fee, but this is a transitional arrangement. It will happen only one year at a time. It is based on insurance principles, so we will build up a fund to cover the insurance in the future. Insurance principles require there be enough funds to cover the ups and downs of the year. It will be managed by ICWA's management operations. No dividend will be paid to the state from that fund, but one is paid from CTP insurance. We will deal with private land later.

I again thank everyone for their constructive discussions on this. It is important legislation. Anyone whose loved one or constituent has been impacted in this manner knows it is about time to do this. It simply needs the collective help of society. I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.

House adjourned at 9.45 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — SOCIAL TENANCY AGREEMENT — CHANGES

4864. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to recent changes to social tenancy agreement rent policy, which now includes non-assessable or income assessed at a lower rate than 25%, and I ask how many households are affected in each of the following suburbs:

- (a) Girrawheen;
- (b) Marangaroo;
- (c) Madeley;
- (d) Darch; and
- (e) Landsdale?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises that, as at 22 February 2016, the number of households the change to the method by which rent is assessed based on a tenant's income will affect is:

- (a) 237.
- (b) 134.
- (c) 21.
- (d) Two.
- (e) 10.

DUMAS HOUSE — FACADE — TENDER

4866. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the Department of Finance tender concerning the Dumas House façade and podium restoration program, and ask:

- (a) has the tender been awarded;
- (b) if yes to (a), who won the tender and what was the tender cost; and
- (c) if no to (a):
 - (i) has the tender been withdrawn; and
 - (ii) if the tender has not been withdrawn, what is the current status of the tender?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

1. Yes
2. The main construction contract for the restoration of the Dumas House façade and podium has been awarded to Duratec Australia Pty Ltd for \$19,944.10 (GST inclusive).
Early contractor involvement and exploratory works have informed the scope, time and cost. However, given the nature of the works involved and the associated risks, this may change over time.
3. Not applicable.

ROAD SAFETY — P-PLATE DRIVERS

4869. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Police:

In the past three years, up until 31 January 2016, how many vehicles with P-plate drivers have been involved in serious and/or fatal crashes:

- (a) how many of these crashes have occurred between 9pm and midnight;
- (b) in how many of these vehicles were there more than one passenger;
- (c) since January 2013, has the Road Safety Council or other Government agencies re-examined the statistics on P-plate drivers and any correlation that may exist between the number of passengers and number of serious/fatal accidents, and if yes; and
- (d) what were the findings and if no are there any plans to re-examine those statistics?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

For the three years from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014 there were 445 motor vehicles with P-plate drivers involved in serious and fatal crashes in Western Australia.

- (a) 38 occurred between 9pm and midnight.
- (b) 9 of these 38 had one or more passenger.
- (c) These crash statistics are monitored on an ongoing basis by the Road Safety Commission.
- (d) Not applicable.

ROAD SAFETY — COVERT CAMERAS

4871. Mr R.F. Johnson to the Minister for Police:

In connection with your media statement dated Tuesday 9 June 2015 announcing covert hoon cameras, I ask the following:

- (a) how many covert cameras have been available to be installed up until 31 January 2016;
- (b) what is the individual and total cost of these covert cameras;
- (c) how many hoon offences have been captured by these covert cameras up until the 31 January 2016;
- (d) when will the reported trial be completed; and
- (e) how will the trial be evaluated?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a) Four.
- (b) The individual cost of each camera was \$8,929.46 with the total cost of the four cameras, as a stand-alone system being \$41,458.00
- (c) 131 vehicles have been captured committing hoon offences by these cameras.
- (d) The trial period was completed in September 2015.
- (e) A review was completed in October 2015 and WA Police have commenced the procurement process for an additional 8 cameras as part of the ongoing acquisition to fulfil the Government's election commitment of 24 cameras.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4877. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority; Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor; Burswood Park Board; Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association; Racing and Wagering Western Australia

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4880. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Small Business; Veterans:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;

- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services (the Department) advises:

- (a) 204.1 FTE and 209 head count as at 11 February 2016.
- (b)

Trades	FTE	Count
Animal Attendants and Trainers	6	6
Bricklayers and Stonemasons	4	4
Cabinetmakers	7	7
Canvas and Leather Goods Makers	1	1
Carpenters and Joiners	1	1
Chefs	44.6	47
Clothing Trades Workers	12	12
Food Trades Workers	9	9
Gardeners	32	32
Metal Fitters and Machinists	10	10
Other Miscellaneous Technicians and Trades Workers	69.5	72
Painting Trades Workers	2	2
Precision Metal Trades Workers	1	1
Printers	2	2
Signwriters	1	1
Upholsterers	2	2
Grand Total	204.1	209

- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not Applicable.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a) 26 tradespeople employed for a total of 26 FTE.
- (b) The breakdown by trade is as follows:
Automotive Technician 17
Radio Communications 9
- (c) 1 Apprentice is currently employed for a total of 1 FTE.
- (d) The apprentice is employed in the radio communications trade.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Veterans advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4885. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Finance; Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Finance advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4887. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

Mental Health Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Disability Services Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

- (a) One position, filled by two part time employees (0.8 FTE and 0.2 FTE respectively).
- (b) Chef – working at the Department's Secure Care facility.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not Applicable.

MINISTER FOR POLICE — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4888. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Police; Road Safety; Training and Workforce Development; Women's Interests:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

Western Australia Police

- (a) Three.
- (b) One Chief Engineer (Police Air Wing) and two Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (Police Air Wing).
- (c) Two.
- (d) Both apprentices are in Radio and Electronic Services.

Road Safety Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Central Institute of Technology

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Challenger Institute of Technology

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

CY O'Connor Institute

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Durack Institute of Technology

- (a) FTE – 2, headcount – 2.
- (b) Carpenter (Maintenance officer), Chef (Canteen supervisor).
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Goldfields Institute of Technology

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Great Southern Institute of Technology

- (a) FTE – 1, headcount – 1.
- (b) Welding/Boilermaker (Fabrication).
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Kimberley Training Institute

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Pilbara Institute

- (a) FTE – 1, headcount – 1.
- (b) Mechanical Fitter.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Polytechnic West

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

South West Institute of Technology

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

West Coast Institute of Training

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Department of Education Services

The Department of Education Services is accountable to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development for supporting the Training Accreditation Council. For its other functions the Department is accountable to the Minister for Education. The Department of Education Services is included in the response to the question from the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs.

Building Construction and Industry Training Fund

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Not applicable.

Department of Local Government and Communities

Women's Interests is administratively supported as part of the Department of Local Government and Communities and, as such, the response will be included in the Department of Local Government and Communities' response under the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth.

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4891. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

Department of Regional Development

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Department of Lands

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

LandCorp

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Landgate

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
 (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Southwest Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
 (b)–(d) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) Nil.
 (b)–(d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE

4892. Mr F.M. Logan to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Tourism:

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
 (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
 (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
 (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

Answer as at 16 February 2016 –

- (a)–(d)

Department of Health

- (a) 271.18 full-time equivalent (FTE), 277 Headcount (HC).
 (b)

Trade	FTE	HC
Building Services Assistant	5.00	5
Carpenter	41.00	41
Chef	5.00	5
Cook	37.18	42
Electrical Fitter	4.00	4
Electrical Fitter /Mechanic	1.00	1
Electrician	67.00	67
Electronic Technicians	12.00	13
Fitter 1st Class Machinist	1.00	1
Handyperson	13.00	13
Locksmith	1.00	1
Mechanic	3.00	3
Mechanical Fitter	28.00	28
Mechanical Technician	1.00	1
Painter	17.00	17
Painter /Decorator	1.00	1
Plasterer	1.00	1
Plumber	22.00	22
Refrigeration Fitter	11.00	11
Total	271.18	277

- (c) 1 FTE, 1 HC.
- (d) 1 electrician has an apprentice, none of the other tradespeople have apprentices.

Healthway

- (a) None.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) None.
- (d) Not applicable.

Health and Disability Service Complaints office

- (a) None.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) None.
- (d) Not applicable.

Rottneest Island Authority

- (a) None.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) None.
- (d) Not applicable.

Tourism Western Australia

- (a) None.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) None.
- (d) Not applicable.

