



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2024

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPER TABLED

A paper was tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

PETROLEUM RETAILERS RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES REPEAL BILL 2024

Notice of Motion to Introduce

Notice of motion given by **Dr J. Krishnan (Parliamentary Secretary)**.

LIZ BOOTH — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [12.02 pm]: I would like to take a moment of the house's time to convey my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Western Australian sporting champion Liz Booth. Liz left an indelible mark on netball in this state, excelling as a player, coach, administrator and mentor to many, many people. The extended netball community is hurting this week as we remember her and her immense contribution to netball and the broader sporting community. Liz embodied the spirit of netball, and was always striving to uplift and advance netball at every level. Her passion, commitment, dedication and enthusiasm are unrivalled and her legacy will continue for decades to come. Liz Booth's academic achievements, which included a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Australia, further underscored her dedication to both her professional and personal development.

Liz served as the general manager of community netball at Netball WA, wherein her leadership and vision were instrumental in shaping the future of the sport. Liz was also previously a program coordinator at the Western Australian Institute of Sport, contributing to sport at all levels in our state. Her extensive experience in sports management and high-performance programs was pivotal in growing netball in WA, and she was always at the forefront, pushing for excellence and inclusivity. Liz was involved in the establishment and coordination of netball programs at both regional, state and national levels. Her legacy is in not only the programs she developed or the roles she held, but the lives she touched and the community she helped build. Her impact as a mentor has been profound, guiding and inspiring many within the sporting community. The values she championed—passion, commitment and dedication—will continue to influence and inspire future generations.

It was important that only a couple of weeks ago, during the long weekend, she was acknowledged at a major regional netball competition, with all players wearing black armbands. I would like to recognise the contributions of Liz to sport in this state, and we all pay our respects to her family, friends and colleagues during this tremendously difficult time.

JOHN TODD — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [12.05 pm]: I would also like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible life of Western Australian football legend John Todd and to express my deepest condolences on his recent passing. John Todd's career began with a bang, winning the prestigious Sandover Medal at the tender age of 17 years in 1955. He was an outstanding leader, captaining South Fremantle in 1959, 1961 and 1962, and his performance in 1961 earned him a place in the all-Australian team, earning him recognition as one of the best players in the nation. John Todd went on to become an icon of WA football following his 132 games for South Fremantle, coaching six West Australian Football League premierships across East Fremantle in 1974, South Fremantle in 1997 and Swan Districts in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1990.

John Todd was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2004, he was elevated to legendary status in the West Australian Football Hall of Fame. In 2011, he was also named the inaugural legend in the South Fremantle Football Club Hall of Fame, an honour that reflects his significant contributions to the club. John Todd's influence extended to the Swan Districts Football Club as well, in which he was inducted into its hall of fame and recognised as the team of the century coach. John Todd also represented Western Australia 13 times, including being on that team that won the 1961 carnival.

The Premier has offered the family of John Todd a state memorial service in his honour, and they have accepted that offer. The state government will also support the John Todd Memorial Cup match between Swan Districts Football Club and South Fremantle Football Club this Saturday, 15 June.

Vale, John Todd.

The SPEAKER: Vale, John Todd.

ART GALLERY — *TIME • RONE* INSTALLATION*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.07 pm]: This statement is more uplifting. I am very excited to announce that for the first time, internationally acclaimed street artist RONE will exhibit at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in the historical Centenary Galleries in a fully immersive ticketed public exhibition. *TIME • RONE* is a multi-sensory installation that projects on to a grand scale the lifelong search for beauty in decay. Following a sellout season in Melbourne, *TIME • RONE* will open its doors in AGWA's Centenary Galleries this winter, with expanded staging, new rooms, new murals and new experiences exclusive to Perth audiences. The historic Centenary Galleries will be experienced like never before as visitors walk, breathe and live among remnants of mid-century Australia. The exhibition will take over the entirety of the Centenary Galleries, the first time both floors have been opened in almost 20 years. The visitor will be led on a journey of beautiful visuals and soundscapes.

I have already seen a glimpse of this iconic project and can confidently say that *TIME* is transformational and offers a brilliant opportunity for AGWA and Perth to showcase their vibrancy and premium cultural offerings to all visitors. In addition to the wonderful exhibition, the experience will include secret room dinners and a fully designed *TIME • RONE*-inspired bar space. I am sure you and I will enjoy that, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Absolutely.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Visitors will be able to linger there—I like to linger!—amongst the art.