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — TRADESPEOPLE**4893. Mr F.M. Logan to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:**

I refer to the employment of tradespeople in each department, Government Trading Enterprise, authority and agency under the Ministers' responsibility and I ask for each:

- (a) how many tradespeople are employed in terms of both FTE and headcount in each;
- (b) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of (a) by trade;
- (c) how many apprentices are employed in each; and
- (d) can the Minister please provide a breakdown of by trade?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Lotterywest, Public Sector Commission, Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, ChemCentre, Department of State Development advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) N/A.

Goldcorp advises:

- (a) 14 FTE
- (b) Electrician: 3, Mechanical Fitter: 8, Maintenance Fitter: 2
- (c) 1 as Mechanical Fitter
- (d) Please see above (b & c)

HOUSING — AVON VILLAGE WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

4895. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Housing Authority's involvement in the Avon Village Workforce Accommodation Project, and ask:

- (a) what is the current status of the Project in terms of the completion of construction;
- (b) what is the anticipated timeframe in terms of occupancy; and
- (c) what is the breakdown of all costs associated with the \$3.174 million payment to the Avon Community Development Foundation as at 10 December 2015?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) The construction of the 15 units has been completed. Minor works such as fencing, landscaping and paving are due to be completed by 31 March 2016.
- (b) Occupancy is scheduled for May 2016, once an occupancy permit has been granted following quality assurance inspections.
- (c) The figure of \$3.174 million (excluding GST), provided by the Housing Authority in the Answers to Questions Taken on Notice – 2014–15 Legislative Council Annual Report Hearing, is a typographical error. The correct figure is \$3.147 million and represents the total cost to the Housing Authority minus the total recouped through GST claims. It is not the total amount paid to the Avon Community Development Foundation.

As at 10 December 2015, the Avon Community Development Foundation received a total of \$3 139 950 (excluding GST). This comprises the following:

- (i) February 2014: payment of \$681 818 after the contracts were signed.
- (ii) 2 March 2015: payment of \$824 632 for costs including, but not limited to, engineering related works, earth works, soak wells, implementation of the dust and noise management plan and Shire fees.
- (iii) 22 April 2015: payment of \$816 750 for the cost of the slab, brick and gyprock works and internal walls.
- (iv) 22 June 2015: a final payment of \$816 750 for the cost of the roof frame and cover, cupboards, plumbing and tiles.

HOUSING — DELIVERING AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO KEY WORKERS IN REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

4896. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Tender HOU1151915 in relation to an evaluation of the Delivering Affordable Housing to Key Workers in Regional Western Australia programme, and ask:

- (a) on what date did tender submissions close;
- (b) how many tender submissions were received;
- (c) on what date was the tender awarded;
- (d) who won the tender; and
- (e) what is the actual or estimated cost of the awarded tender?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) 7 August 2015.
- (b) Nine.
- (c) 25 November 2015.
- (d) Umwelt Australia Pty Ltd.
- (e) \$141 834 inclusive of GST.

HOUSING — PELAGO WEST APARTMENT

4897. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Questions taken on notice as part of the Housing Authority's appearance at the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee 2014–15 Annual Report hearings, and ask in relation to the answer to Question Number 15:

- (a) for what period of time in weeks was the Housing Authority paying \$650 per week rent on the empty Pelago West apartment;

- (b) what is the number of the apartment; and
- (c) is the Authority currently paying any rent on empty apartments in Pelago West and if yes,:
 - (i) what is the apartment number;
 - (ii) what is the weekly rent; and
 - (iii) for what period of time in weeks has the Authority been paying rent on the empty apartment?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) 20.
- (b) 18.
- (c) No.

HOUSING — VACANT DWELLINGS

4898. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Housing Authority dwellings are vacant as at 16 February 2016 in each of the following suburbs:
 - (a) Karratha City Centre;
 - (b) Bulgarra;
 - (c) Pegs Creek;
 - (d) Millars Well;
 - (e) Nickol;
 - (f) Nickol West;
 - (g) Baynton;
 - (h) Baynton West; and
 - (i) Tambrey?
- (2) How many of the dwellings outlined in (1) are designated for government officer accommodation?
- (3) For all dwellings outlined in (1), when did the dwelling last have an occupant?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (1) (a) 135.*
- (b) 7.
- (c)–(i) 0.

* The Housing Authority database historically listed all properties within the township under the single name of Karratha. New properties are now listed according to their suburb name within the city of Karratha.

- (2) 114.
- (3) [See tabled paper no 3948.]

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — MAX TRAINING

4902. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to Tender AGR2016014 – Delivery of MAX Training and ask, how did the engagement of the supplier not conform to departmental procurement policies and guidelines?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

Engagement of DDLs Consulting to deliver MAX training did not comply with DAFWA's procurement policies and guidelines applicable for the procurement of goods and services over \$20,000 and the Department of Finances Government Procurement Policy applicable to purchases over \$50,000.

An announcement has been sent to all staff to remind them of their obligations under the Department's procurement policies.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET — MEDIA MONITORING UNIT

4917. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

In relation to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Media Monitoring Unit, I ask:

- (a) how many people are currently working in the Unit;
- (b) what was the cost to Government of running the Unit in 2014–15;

- (c) what is the anticipated or estimated cost of running the Unit in 2015–16; and
- (d) which government departments, agencies or government-trading enterprises currently use the services of this Unit?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a) 13.
- (b) \$1 399 803.
- (c) \$1 154 404.
- (d) Please see Attachment 1 [See tabled paper no 3930.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET — GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

4918. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

In relation to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Government Communications Unit, I ask:

- (a) how many people are currently working in the Unit;
- (b) what is the title of each person working in the Unit; and
- (c) what is the Level, Class or Band of each person working in the Unit?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a) Three;
- (b)–(c) Manager Strategic Communications, Level 9;
Manager, Level 8; and
Administration Officer, Level 3

HOUSING AUTHORITY — PRIORITY WAITLIST — TENDER

4919. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the announced \$560 million package aimed at addressing the social housing priority wait list, and ask:

- (a) have any tenders for any components of the package been awarded; and
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the nature of the awarded tender;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the awarded tender; and
 - (iii) what is the name of the successful tenderer?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) Metropolitan Perth Area – Tender for the appointment of builders to Panel for the design and construction of residential dwellings – A Design and Construct Panel was appointed following a publically advertised two stage procurement process, which concluded with the appointment of 15 builders to the Panel in November 2015.

Regional Western Australia – Design and Construct – All country projects are being let via a public tender process.
- (ii) Metropolitan Perth Area – In accordance with terms and conditions of the Design and Construct Panel arrangement, the Housing Authority enters into contract with builders from the Panel on a site by site basis.

As at 16 February 2016 approximately \$3.5 million has been committed by the Housing Authority for social housing dwellings procured through the Design and Construct Panel arrangement.

Regional Western Australia – To date the Housing Authority awarded contracts for 12 houses at a total cost of \$3.4 million.

(iii) Metropolitan Perth Area –

The Housing Authority have previously advertised on Tenders WA the names of the 15 builders appointed to the Design and Construct Panel.

Carissa Pty Ltd trading as Domination Homes

Dale Alcock Homes Pty Ltd;

J-Corp Pty Ltd trading as Now Living;

Pindan Pty Ltd;

Shelford Constructions Pty Ltd;

BGC Construction Pty Ltd;

BGC Residential Pty Ltd;

Building Development Group Constructions Pty Ltd;

JWH Group Pty Ltd;

Tangent Nominees Pty Ltd trading as Summit Projects;

Jaxon Pty Ltd;

Megara Constructions Pty Ltd;

Projex Pty Ltd trading as Nicheliving Constructions;

Ricon Contractors Pty Ltd;

Mitie Construction Pty Ltd.

Regional Western Australia –

To date the following builders have been awarded tenders:

Wauters Enterprises Pty Ltd;

BG & CR Grieve & Dissoudre Pty Ltd;

H&M Tracey.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — JOINT VENTURE — TENDER

4920. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Does the Housing Authority have any joint venture developments currently underway or proposed within the local government areas of the Shire of Murray and the City of Mandurah, and if yes:

- (a) what was the nature of the awarded tender;
- (b) what was the cost of the awarded tender; and
- (c) what is the name of the successful tenderer?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

No.

- (a)–(c) Not applicable.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — HOUSING STOCK

4921. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Could the Minister provide a current list of all housing stock the Housing Authority owns that it rents on the open market, including:

- (a) street address;
- (b) lease start date; and
- (c) the reason why the dwelling is rented on the open market?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a)–(c) The Housing Authority advises that, as at 22 February 2016, 205 of the properties it owns are leased on the open market. This includes 147 Government Regional Officers' Housing properties. [See tabled paper no 3949.]

HOUSING AUTHORITY — COTTIER APARTMENTS — SOUTH HEDLAND

4923. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

What number of South Hedland's Cottier Apartments were occupied as at 16 February 2016?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

26.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — OSPREY VILLAGE

4924. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

In relation to the Osprey Village:

- (a) what is the occupancy of the Village as at 16 February 2016;
- (b) what percentage of those occupants outlined in (a) are key workers; and
- (c) what is the total amount in management and other fees paid to Fleetwood since the negotiation of the purchase of the Village and associated management arrangements in July 2015?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) 53 per cent (156 units).
- (b) 90 per cent.
- (c) \$3 485 875.77 GST inclusive.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4928. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Small Business; Veterans:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
 - (iii) why wasn't the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
 - (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services (DCS) advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii) Prisoner Employment Program – \$1 914.00.
Education and Vocational Training Booklet – \$974.34.
Strategic Plan – \$2112.00.
Reconciliation Action Plan – \$2014.21.
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a)–(d) [See tabled paper no.]

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) State Risk Project Brochure.
(ii) Total cost – \$2822.60.
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) advises:

- (a)–(d) [See tabled paper no 3940.]

Veterans advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) This Gallant Company of Brave Men. Western Australia's Victoria Cross and George Cross Recipients.
(ii) \$7,124.40 (printing costs + image purchases and copyright).
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4932. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
 - (iii) why wasn't the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
 - (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

Department of Agriculture and Food:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) [See tabled paper no 3943.]
- (c) Yes.
- (d) (i) Subsidised disease investigation brochure.
(ii) \$650.
(iii) Print run was organised to cover several field days.
(iv) Stored – Will be distributed at field days 2016.
(i) Protect our livestock magnets.
(ii) \$1864.
(iii) Print run was organised to cover publication for the duration of project.
(iv) Stored – Will be distributed before the end of project 2017.

Department of Fisheries:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) [See tabled paper no 3943.]
- (c) No.
- (d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4933. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Finance; Mines and Petroleum:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
 - (iii) why wasn't the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
 - (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Finance advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii)

Title	Cost (ex GST)
Gateway Review – Helping Your Projects Succeed	\$1,694
Mini-guide to Procurement	\$3,680
Purchasing from Australian Disability Enterprises	\$126
2014-15 Land Tax Brochure	\$14,632
Graduate Program Brochure (February 2015)	\$649
Graduate Program Brochure (February 2016)	\$555

- (c) No.
- (d) Not applicable.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer advises:

- (a) No.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i)–(ii)

Title	Cost (ex GST)
Management of noise in Western Australian mining operations – guideline	\$4,167.27
Petroleum Open Day Flyer	\$387.00
Large working structures – mines safety matters pamphlets	\$475.75
Vehicle and equipment access – mines safety matters pamphlets	

Frequently asked questions on mines safety levy audit – information sheet	\$406.63
Reporting an accident or incident – poster	\$607.27
Resources Safety Division (RSD) news alert – flyer	\$450.91
Petroleum WA – September Edition – 48 page publication	\$3,750.00
Carbon Capture and Storage in WA – A4 folded to DL leaflet	\$355.45
Petroleum and Geothermal Explorers Guide – 148 page publication	\$9,374.00
Dangerous goods self-audit guide for prime contractors – brochure	\$945.45
Dangerous goods – six pillars of dangerous goods transport – event flyer	\$308.18
Mines Safety Roadshow 2014 – flyer	\$569.09
Safety and health representatives – contact card	\$395.00
An Introduction to the Mineral Titles Division – 16 page publication	\$1,321.82
Statistical information on Western Australia’s resources sector – DL flyer	\$126.36
Geological Survey (GSWA) Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,488.20
Abandoned and unwanted explosives and flares – flyer	\$1,953.64
Old mine workings – flyer	
Prospecting in remote areas – flyer	
Effective safety and health supervision in Western Australian mining operations – guideline	\$2,887.27
Behind the Regulator – A4 flyer	\$580.00
Prospecting in Western Australia – 20 page A5 booklet	\$1,765.50
Graduate Program – A4 flyer	\$330.00
Safety performance in the WA minerals industry 2013–14 – poster	\$896.00
GSWA Open Day Flyer	\$387.00
Mineral and Commodity Flyers and Petroleum Flyers	\$3,597.00
GSWA Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,358.95
Safety performance in the WA minerals industry 2013–14 – annual report	\$3,556.00
Effective safety and health supervision in Western Australian mining operations – guideline (reprint)	\$2,033.63
General duty of care in Western Australian mines – guideline (reprint)	\$2,665.45
Management of fibrous minerals in WA mining operations – guideline (2 nd edition)	\$3,367.27
Positive safety culture card – flyer	\$890.91
Natural Gas from Shale and Tight Rocks – 12 page publication	\$1,473.64
Risk based hygiene management planning – event flyer	\$636.36
Prospecting in Western Australia – 20 page A5 booklet	\$2,477.27
Atlas of mineral deposits and petroleum fields 2015	\$5,445.00
GSWA Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,391.00
Petroleum WA – April Edition – 60 page publication	\$4,453.64
Frequently asked questions on management and supervision at mining operations – information sheet	\$429.09
Exploration industry forum 2015 – event flyer	\$312.72
Investigating incidents by safety and health representatives – brochure	\$485.45
Rottneest Island – a geology guide – flyer	\$850.00
Exploration drilling glovebox guide (reprint)	\$4,775.45

Radiation management information session – event flyer	\$500.00
Registered managers forum – event flyer	\$975.45
Behind the Regulator – leaflet	\$365.00
GSWA Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,519.20
Stepping Stones – two self-guided geology trails in the city – flyer	\$480.00
Petroleum Open Day Flyer	\$387.00
Analysis of serious injury data in the Western Australian mining industry, July–December 2013 – report	\$5,345.45
Mines Safety Roadshow 2015 – event flyer	\$1,170.00
SRS user guides – information sheet (x 7 kinds)	\$879.09
Tyre safety for earth-moving machinery on Western Australia mining operations – guideline	\$4,913.63
Safe mobile autonomous mining in Western Australia – code of practice	\$3,703.64
Shale and Tight Gas in Western Australia – 68 page publication	\$4,585.00
Petroleum WA – September Edition – 56 page publication	\$4,145.45
GSWA Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,231.75
Mines Safety Roadshow 2015 – workshop notes	\$4,365.00
Isolation of hazardous energies associated with plant in Western Australian mining operations – guideline	\$5,974.54
Safety performance in the WA minerals industry 2014–15 – poster	\$1,485.45
Community Partnership Award – A5 brochure	\$428.18
A Guide to Mineral Titles Division 2016 – 16 page A5 booklet	\$1,297.27
Safety performance in the WA minerals industry 2014–15 – annual report	\$4,509.08
GSWA Open Day Flyer	\$387.00
Ngururrpa geochem sampling program – A4 flyer	\$177.00
GSWA Training – A5 Flyer	\$114.00
Mineral and Commodity Flyers and Petroleum Flyers	\$3,597.00
GSWA Training – A5 Flyer	\$118.00
GSWA Fieldnotes – 12 page A4 newsletter	\$3,244.75
Electing a safety and health representative – poster (reprint)	\$618.18
Safety and health representatives handbook – brochure (reprint)	\$1,642.73
Community Partnership Award – A5 brochure	\$458.18

(c) No.

(d) Not applicable.

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia advises:

(a) Yes.