The SPEAKER: Linger longer.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As opposed to loiter.

All will be curated with the artist to ensure a truly unforgettable experience. I think we might have a date night, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Excellent.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am sure you will look forward to it.

The SPEAKER: I will be entertained for sure.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: In alignment with the Western Australian government's vision for dream events, the *TIME • RONE* exhibition will create new experiences, contribute to Western Australia's "always on" calendar of diverse events and provide a positive economic impact for Western Australia.

Folks, members, *TIME • RONE* will open to the public on 1 July for a three-month season. *TIME • RONE* in Perth will be the hot ticket for winter—take a hot date if you want to!—and the unmissable experience of 2024.

Mr J.N. Carey: Don't laugh at your own joke!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am not laughing at my own jokes!

Mr J.N. Carey: Yes, you are.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Goodness me; the minister got out of the wrong side of the bed this morning!

I encourage everyone to visit the exhibition, excavate the past and embrace the beauty of *TIME*.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — DRUG DETECTION UNIT — THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY*Statement by Minister for Corrective Services*

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Corrective Services) [12.11 pm]: On 29 May, I was pleased to attend the thirtieth anniversary of the Drug Detection Unit. It was a privilege to officially open the DDU Administration Complex to mark this special occasion. The Drug Detection Unit has provided invaluable services to the people of Western Australia since its inception in 1994. The hard work and dedication of officers in the unit have ensured the identification and seizure of countless items of contraband otherwise destined for our correctional facilities. The DDU began operating in 1994 as the dog squad, with two officers and their German shepherds. Today, the unit has 18 teams of officers and passive alert response labradors working across metropolitan and regional prisons. It is a testament to the pride this team has for their work that one of the original officers, Gail Raven, drove up from Albany to attend the thirtieth anniversary celebrations and opening of the new headquarters.

In the financial year to date, the unit has conducted more than 70 000 searches in prisons, youth detention centres and visitor areas on people and in cells, prison areas, mail, vehicles and property. In 2022–23, 53 790 searches were undertaken. The increased number of searches in this financial year to 26 May has resulted in 109 seizures of contraband compared with 61 across the whole of the previous year, with the most commonly seized items being buprenorphine-based substances, cannabis and drug paraphernalia. In recent years, the DDU has expanded its functions beyond dog-led searches to using electronic drug-tracing detection devices, monitoring wastewater and

conducting blanket drug testing. It is also testing and evaluating body sample drug-testing devices capable of detecting synthetic cannabinoids. The services provided by this unit are paramount to rehabilitation efforts in custodial settings. In particular, they are vital to the smooth and successful operation of our alcohol and other drug rehabilitation prisons at Mallee, Wandoo and Bunbury.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two award recipients from the thirtieth anniversary event. Drug detection officer Glen was presented with a certificate of service for his 20 years with the unit, and drug detection dog Aria was awarded an Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association Canine Service Medal for five years' service. Thank you, Glen and Aria, for your dedicated service. I am always grateful for the efforts of our custodial staff across our state and I thank them for the work they do to keep the community safe.

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST — LISA RODGERS

Statement by Minister for Education

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Education) [12.13 pm]: I stand in this place today to acknowledge the significant contribution of Ms Lisa Rodgers, director general of Education, who has been recognised in this year's King's Birthday honours list. Lisa has received a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in support of the education community in Western Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as recognition on the COVID-19 honour roll.

Lisa commenced in the role of director general in January 2019, just one year before COVID-19 began impacting schools and communities throughout Western Australia. Amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lisa's unwavering leadership was integral to ensuring that schools remained open and students had continuity of teaching and learning. This was no mean feat given the expansiveness of Western Australia's education ecosystem, which encompasses more than 830 public schools. As a results-driven, dynamic leader with the ability to lead collectively, Lisa ensured that Education's response to COVID-19 was coordinated and responsive, with the capacity to scale up when required. Under Lisa's leadership, the department ensured that all public schools operated consistent with public health directions. The department also took part in strategies as part of a whole-of-government response to COVID-19, including working with the Department of Health to coordinate a statewide immunisation program in schools and managing the distribution of rapid antigen tests to all Western Australian families with school-aged children across all Western Australian schools. There was also the establishment of the Learning at Home website, which provided kindergarten to year 12 learning resources and student wellbeing information for parents to support their child's learning at home, ensuring continuity of learning for students. This was in addition to the online connected learning hub for schools to access learning resources, professional learning and student wellbeing resources to enable the pivot to online learning. These resources were of immense value to teachers as they provided them with materials to share with students who could not attend school due to COVID-19 isolation requirements.