(b) (i)–(ii)

Title	Cost (ex GST)
Investing in new research to benefit Western Australia's mineral sector A4 trifold brochure	\$328.18
PhD Scholarship Program A5 flyer	\$105.45

(c) No.

(d) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4935. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
 - (iii) why wasn't the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
 - (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

[See tabled paper no 3946.]

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4940. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Tourism:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
 - (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
 - (iii) why wasn't the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
 - (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

Answer as at 16 February 2016 –

Department of Health

- (a)–(d) Provision of the information sought would require a significant amount of research which would divert WA Health staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the Member has a specific inquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Healthway

- (a) No
- (b) Not Applicable
- (c) No
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not Applicable

Health and Disability Service Complaints office (HaDSCO)

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i)–(ii) HaDSCO “Supporting improvements through complaints resolution” Brochures, \$140.00 GST exc
Mental Health Complaints Brochures, \$467.00 GST exc
Carer Complaints/Health Service Complaints /Disability Services Complaints Brochures, \$7,852.00 GST exc
“Speak up do something about it” Information suite –CD Covers/Posters/Presentation Folders, \$2,056.00 GST exc;
“Have a complaint about a mental health service” Mental Health information sheet, \$500.00 GST exc
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Rottneest Island Authority

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii) [See tabled paper no 3934.]
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Tourism Western Australia

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii) [See tabled paper no 3934.]
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

4941. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:

For each agency, department and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister’s responsibility since 1 July 2014:

- (a) has the organisation produced, printed and distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more;
- (b) if yes to (a):
- (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication; and
- (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (c) has the organisation produced, printed and thereafter *not* distributed/displayed any leaflets, booklets, guides, pamphlets or similar publications with a print-run of 500 copies or more; and
- (d) if yes to :
- (i) what was the name, title or subject of the publication;
- (ii) what was the cost of the publication;
- (iii) why wasn’t the publication distributed or displayed after printing; and
- (iv) was the publication stored, pulped or otherwise disposed of and if yes, how was it disposed of?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal advises:

- (a) No.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) No.
- (d) N/A.

Lotterywest advises:

- (a) Yes
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) [See tabled paper no 3931.]
 - (ii) [See tabled paper no 3931.]
- (c) No
- (d) if yes to (c):
 - (i) N/A.
 - (ii) N/A.
 - (iii) N/A.
 - (v) N/A.

Department of State Development advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) [See tabled paper no 3931.]
- (c) No.
- (d) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Public Sector Commission advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii) Please refer to table below.
- (c) No
- (d) (i)–(iv) Nil

No.	Date	Publication	Units	Cost \$ (not inc GST)	Reason
1	22–29/10/2014	Board essentials	500	2,454.55	Training
150	975.00				
Total	3,429.55				
2	1/12/2014	SOTS in summary	500	1,318.20	Training
3	1/12/2014	First Steps	750	109.12	Training
4	9/4/2015	AEDM	2000	272.73	Training
5	2/7/2015	Notification of misconduct in Western Australia	1000	1,109.10	Training
6	30/9/2015	Notification of misconduct in Western Australia	1000	1,109.10	Training
7	30/11/2015	AEDM	500	2,795.45	Training
	Total	14,658.70 (not inc GST)			

Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i)–(ii) See table below

(i)	(ii)
Emblems and Insignia of WA	\$1 000
State of the Partnership Community Forum Flyer	\$96
Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million Summary Document	\$1 680
Science Statement	\$247
2014 ChemCentre Open Day flyer	\$367.71
2015 ChemCentre Open Day poster	\$650.30
2015 ChemCentre Open Day flyer	\$368.50

- (c) No
- (d) Not applicable

Gold Corporation advises:

- (a) Yes
- (b) (i) [See tabled paper no 3931.]
(ii) [See tabled paper no 3931.]
- (c) Yes
- (d) (i) 2016 Australian Kangaroo Gold Bullion Coin Brochure
(ii) Quantity of 10,000 at \$780.00 (discounted to half price for reprint)
(iii) Substandard print quality and a typographical error required the brochure to be reprinted
(iv) Brochures were placed in secured recycle bins and shredded by SITA–Western Recycling

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4942. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 28 accepted the invitation.
 - (ii) Housing Authority head office.
 - (iii) \$295.78
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Keystart Board and Country Housing Authority Board.
 - (ii) 10.
 - (iii) Ascot Quay, 150 East.
 - (iv) \$620.50

Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 6.
 - (ii) Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club.
 - (iii) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association Committee.
 - (ii) 5.
 - (iii) Windsor Hotel.
 - (iv) \$306.

Burswood Park Board

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Burswood Park Board.
 - (ii) 9.
 - (iii) Modo Mio, Crown Perth.
 - (iv) \$1,045.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 8.
 - (ii) Must Winebar.
 - (iii) \$1,019.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Racing & Wagering WA Board.
 - (ii) 7.
 - (iii) Must Winebar.
 - (iv) \$891.

MINISTER FOR WATER — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4944. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation; Forestry:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) Did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) Where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Ms M.J. Davies replied:

Aqwest

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 50.
 - (ii) Aqwest, 5 MacKinnon Way Bunbury.
 - (iii) \$2 109.96.
- (b) No.

Busselton Water

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 39.
 - (ii) Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton.
 - (iii) \$3 796.60.
- (b) Yes, same function as (a) above
 - (i) Board of Busselton Water.
 - (ii) see (a) (i) above.
 - (iii) see (a) (ii) above.
 - (iv) see (a) (iii) above.

Combat Sports Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Department of Sport and Recreation

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 168.
 - (ii) Department of Sport and Recreation, 246 Vincent Street Leederville.
 - (iii) \$6 000.
- (b) Not applicable.

Department of Water

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Forest Products Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

VenuesWest

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) VenuesWest Board.
 - (ii) 25 (including stakeholders).
 - (iii) In-house at Bendat Basketball Centre.
 - (iv) \$1 779.80.

Water Corporation

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Western Australian Institute of Sport

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Western Australian Institute of Sport Board.
 - (ii) 11 people attended.
 - (iii) Western Australian Institute of Sport, HBF Stadium, Mt Claremont.
 - (iv) \$1 830.31.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4945. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Small Business; Veterans:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services advises:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 27
 - (ii) Level 9, 141 St Georges Terrace, Westralia Square
 - (iii) \$315.69
- (b) No.
- (b) (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises:

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

The State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat advises:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) Six.
 - (ii) Personal residence.
 - (iii) Nil.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation advises:

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Small Business Development Corporation Board.
 - (ii) Nine.
 - (iii) The Painted Bird Bar and Kitchen.
 - (iv) Nil.

Veterans advises:

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4950. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Finance; Mines and Petroleum:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Finance advises:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) Eight.
 - (ii) Matilda Bay Restaurant, Crawley.
 - (iii) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer advises:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 15.
 - (ii) Held after hours at the Thai Orchid, 35 Mends St South Perth.
 - (iii) Nil.
- (b) Not applicable.

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia advises:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 5.
 - (ii) The Royal on the Waterfront, East Perth.
 - (iii) \$55.00.
- (b) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4952. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

Disability Services Commission

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes. The Disability Services Commission's Board held an end of year function in December 2015.
 - (i) Board of the Disability Services Commission
 - (ii) 115 people attended.
 - (iii) Pagoda Resort, 112 Melville Parade, Como.
 - (iv) \$6,199.20

The Mental Health Commission

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes
 - (i) Mental Health Advisory Council
 - (ii) 50 people
 - (iii) Technology Park Function Centre
 - (iv) \$1562.21 approx.
 - (i) Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention
 - (ii) 17 people
 - (iii) The Vic Hotel, Subiaco
 - (iv) \$678.30 (food only)

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) Approximately, 155 staff attended.
 - (ii) 189 Royal Street, East Perth
 - (iii) \$1651.61
- (b) (i)–(iv) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR POLICE — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4953. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Police; Road Safety; Training and Workforce Development; Women's Interests:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

Western Australia Police

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Road Safety Commission

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Central Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Challenger Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

C Y O'Connor Institute

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Durack Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Goldfields Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Great Southern Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Kimberley Training Institute

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Kimberley Training Institute Governing Council.
 - (ii) 12.
 - (iii) Oaks Cable Beach Sanctuary Restaurant.
 - (iv) \$565.76.

Pilbara Institute

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Polytechnic West

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

South West Institute of Technology

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

West Coast Institute of Training

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

Department of Education Services

The Department of Education Services is accountable to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development for supporting the Training Accreditation Council. For its other functions the Department is accountable to the Minister for Education. The Department of Education Services is included in the response to the question from the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs.

Building Construction and Industry Training Fund

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Building and Construction Industry Training Board.
 - (ii) 45.
 - (iii) Suite 3, 40 Hasler Road, Osborne Park.
 - (iv) \$3 675.68.

Department of Local Government and Communities

Women's Interests is administratively supported as part of the Department of Local Government and Communities and, as such, the response will be included in the Department of Local Government and Communities' response under the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth.

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4956. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and

- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
- (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

Department of Regional Development

- (a) Yes.
- (i) 15.
- (ii) The Department of Regional Development, Level 7, 140 William Street, Perth.
- (iii) Nil.
- (b) Yes.
- (i) Western Australian Regional Development Trust.
- (ii) 8.
- (iii) Terrace Hotel, 237 St Georges Terrace, Perth.
- (iv) \$1014.00.

Department of Lands

- (a) No.
- (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

LandCorp

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes. The Chairman's End of Year Event for Staff on 14 December 2015.
- (i) LandCorp Board.
- (ii) 150.
- (iii) LandCorp's office, Level 6 Westfarmers House.
- (iv) \$8 820.

Landgate

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (i) Landgate Board and Corporate Executive (combined)
- (ii) 11
- (iii) Mandoon Estate, Swan Valley, Perth
- (iv) \$1164

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

- (a) No.
- (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
- (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) The Great Southern Development Commission held an event in mid-December at which a formal presentation of its achievements in 2015 and the strategic direction for 2016 and beyond was delivered by the Chairman.
 - (i) Board of the Great Southern Development Commission.
 - (ii) 83.
 - (iii) GSDC Offices, 110 Serpentine Road, Albany.
 - (iv) \$1 111.65.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) Yes.
 - (i) Peel Development Commission Board.
 - (ii) 10.
 - (iii) Remanna Waterfront Restaurant.
 - (iv) \$830.40.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Southwest Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) Not Applicable.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) Not Applicable.

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

4958. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:

For each department, agency, commission and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities:

- (a) did the organisation's Corporate Executive/Executive Committee/Leadership Team hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so:
 - (i) how many persons attended;
 - (ii) where was the function held; and
 - (iii) what was the cost of the function to the organisation; and
- (b) where a Board or Committee exists, did the organisation's Boards or Committees hold a Christmas or end of year function in 2015 and, if so, for each Board and Committee:
 - (i) what is the name of the Board or Committee;
 - (ii) how many persons attended;
 - (iii) where was the function held; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of the function to the organisation?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Gold Corporation, Department of State Development, Salaries and Allowances Tribunal

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) N/A.
- (b) No.
 - (i)–(iv) N/A.

Public Sector Commission

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) 92.
 - (ii) Public Sector Commission.
 - (iii) Nil.
- (b) (i)–(iv) N/A.

Lotterywest

- (a) No.
 - (i)–(iii) N/A.
- (b) Yes. The Lotterywest Board invited the Lotterywest Leadership Team to join them for brunch following the December Board meeting.
 - (i) The Lotterywest Board.
 - (ii) 13.
 - (iii) Lotterywest Head Office, 74 Walters Drive, Osborne Park.
 - (iv) \$436.40.

PREMIER AND CABINET — AIR CHARTER SERVICES

4959. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier:

I refer to the current guidelines for Ministers' use of Air Charter Services, and ask, what has been the total monthly cost of all non-primary contract Ministerial travel (i.e. ad hoc charter arrangements) for the Premier and all Ministers for:

- (a) each month of the 2014–15 financial year; and
- (b) each month since July 2015 to date?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a)–(b) [See tabled paper no 3932.]

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4963. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Small Business; Veterans:

Since 1 July 2014, have any officers or board members of a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if yes:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member, and the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services (DCS) advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3941.]

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3941.]

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3941.]

Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3941.]

Veterans advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3941.]

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4967. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries:

Since 1 July 2014, have any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if yes:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member, and what was the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

Department of Agriculture and Food:

- (a)–(f) My Department advises me that answering this question will require extensive and time consuming analysis. I am not prepared to divert valuable staff resources away from other duties to undertake this task. If the Member has a specific query, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Department of Fisheries:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3944.]

The Department of Fisheries has not included staff attendance at locally provided training and development programs.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4968. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Finance; Mines and Petroleum:

Since 1 July 2014 have any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if so:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member, and what was the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Finance advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3939.]

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer advises:

- (a) The Gartner Symposium/ITxpo
- (b) 26–29 October 2015
- (c) the Gold Coast, Australia
- (d) Three Acting Executive Directors
- (e) Gartner, Inc.
- (f) There was no charge for tickets due to Gartner Research and Gartner Executive Program membership. The travel cost was \$725.73 per person, a total of \$2,186.19. Accommodation cost was \$816 per person, a total of \$2,448.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3939.]

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia advises:

- (a) Shaping WA: Becoming a global innovation leader.
- (b) 13 August 2014.
- (c) Perth, WA.
- (d) 1.
- (e) CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia).
- (f) \$165.00 incl GST and Nil travel/accommodation costs.
- (a) WA Annual Resources Overview.
- (b) 17 October 2014.
- (c) Perth, WA.
- (d) 10.
- (e) CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia).
- (f) \$256.50 incl GST and Nil travel/accommodation costs.
- (a) Gold Fields & Unearthed – Driving Innovation in the Resource Sector through Open Innovation.
- (b) 11 February 2015.
- (c) Perth, WA.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Austmine.
- (f) \$55.00 incl GST and Nil travel/accommodation costs.

- (a) Roy Hill Project – Here for the Long Haul.
- (b) 18 February 2015.
- (c) Perth, WA.
- (d) 1
- (e) AmCham (American Chamber of Commerce in Australia).
- (f) \$179.00 incl GST and Nil travel/accommodation costs.
- (a) 2015 Economic and Political Overview in Perth.
- (b) 27 February 2015.
- (c) Perth, WA.
- (d) 1.
- (e) CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia).
- (f) \$350.00 incl GST and Nil travel/accommodation costs.
- (a) emc15 (10th Biennial Exploration Managers Conference 2015).
- (b) 17–20 March 2015.
- (c) Barossa Valley, SA.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Amira International.
- (f) \$700.00 incl GST \$1371.53 incl GST travel/accommodation costs.
- (a) Austmine 2015 Conference – Transforming Mining: Technology and Innovation.
- (b) 18 May 2015.
- (c) Brisbane, QLD.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Austmine.
- (f) \$1815.00 incl GST and \$3842.00 incl GST travel/accommodation costs.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4970. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection:

Since 1 July 2014, have any officers or board members within a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if so:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member and the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

My Department advises me that answering this question will require extensive and time consuming analysis. I am not prepared to divert valuable staff resources away from other duties to undertake this task. If the Member has a specific query, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Mental Health Commission

[See tabled paper no 3947.]

Disability Services Commission

[See tabled paper no 3947.]

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4975. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Tourism:

Since 1 July 2014, have any officers or board members of a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if yes:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member, and what was the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

Department of Health

- (a)–(f) Provision of the information sought would require a significant amount of research which would divert WA Health staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the Member has a specific inquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Healthway

Yes.

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3935.]

Health and Disability Service Complaints office

Yes.

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3935.]

Rottneest Island Authority

Yes.

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3935.]

Tourism Western Australia

Yes.

- (a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 3935.]

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4976. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:

Since 1 July 2014, have any officers or board members of a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if yes:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event;
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member; and
- (g) what was the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Lotterywest advises:

- (a)–(g) [See tabled paper no 3933.]

Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

(a)–(g) [See tabled paper no 3933.]

Department of State Development advises:

(a)–(g) [See tabled paper no 3933.]