None of this could be done in isolation, though. Lisa's collegial leadership and management approach to working with key education and government stakeholders enabled the success of the department's response to COVID-19. This award recognises and celebrates the strategic decision-making and positive cultural change that Lisa led during the COVID-19 pandemic, its enduring and lasting impact, and, most importantly, the successful delivery of initiatives that kept our schools open, even at the height of the pandemic.

PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR ABORIGINAL SITES GRANT PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) [12.16 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge the successful recipients of the Preserve, Promote and Protect our Aboriginal Sites grant program. Over the past 10 years, the state government has committed more than \$2.5 million through the grants to support Aboriginal organisations and communities in preserving and protecting Aboriginal heritage sites across Western Australia. Aboriginal people are best placed to manage their unique cultural heritage, and this grant program is empowering elders and young people alike to promote greater cultural understanding and appreciation of their heritage to all Western Australians.

Seven not-for-profit Aboriginal corporations are set to benefit from state government funding for 11 projects that will protect significant Aboriginal heritage sites across Western Australia. Grants of up to \$50 000 through the 2023–24 Preserve, Promote, and Protect our Aboriginal Sites program will support on-ground works at Aboriginal sites, promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and provide social and economic benefits to local communities. Three grants totalling more than \$130 000 will help the Yued Aboriginal Corporation to conduct initial heritage and environmental assessments of registered Aboriginal sites across the south west region, including the former Mogumber mission, identifying threatening or damaging conditions and recording digital stories of the area. The Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation will use over \$100 000 in grant funding for three projects—to investigate fencing at Lyndon station that will protect important rock art from livestock, for a water monitoring program at the Djadabunna Trapyard water source and to rehabilitate Nunginjay Spring. In the Pilbara, the Budadee Aboriginal Corporation will use a grant of more than \$48 000 to install signage at Tambourah Spring to inform visitors about

the cultural heritage values of the site. Grant funding for a project led by Nowanup Noongar Boodjar Ltd in the south west will bring elders to the Carlawillup Rockhole accompanied by an anthropologist/historian and an ecologist to record stories and cultural knowledge and develop appropriate site protection and rehabilitation measures. These sites hold great social and cultural significance for Aboriginal communities, connecting them with their past, present and future.

WATER CORPORATION — WINTER SPRINKLER SWITCH-OFF

Statement by Minister for Water

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Water) [12.19 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the annual winter sprinkler switch-off is now in effect. This permanent water-saving initiative runs each year from 1 June until 31 August and applies to all scheme and bore water users in Perth, Mandurah and parts of the south west and great southern. The switch-off was introduced in 2010. Each year, this essential water-efficiency measure is responsible for saving close to five billion litres of water. That means that since the program began, approximately 70 billion litres of water has been saved—enough water to fill Perth Stadium 70 times over. This year, with the historic warm and dry lead-up to winter, the winter sprinkler switch-off is more important than ever. Although the rain is returning, in the six months to March this year, Perth recorded its driest six-month period on record, with just under 22 millimetres filling gauges across the city. That is why our government is reminding residents to turn off garden irrigation to conserve precious water supplies for when it is needed most. Many plants, trees and lawns are dormant over winter, needing far less water to survive. Winter brings with it cooler temperatures, morning dew, fewer daylight hours and lower evaporation rates, allowing moisture to remain in the soil for longer. For newer plants that may require a helping hand, hand watering is permitted. By switching off our sprinklers in winter when the days are shorter and cooler, we can collectively save water for the warmer months when the need is greatest. Rather than intermittent water restrictions influenced by annual rainfall, which occurs in other states, here in Western Australia we use permanent water-efficiency measures that are now part of our everyday lives—WA’s two-day-a-week sprinkler roster and the winter sprinkler switch-off. Water is a precious resource, and being waterwise” is a collective responsibility. I thank and commend those who are doing the right thing and have switched off their sprinklers.