Public Sector Commission advises:

(a)–(g) [See tabled paper no 3933.]

Gold Corporation advises:

(a)–(g) [See tabled paper no 3933.]

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal advises:

Yes, on two occasions.

With respect to the first occasion –

- (a) Western Australian Local Government Association Convention and Trade Exhibition
- (b) 6–8 August 2014
- (c) Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
- (d) One
- (e) Western Australian Local Government Association
- (f) \$780.00
- (g) Nil

With respect to the second occasion –

- (a) Mercer Australia 2014 October Rewards Forum
- (b) 28 October 2014
- (c) Fraser Suites, East Perth
- (d) Two
- (e) Mercer Australia
- (f) \$495.00
- (g) Nil

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4977. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:

Since 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority

Yes.

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3950.]

Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor; Burswood Park Board; Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association; Racing and Wagering Western Australia

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS —
SPONSORED CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4980. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Small Business; Veterans:

Sine 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services advises:

- (a)–(e) No, not applicable.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises:

- (a)–(e) No, not applicable.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat advises:

- (a)–(e) No, not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation advises:

- (a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3942.]

Veterans advises:

- (a)–(e) No, not applicable.

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4984. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries:

Since 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

Department of Agriculture and Food:

- (a)–(e) Yes. [See tabled paper no 3945.]

Department of Fisheries:

- (a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3945.]

MINISTER FOR FINANCE — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4985. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Finance; Mines and Petroleum:

Since 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) where was the event held;

- (c) on what date was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Finance advises:

- (a) Master Builders Association
- (b) Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
- (c) 7 November 2014 and 6 November 2015
- (d) Industry sponsorship
- (e) 2014 – \$5,500 (including GST); and 2015 – \$5,000 (including GST)

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer advises:

- (a)–(e) Not applicable

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Women in Mining WA Branch
- (b) Department of Mines and Petroleum, Mineral House, Plain Street East Perth
- (c) 24 July 2014
- (d) Hosting a ‘Community Engagement’ presentation, followed by networking event.
- (e) Approximately \$500
- (a) National Carbon Capture and Storage Conference
- (b) Darling Harbour, Sydney
- (c) 31 August – 03 September 2014
- (d) Conference speaker from Department of Mines and Petroleum’s Carbon Capture and Storage South West Hub project and conference sponsorship
- (e) \$5 000 sponsorship
- (a) Women in Mining WA Branch
- (b) Department of Mines and Petroleum, Mineral House, Plain Street East Perth
- (c) 24 July 2015
- (d) Hosting a ‘Mining Rehabilitation Fund’ presentation, followed by networking event.
- (e) Approximately \$500
- (a) 9th International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas Carbon Capture and Storage Summer School
- (b) University of Western Australia, Perth
- (c) 6 – 12 December 2015
- (d) Speaker from Department of Mines and Petroleum’s Carbon Capture and Storage South West Hub project, presentation and sponsorship
- (e) \$5 000 sponsorship

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia advises:

- (a) Minespace
- (b) Perth
- (c) 26 November 2015
- (d) Standard booth
- (e) \$605.00 including GST
- (a) Resource Innovation and Information Technology
- (b) Perth
- (c) 20 March 2015
- (d) Financial
- (e) \$27,500.00 including GST

MINISTER FOR POLICE — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4988. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Police; Road Safety; Training and Workforce Development; Women's Interests:

Since July 1 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

Western Australia Police

Yes.

(a) Organisation	(b) Date of event	(c) Location of event	(d) Form of sponsorship	(e) Financial support
Leadership WA	27 August 2014	Police Academy	Provision of venue & catering	\$776.36
Leadership WA	23 April 2015	Police Academy	Provision of venue & catering	\$1 006.18

Road Safety Commission

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Central Institute of Technology

Yes.

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3938.]

Challenger Institute of Technology

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

CY O'Connor Institute

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Durack Institute of Technology

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Goldfields Institute of Technology

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Great Southern Institute of Technology

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Kimberley Training Institute

Yes.

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3938.]

Pilbara Institute

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Polytechnic West

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

South West Institute of Technology

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

West Coast Institute of Training

Yes.

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3938.]

Department of Education Services

The Department of Education Services is accountable to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development for supporting the Training Accreditation Council. For its other functions the Department is accountable to the Minister for Education. The Department of Education Services is included in the response to the question from the Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs.

Building Construction and Industry Training Fund

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Department of Local Government and Communities

Women's Interests is administratively supported as part of the Department of Local Government and Communities and, as such, the response will be included in the Department of Local Government and Communities' response under the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES,
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4992. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Tourism:

Since 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

Department of Health

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3936.]

Health and Disability Service Complaints Office

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Healthway

No.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

Rottnest Island Authority

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism Inc 2015 Conference	20–21 May 2015	Department of Parks and Wildlife (Bentley) & Rottnest Island	Financial support and in-kind support on committee	\$2,500
2015 Global Eco Asia–Pacific Tourism Conference – Navigating for Success	17–19 November 2015	Rottnest Island	Financial support and in-kind accommodation and staff support	\$20,000 plus in-kind approximately \$5,000

Tourism Western Australia

(a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 3936.]

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — SPONSORED CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4993. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:

Since 1 July 2014, has any department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities sponsored a conference, seminar or workshop organised or facilitated by a private or not-for-profit organisation, and if yes:

- (a) what is the name of the organisation for which sponsorship was provided to hold the event;
- (b) on what date was the event held;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) what form or forms of sponsorship were undertaken for the event; and
- (e) where financial support was provided, what was the amount of financial support provided?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, Gold Corporation advises:

No.

(a)–(e) N/A.

Lotterywest advises:

No. As per the Lotteries Commission Act 1990, Lotterywest is a grant maker and does not distribute sponsorships.

- (a) N/A.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.
- (d) N/A.
- (e) N/A.

Department of State Development advises:

Yes, "In the Zone" conference

- (a) University of Western Australia
- (b) 13 April 2015 and 1 May 2015
- (c) Singapore and Perth
- (d) Direct financial contribution
- (e) \$50,000

Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

Yes. Please see table below for answers (a)–(e).

Name of event	(a) Organisation that received sponsorship	(b) Date of event	(c) Venue of event	(d) Form of sponsorship undertaken	(e) Amount of financial support provided
Science on the Swan Conference 2015	UWA	21–23 April 2015	Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	Financial	\$50 000
CONASTA 2015	Science Teacher's Association of WA	5–9 July 2015	Mercedes College, Perth	Financial	\$24 000
Agricultural Bioscience International Conference 2015	AusBiotech	7–9 September 2015	Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria	Financial	\$2 272.73
Science on the Swan Conference 2016	UWA	3–5 May 2016	Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	Financial	\$50 000

Public Sector Commission advises:

- (a) (i) Institute of Public Administration Australia International Conference
- (b) (i) 29–30 October, 2014
- (c) (i) Perth Convention and Exhibition centre
- (d) (i) Gold sponsorship
- (e) (i) \$20,000
- (a) (ii) Australian Public Sector Anti Corruption Conference
- (b) (ii) 18–19 November, 2015
- (c) (ii) Brisbane Convention and Exhibition centre
- (d) (ii) Partner agency sponsor
- (e) (ii) \$9,090.91

HOUSING AUTHORITY — PROPERTIES — DUAL FLUSH TOILETS

4995. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing are fitted with Waterwise dual flush toilets?
- (2) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing are not fitted with Waterwise dual flush toilets?
- (3) Why are some Department of Housing homes not fitted with dual flush toilets?
- (4) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing that are fitted with Waterwise dual flush toilets are located in regional areas?
- (5) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing that are not fitted with Waterwise dual flush toilets are located in regional areas?
- (6) Are there any plans or programs in place to fit more Department of Housing homes with Waterwise dual flush toilets in this or the next financial year, and if yes how many in each year and at what cost?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (1) 20 119 properties have had dual flush cisterns installed or replaced between July 1998 to February 2016.

- (2) The Housing Authority does not record this data for properties.
- (3) Existing single flush cisterns are replaced with dual flush cisterns once they become unserviceable.
- (4) 7 962 properties in regional areas have had dual flush cisterns installed or replaced between July 1998 to February 2016.
- (5) The Housing Authority does not record this data for properties.
- (6) Existing single flush cisterns will be replaced with dual flush cisterns once they become unserviceable.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — PROPERTIES — WATERWISE SHOWERHEADS

4997. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing are fitted with Waterwise showerheads?
- (2) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing are not fitted with Waterwise showerheads?
- (3) Why are some Department of Housing homes not fitted with Waterwise showerheads?
- (4) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing that are fitted with Waterwise showerheads are located in regional areas?
- (5) How many homes owned by the Department of Housing that are not fitted with Waterwise showerheads are located in regional areas?
- (6) Are there any plans or programs in place to fit more Department of Housing homes with Waterwise showerheads in this or the next financial year, and if yes how many in each year and at what cost?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (1) 35 843 properties have had Waterwise showerheads installed or replaced between July 2006 and February 2016.
- (2) The Housing Authority does not record this data for properties.
- (3) Existing showerheads are replaced with Waterwise showerheads once they become unserviceable.
- (4) 17 110 properties in regional areas have had Waterwise showerheads installed or replaced between July 2006 and February 2016.
- (5) The Housing Authority does not record this data for properties.
- (6) Existing showerheads will be replaced with Waterwise Showerheads once they become unserviceable

HOUSING — CHILD PROTECTION — STRONGFAMILIES PROGRAM

5003. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Is the Department of Housing engaging with the Department of Child Protection as part of the 'Stronger Families' program, and if so:

- (a) how many cases is the Department of Housing engaged with; and
- (b) on average, how regularly is the Department of Housing meeting with clients and the Department of Child Protection under the 'Stronger Families Program'?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

Yes.

- (a) 147 active cases.
- (b) Strong Families meetings with clients are facilitated on an as needs basis, local Strong Family Working Group meetings occur on a regular basis as required, Regional Management Group/Local Management Group meetings occur bi-monthly in most districts, and the Child Safety Directors Group meets every six weeks.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — EVICTIONS — NEWMAN

5004. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to evictions of public housing tenants in Newman and ask:

- (a) how many evictions were initiated by the Department of Housing in Newman in 2015; and
- (b) of these, how many were evicted on the grounds of:
 - (i) antisocial behaviour;
 - (ii) non payment of rent;
 - (iii) property damage; and
 - (iv) other?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) Two.
- (b) (i) Two.
- (ii) Nil.
- (iii) Two.
- (iv) Nil.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — MAINTENANCE REQUESTS — NEWMAN

5005. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to maintenance from public housing tenants in Newman and ask:

- (a) how many maintenance requests were received from tenants living in Newman from 1 January 2015 to date;
- (b) how many of these maintenance requests were completed from 1 January 2015 to date;
- (c) how many properties have been left vacant due to maintenance works to be completed in 2015; and
- (d) what was the average waiting time these properties were left vacant?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) 662 works orders were issued in Newman as a result of maintenance requests from public housing tenants from 1 January 2015 to 15 January 2016.
- (b) 635 works orders have been completed from 1 January 2015 to 15 January 2016.
- (c) As at 31 December 2015, 17 public housing properties were vacant undergoing maintenance works.
- (d) Average days vacant under maintenance are calculated by Housing Authority region, not by town. The average number of days public housing properties were vacant in the Pilbara region for the 12 months ending 31 December 2015 was 106 days. This includes standard maintenance works extensive maintenance works, significant and minor refurbishment and fire damage.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — PROPERTIES — FULL MARKET RENT

5012. Mr P.C. Tinley to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

How many public housing properties are rented to tenants that pay full market rent, and what was the total rental income from these properties in each of:

- (a) 2010–11;
- (b) 2011–12;
- (c) 2012–13;
- (d) 2013–14;
- (e) 2014–15; and
- (f) 2015–16 to date?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises that the question requires a substantial effort to extract and validate relevant data from historical records that was not possible to complete in the timeframe required. Accordingly numbers of properties paying market rent have been taken as at 30 June in each year, except for the current year where the figure is taken as at 3 March 2016. Rental income for each year has been estimated based on the number of tenancies paying market rent on the relevant date and annualising the weekly rent that was payable as at that same date.

- (a) 3 117 tenancies; \$37.5 million annual rent.
- (b) 2 865 tenancies; \$33.0 million annual rent.
- (c) 2 969 tenancies; \$32.9 million annual rent.
- (d) 3 225 tenancies; \$34.6 million annual rent.
- (e) 1 623 tenancies; \$18.9 million annual rent.
- (f) 1 566 tenancies; \$18.9 million annual rent.

HOUSING AUTHORITY — PROPERTIES — RENT INCREASE

5013. Mr P.C. Tinley to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Housing Authority's recently announced changes to public housing rent calculations and ask:

- (a) what is the estimated number of dwellings that will have their rent increased as a result of this decision; and
- (b) what is the estimated extra revenue that will be received as a result of this decision in:
 - (i) 2015–16 (from 28 March); and
 - (ii) 2016–17?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) The change to the method by which the Housing Authority calculates public housing rent will apply to all tenancies who receive government subsidised rent. This will apply to approximately 28,000 tenancies on 28 March 2016 and approximately 3,000 additional tenancies during 2016.
- (b) The recently announced changes to public housing rent calculations are estimated to generate additional revenue of around \$3.5 million in 2015–16, and around \$16 million in 2016–17.

SCIENCE — GRAVITY DISCOVERY CENTRE — GINGIN

5023. Mr P.C. Tinley to the Minister for Science:

- (1) What State Government funding and support was provided to the Gravity Discovery Centre in Gingin in each of:
 - (a) 2008–09;
 - (b) 2009–10;
 - (c) 2010–11;
 - (d) 2011–12;
 - (e) 2012–13;
 - (f) 2013–14; and
 - (g) 2014–15?
- (2) What State Government funding and support for the Gravity Discovery Centre has been budgeted for in the 2015–16 State Budget?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Office of Science advises:

- (1)
 - (a) \$395,000
 - (b) \$291,315
 - (c) \$313,948
 - (d) \$410,975
 - (e) \$361,950
 - (f) \$326,950
 - (g) \$276,950
- (2) \$75,000

OFFICE OF SCIENCE — PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

5024. Mr P.C. Tinley to the Minister for Science:

I refer to the Office of Science line item on page 73 of the 2015–16 State Budget Paper No. 2 and ask:

- (a) what programs and projects are included for funding for the Office of Science in 2015–16 and what is the budget estimate for each;
- (b) what programs and projects were included for funding for the Office of Science in 2014–15 and what was the budget estimate, and estimated actual for each; and
- (c) what programs and projects were included for funding for the Office of Science in 2013–14 and what was the budget estimate, and actual for each?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Office of Science advises:

(a) Please see table below

Program/Project	2015–16 Budget Estimate
Applied Research Program – Shark Hazard Mitigation	\$253 000
Fellowship Program	\$490 000
Innovation Co-investment Program	\$200 000
Nobel Laureates Program	\$750 000
Research Facilities Program	\$188 000
Scitech	\$8 300 000
Gravity Discovery Centre	\$5 000
Integrated Marine Observing System	\$200 000
International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR)	\$6 000 000
McCusker Foundation–Alzheimers	\$580 000
WA Marine Science Institution (WAMSI)	\$3 000 000
WA Science Awards	\$90 000
Busselton Health study	\$250 000
Peel Harvey Estuary	\$120 000
Uncommitted research funds	\$514 000

(b) Please see table below

Program/Project	2014–15 Budget Estimate	2014–15 Estimated Actual
Applied Research Program – Shark Hazard Mitigation	\$798 000	\$609 000
Centres of Excellence	\$100 000	\$100 000
Fellowship Program	\$1 000 000	\$500 000
Innovation Co-investment Program	\$335 000	\$360 000
Nobel Laureates Program	\$800 000	\$800 000
Research Facilities Program	\$4 050 000	\$4 050 000
Scitech	\$5 400 000	\$5 400 000
Gravity Discovery Centre	\$195 000	\$195 000
Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre	\$500 000	\$500 000
Integrated Marine Observing System	\$200 000	Nil
International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR)	\$5 000 000	\$5 000 000
McCusker Foundation–Alzheimers	\$400 000	\$200 000
WA Marine Science Institution (WAMSI)	\$2 000 000	\$2 000 000
WA Science Awards	\$45 000	\$45 000
Busselton Health study	Nil	\$250 000
Science on Swan Conference Contribution	Nil	\$50 000
Uncommitted research funds	\$1 440 000	Nil