BEELIAR WETLANDS — METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT

Statement by Minister for Planning

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Planning) [12.21 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook government is continuing to follow through on its commitment to protect the Beeliar wetlands and to remove the regional road reserve for Roe 8 and 9. We passed the Metropolitan Region Scheme (Beeliar Wetlands) Bill in 2021, reserving Beeliar wetlands as parks and recreation, assigning an A-class conservation reserve and giving the wetlands the highest level of environmental protection.

A substantial engagement program was then undertaken in late 2022, led by Hon Peter Tinley, to gather information and preliminary feedback from stakeholders including local governments, advocacy and community groups, local education providers, recreation groups and interested community members. This feedback informed the draft MRS amendment—*Roe 8 remainder and Roe 9 (Removal of primary regional roads reservation)*. This MRS amendment process is now nearing completion, with the amendment tabled in both houses of Parliament on 11 June 2024 for 12 sitting days.

The MRS amendment will create two overarching uses of land within the corridor. Significant sections of the area will be reserved as parks and recreation for those areas exhibiting significant environmental, cultural or heritage values. This will improve the amenity for the local community. The land proposed to be zoned urban accommodates existing development or land that is vacant or degraded. These areas provide for investment in housing, commercial, educational and recreational projects. This includes security of land tenure for local schools, land provision for the replacement of a recreation centre and supports the acceleration of housing delivery for Western Australians. Once finalised, the outcomes of the MRS amendment will allow for local, more detailed planning to progress, which will be subject to further consultation with the community. The finalisation of this amendment will ensure that the Beeliar wetlands will be protected for generations to come. I express my gratitude for all those involved in making this achievement possible.

DISABILITY SERVICES — REGIONAL GRANTS

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.24 pm]: I rise today to inform the house of a \$765 000 commitment by the Cook government to support employment opportunities for Western Australians with disability in regional areas. It was a pleasure to recently catch up with the Busselton-based team from Intelife Group, which is one of three WA organisations sharing in this significant funding support. The employment of people with disability remains a priority for the Cook government, with \$250 000 of the new funding going to Intelife to trial new ways of connecting people with a disability into open employment in the south west. I was lucky enough to

meet one of the Busselton participants Michael Allen-Williams, a wonderful young man with simple employment goals. After working hard to complete a three-year certificate III in horticulture, he wants a permanent job with an award wage, doing more than he is currently being asked to do, which is to rake leaves in gardens. Michael would be a fantastic employee but has been unable to get an opportunity. His story is a familiar one in the disability community, with the statistics showing that people with disability aged between 15 and 64 years are twice as likely to be unemployed as those without disability. But our government hopes to change that by working with organisations like Intelife.

Workpower will also receive \$250 000 of this funding to deliver programs that help people with disability to improve job readiness and engage with employers to provide training to upskill managers in disability awareness and ways to build an inclusive work culture. Good Sammy Enterprises will receive \$265 000 to deliver disability awareness training to state government agencies in regional centres, as well as school-based traineeship programs for schools in Albany, Bunbury, Northam and Geraldton. The grants form part of the sector transition fund six, a \$4 million Cook government commitment to ensure the ongoing employment of people with disability who were affected by the Activ Foundation's decision in 2022 to close its large workshops.

In closing, we are proud of our track record of supporting Western Australian Disability Enterprises, which plays a valuable role in providing employment opportunities for people with disability in the community. Employment is more than just work; it offers a place to learn new skills, build social connections and provides a sense of purpose.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Statement by Minister for Volunteering

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Volunteering) [12.26 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house that from 20 May to 26 May we celebrated National Volunteer Week. This year's theme was "Something for Everyone", recognising the diverse passions and talents everyone brings to the selfless act of volunteering. Nothing could demonstrate that more clearly than the vast range of volunteers recognised at the Department of Communities 2024 WA Volunteer of the Year Awards, at which 1 248 volunteers from across the state were recognised. I was especially pleased to present 24 awards to people who have volunteered for more than 50 years, with six recipients being recognised with a lifetime award for over 60 years of voluntary service, including the south west's very own Glenorchy Cumming-Summers, who has given 73 years of service to Girl Guides Western Australia. At age 92, she remains a dedicated volunteer and treasured member of the Capel Trefoil Guild, which has impacted positively on countless lives across the state.