(c) Please see table below

Programs/Projects	2013–14 Budget Estimate	2013–14 Actual
Applied Research Program – Shark Hazard Mitigation	\$825 000	\$825 000
Centres of Excellence	\$617 000	\$617 000
Fellowship Program	\$1 000 000	\$750 000
Innovation Co-investment Program	\$410 000	\$410 000
Innovation Investment Facilitation Program	\$30 000	\$20 000
Nobel Laureates Program	\$800 000	\$800 000
Research Facilities Program	\$4 027 000	\$4 027 000
Scitech	\$8 000 000	\$10 700 000
Gravity Discovery Centre	\$250 000	\$250 000
Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre	\$1 300 000	\$1 300 000
Integrated Marine Observing System	\$1 800 000	\$1 800 000
International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR)	\$3 500 000	\$3 500 000
WA Marine Science Institution (WAMSI)	\$1 000 000	Nil
WA Science Awards	\$22 000	\$90 000
Uncommitted research funds	\$2 140 000	Nil

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION — BUDGET SAVINGS

5027. Mr M. McGowan to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to the participation of the Mental Health Commission in Agency Expenditure Reviews – Tranche Two, and ask, how does the Commission specifically propose to accommodate the \$21.6 million savings over the period 2016–17 to 2018–19?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

The Commission has complied with the requirements of Cabinet to implement the decision for an Agency Expenditure Review process by the Government, as disclosed in the Government's 2015–16 Mid-Year Review on 21 December 2015. The Government's decisions flowing from that process are part of the confidential deliberative processes of Cabinet and, subject to finalisation of these processes, will be published in the 2016–17 Budget Papers.

HOUSING — REGIONAL OFFICER HOUSING PROPERTIES

5031. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Government's approval of the divestment of \$100 million in surplus Government Regional Officer Housing properties, and ask:

- (a) has the Housing Authority identified the properties to be divested;
- (b) if yes to (a):
 - (i) how many properties have been identified for divestment; and
 - (ii) in which areas of the State are the properties, and how many will be divested in each area;
- (c) have any properties been divested as part of the program;
- (d) if yes to :
 - (i) in which areas of the State were the properties that have been divested;
 - (ii) what was the sale price for each property;
 - (iii) what was the purchase price of the property; and
 - (iv) when was the property purchased; and
- (e) which organisation is coordinating the divestment on the Housing Authority's behalf?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

- (a)–(e) The Housing Authority advises that it is divesting surplus Government Regional Officer Housing properties as part of its standard asset management practices. This is being coordinated internally as part of the Housing Authority’s normal business. [See tabled paper no 3951 for surplus properties sold 1 July 2015 to 26 February 2016 inclusive.]

TREASURY AND FINANCE — ASSET SALES PROGRAM —
AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION CONSULTATION

5032. Mr M. McGowan to the Treasurer:

I refer to page 37 of the 2015–16 Mid-year Financial Projections Statement in relation to the Government’s Asset Sales Program, and ask:

- (a) on how many occasions and in what form has “consultation” with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission occurred in relation to “national considerations” relating to the Fremantle Port;
- (b) on how many occasions and in what form has “consultation” with the Foreign Investment Review Board occurred in relation to “national considerations” relating to the Fremantle Port;
- (c) since the release of the 2015–16 Mid-year Financial Projections Statement:
- (i) on how many occasions and in what form has any further consultation taken place with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in relation to the Fremantle Port; and
- (ii) on how many occasions and in what form has any further consultation taken place with the Foreign Investment Review Board in relation to the Fremantle Port;
- (d) has any formal advice or direction been received from either the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or the Foreign Investment Review Board in relation to “national considerations” relating to the Fremantle Port; and
- (e) if yes to (d), will the Treasurer table that advice or direction and if not, why not?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) Officers from the Department of Treasury (Treasury) and representatives of Treasury’s Lead Financial Adviser met with representatives of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on one occasion in 2015. This followed an exchange of letters between the ACCC and the Treasurer. At this meeting it was agreed that further consultation would occur once the divestment process was further progressed.
- (b) Two distinct email exchanges (comprising multiple emails) and three teleconferences occurred in 2015 between Treasury officers and Commonwealth Treasury’s Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division (FITPD) relating to the divestment of Fremantle Port (noting there is some overlap with exchanges relating to the divestment of the Utah Point Bulk Handling Facility). The FITPD provides secretariat support to the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) through the day-to-day administration of the foreign investment review framework. The FITPD examines foreign investment proposals and provides advice and recommendations to the FIRB and the Commonwealth Treasurer on national interest implications of foreign investments.

Letters were also exchanged between the Commonwealth Treasurer and Treasurer (WA) regarding changes to the foreign investment framework and the status of Western Australia’s asset sales program.

- (c) (i) No further consultation has taken place with the ACCC. Further consultation will occur when the divestment process reaches relevant milestones.
- (ii) The Treasurer (WA) has written to the Commonwealth Treasurer to provide an update on Western Australia’s port asset sales.
- (d) The ACCC’s letter of 7 September 2015 provided a general introduction to a number of access, pricing and regulatory matters potentially relevant to the divestment of Fremantle Port.
- No formal advice has been received from the Foreign Investment Review Board in relation to the divestment of Fremantle Port.
- (e) Yes. [See tabled paper no 3937.]

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — MINISTERIAL OFFICE — AVESTRA ASSET MANAGEMENT, BRIDGE
GLOBAL CMC AND ZENITH CITY INVESTMENTS

5055. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Premier; Minister for State Development; Science:

- (1) Since 1 July 2014, has the Minister, and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister’s Office, had contact with representatives of the companies Avestra Asset Management, Bridge Global CMC or Zenith City Investments?

- (2) If yes to (1):
- (a) what were the dates of the contact(s);
 - (b) did the contact(s) occur by telephone, email, meeting or other means;
 - (c) what was the nature or subject of the contact;
 - (d) where the contact was by phone or email, who within the Minister's office participated in the contact; and
 - (e) where the contact was by email, what are the names of all persons present at the meeting?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Between 1 July 2014 and 23 February 2016 the Premier and his current Ministerial staff has had the following contact with representatives of the companies Avestra Asset Management, Bridge Global CMC or Zenith City Investments related to government business. The Premier and his current Ministerial staff may have had contact with representatives of the companies Avestra Asset Management, Bridge Global CMC or Zenith City Investments for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed below:

No

N/A

ATTORNEY GENERAL — PORTFOLIOS — COMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES

5110. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister representing the Attorney General; Minister for Commerce:

I refer to each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise under the Minister's control, and ask:

- (a) what is the total number of employees engaged in:
 - (i) media relations;
 - (ii) publicity;
 - (iii) public relations;
 - (iv) communications;
 - (v) strategic communications;
 - (vi) marketing;
 - (vii) corporate affairs; and
 - (viii) speechwriting;
- (b) what is the job title for each of these positions; and
- (c) what is the salary range or level of each position?

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

- (a)–(c) Please refer to the response to Question on Notice No. 5117.

PREMIER — MINISTERIAL OFFICE — FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ALLOCATION

5140. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

I refer to the Ministerial Office Full Time Equivalents (FTE) of 212.89 as at 30 June 2015, and the FTE of 214.39 as at 3 December 2015, and ask:

- (a) in which Ministerial Office/s are the additional 1.5 FTE located;
- (b) did the additional FTE allocation receive approval from the Ministerial Merit Panel and, if so, on what date or dates did the Panel approve the additional allocation; and
- (c) what is the Ministerial Office FTE as at 25 February 2016?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (a) Hon C J Barnett MLA (0.5) and Hon D T Redman MLA (1.0).
 - (b) Merit Panel's approval was not required for these arrangements.
 - (c) 219.68.
-