I would also like to provide a snapshot of the events that occurred throughout the week. Celebrations kicked off with a visit to Wheelchairs for Kids, whose volunteers have changed the lives of disadvantaged children across the globe through building and gifting over 54 000 all-terrain wheelchairs. I was impressed by this incredible group of people, many of whom are WA seniors wanting to give back to the community, including long-serving volunteer John, who is still giving his time to this special cause at 94 years of age. I had the honour of attending one of those funded celebrations at a morning tea with the Friends of Kings Park to celebrate with some of its 1 300 volunteers.

On Wear Orange Wednesday, I had the incredible opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our State Emergency Services volunteers who have kept West Aussies safe from natural disasters and emergencies for more than six decades. I attended the 2024 South West Volunteer of the Year Awards, hosted by Volunteer South West. Finally, I had the pleasure of speaking at the 2024 WA Volunteer of the Year Awards hosted by Volunteering WA. The awards recognise the inspiring contributions made by volunteers and organisations each year across seven different categories.

On behalf of the Cook Labor government, I would like to thank all the volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations for an incredible National Volunteer Week and for the positive impact they are having on Western Australia.

SHIRE OF YORK — OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TRACK

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister for Local Government) [12.29 pm]: I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge the Shire of York for its work on upgrading the Oliver Battista off-road vehicle area. I recently had the pleasure of visiting the shire and touring the ORV area. The shire has named the ORV area's main motocross track after Oliver Battista, who was the much-loved local son of Bob Battista, who was also in attendance. Oliver was mad about motorcycles, even as a baby, and spent most of his afternoons at the track with his brothers before his tragic death in 2012. It was only fitting that, several years later, the track was renamed in Oliver's memory.

As members may be aware, the Cook government has supported the shire's efforts with a \$40 000 grant to the shire from the off-road vehicles account to support major track upgrades. The shire has also made a major investment towards these works, which has delivered new and improved jumps, track upgrades, improved drainage to reduce waterlogging, and track realignment to avoid impacts to the Gogulgar Bilya, or Avon River. I also had the pleasure

of meeting with representatives from the Recreational Trailbike Riders Association to hear firsthand about how riders have benefited from this investment and how local riders continue to play a very active role in managing one of WA's best ORV areas. The shire also recognises Bob and Sharon Battista as the biggest supporters of this lovely community facility. I understand that the number of visitors has increased since the area was reopened in January 2024, with about 90 vehicles a day visiting in the first 30 days.

The shire also briefed me on its plans for further upgrades to the track, recognising the importance of the track for local riders and for tourists to the region. I would like to commend the Shire of York for its very proactive approach to planning and maintaining the ORV area, in consultation with riders and stakeholders.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank shire president Kevin Trent, acting CEO Alina Behan, Mr Lindon Mellor, Ms Rebecca Palumbo and Mr Allan Brady of the Shire of York for briefing me on their impressive work. The Cook government remains committed to supporting the continued development of high-quality ORV areas across Western Australia. Of course, local governments and local riders are key partners in this important work, now and into the future.

DUTIES AMENDMENT (FIRST HOME OWNER CONCESSIONS) BILL 2024

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 May.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.32 pm]: I rise to speak to the Duties Amendment (First Home Owner Concessions) Bill 2024. In doing so, I advise that the opposition supports this bill. I will run through some of the issues around it. This bill will amend the Duties Act 2008 to increase the first home owner duty concession so that properties valued at up to \$450 000 will be exempt from transfer duty; previously, the threshold was \$430 000. Properties valued between \$450 000 and \$600 000 will receive a duty concession of \$15.01 per \$100, or part of \$100. This adjustment will be retrospectively applicable from 9 May through a mechanism that I will talk about shortly, and it is expected that it will affect around 5 000 first home buyers per year; at least, it will affect roughly that number this year, because as we know, the value of houses keeps rising.

We are told that the cost to the budget is expected to be around \$82 million across the forward estimates. To compare this with other state jurisdictions, South Australia has abolished stamp duty for first home owners of dwellings with a value of up to \$650 000. In Queensland, the concession commences at \$500 000 and phases out at \$800 000. In Victoria exemptions apply to properties valued from \$600 000 to \$750 000. We can see that most of those examples are a little higher than what is being proposed in Western Australia. The minister may wish to comment on how those figures were arrived at—the increase in the threshold from \$430 000 to \$450 000, and the rise in the phase-out figure from \$530 000 to \$600 000.

I understand that the Minister for Finance can use pre-enactment powers that allow the commissioner to administer concessions from the date of publication. Those would be for transactions entered into from 9 May 2024. For any agreements entered into before 9 May, regardless of whether the transaction was completed, the old prevailing rates will apply.

It has been 10 years since these rates were last adjusted in 2014, so some might say that it has been a long time coming, but the effect will no doubt be diminished quite rapidly because, as we know, property values in Western Australia keep rising. When this exemption was set at \$430 000 in 2014, property values were generally much lower than they are now. There has been newspaper commentary around the number of suburbs where people could have bought properties that would have qualified for the full exemption in 2014, as opposed to the number that would qualify now. I refer to a *West Australian* article by Josh Zimmerman from 20 March. It states —

The proportion of standalone homes selling for \$430,000 or less in Perth has plunged dramatically since the onset of the COVID pandemic—from close to 40 per cent in 2019 to just 13.6 per cent last year.

That means seven in eight freestanding houses sold in the metropolitan area last year were out of the price range of budget-conscious West Australians looking to break into the property market for the first time while avoiding stamp duty.

The median house price in Perth rose in 2023–24 to about \$605 000. That is a lot more than \$450 000.

The full concessions applicable under this legislation will affect only lower-value houses. Even increasing the upper limit to \$600 000 will not affect a lot of the properties available for sale in many Perth suburbs. It will set up a situation in which first home owners will be driven to more distant suburbs, where they can afford to buy a house, rather than to suburbs closer to the metropolitan area, where the house prices are typically somewhat high. However, these concessions can also apply to home units, so there is that option available to people.

All in all, we will support this legislation. We might go into consideration in detail for a few minutes just to talk about some of the mechanics of the application of these concessions, but I will leave it to the minister to respond, either in consideration in detail or in her reply to the second reading debate, to the comments I have made. We look forward to the passage of this bill through the house.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer) [12.38 pm] — in reply: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution to this debate. With regard to the comparison of Western Australia's concessions with those of other states, of course, median house prices vary across the nation. There has been an increase in our median house price recently, but it is still low compared with some other states, particularly the bigger states. The rates at which the concessions cut in and cut out also vary. There is variability in both the concessional rate and the median house price.

In relation to the state of the housing market more generally, supply is our big challenge. That is why we are continuing to try to support as much supply as possible. Some of the initiatives we have introduced are more about getting underused stock on the market. For example, through the Airbnb incentive, we are supporting owners of Airbnbs to put their homes on the long-term rental market. We have already seen over 180 homes put on the long-term rental market as a result of that initiative.

We are seeing a lot of interest in our \$5 000 incentive for owners of vacant homes, and we are working through the applications.

In relation to how the value of the properties was set, as we know, we have seen house prices increase. A pre-budget submission lodged by a relevant industry group highlighted particular levels. For example, we looked at the median price of a three-bedroom house when setting the levels.

This legislation is part of a range of initiatives. As I said, this is one measure, but there are a number of other measures. For example, we have very attractive stamp duty concessions for people buying property off the plan, and we will continue to offer those types of incentives. This is just part of a wider package of trying to support housing supply in Western Australia.

I know that there are particular challenges in every town in regional Western Australia. We are continuing to work not only on tax settings, but also primarily on what the Minister for Housing is doing to support land availability and other incentives, such as our infrastructure development fund for both the metropolitan area and regional WA, and how we continue to support land supply.

I thank the opposition for its contribution and support. The government is very grateful for the support. We hope this legislation encourages more people to buy their first home.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Schedule 2 Division 2 amended —

Mr R.S. LOVE: Minister, we spoke briefly about this clause. It relates to setting the value of a property for duty concessions. It will remove the current amount of \$430 000, for which the duty applied is nil, and amounts between \$430 001 and \$530 000, for which the calculated concessional amount is \$19.19 per \$100.

Just to reiterate and put it on the record, we have seen a very steep rise in the price of houses in Western Australia. The government has made some commentary around Perth having more affordable house prices than cities in other states across the nation, yet it does not seem to be a huge increase after 10 years of inflation. Can the Treasurer once again explain how the government came to the figure of \$450 000 as being a suitable amount, given that so many more property owners would have been exempt from duty when the amount of \$430 000 was first set in 2014?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As the member said, there has not been an increase in the duty concession since 2014, so we are very pleased to be able to announce and implement the first increase in 10 years. We can set a number of different averages or medians. One of the things we considered was the average price of a three-bedroom house. I do not have that number in front of me, but I recall that it is about \$535 000. That is one of the factors we considered. As I said, the pre-budget submission from the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia—I will get some further information from my office about that—referenced a couple of these types of indicators, and that is what we used.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It might be a little off the mark, but can the Treasurer explain why there is a difference between the value set by the first home owner grant and the value of the duty concession? Why are they not set at the same level?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Historically, there has always been a difference in how these rates have been treated. The \$10 000 first home owner grant is for new house and land packages. I am not sure why the amount was set at \$750 000 but, in a sense, it helps increase supply, which also helps the general market at the moment. New house and land packages help increase the supply of homes into the market, which is a general policy aim of our government.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6: Schedule 3 Division 13 inserted —

Mr R.S. LOVE: Clause 6 is the main part of the bill and relates to what we spoke about earlier—for instance, the concession applying to agreements that are reached on or after 9 May. Can the minister outline a couple of things? Clause 6 proposes to insert several new sections: 78, 79 and 80. Proposed section 78 is a definitional section and includes the definition for “relevant first home owner concessional transaction”. There is then more information in proposed section 79 about what that is. I wonder why those same definitions are repeated across proposed sections 79 and 80. Why is that necessary in the legislation?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It has been described to me that clause 6 contains the transitional provisions, noting there are some more complicated transactions like those in a shared equity arrangement, to ensure that the transition can apply the new rates to the transactions. This clause outlines all the rules and regulations for the transitional period.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you. There are a number of examples of some of those shared matters in the explanatory memorandum. I want to get a bit of clarity on proposed section 80(2), which refers to —

(b) a transfer of dutiable property that is —

...

(ii) a transfer of dutiable property the subject of a pre-9 May 2024 agreement to a substituted transferee in relation to the agreement.

I assume that means a change in the person with whom the agreement is made. For instance, an agreement is made prior to 9 May, the transaction has not occurred, but before they change that, they change the transferee, presumably in the hope of re-enlivening the original agreement so that it would fall under the dutiable concessions as they apply. First, is that the reason for that or can the minister perhaps shed some light on the reason for this provision?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: This proposed section is trying to spell out that a transaction that occurred before 9 May will not receive the concessional rates post-9 May if there is a transfer as outlined in this provision. It is again trying to ensure that transactions entered into before 9 May will not receive the concession outlined in this legislation.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to subsection (4), the last subsection of proposed section 80. Can the minister give me an understanding of what that means? The proposed subsection states —

If an assessment of duty payable on a relevant first home owner concessional transaction to which the amended concession provisions apply was made before commencement day ...

Is the commencement day the commencement date of this legislation or the commencement date of that concessional arrangement, which is 9 May? That is the first question I would like to ask: what is the day referred to there?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is 9 May.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It then goes on to state —

Ms R. Saffioti: Sorry—between 9 May and the commencement of the bill.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It refers to an assessment made before 9 May, but it refers to the commencement day of the bill. The commencement day that we are talking about here is not 9 May.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, sorry. This proposed subsection provides that the commissioner may reassess the duty payable on a transaction in accordance with the amended provisions. This ensures the commissioner can reassess agreements entered into between 9 May 2024 and the commencement of the bill, taking into account the new rate and thresholds.

Mr R.S. LOVE: That explains it perfectly. Thank you.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer) [12.57 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.57 pm]: I reiterate my support for the bill and thank the advisers, who have now left the building, for giving their time to be here today and provide us with the information required.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT TRUST BILL 2024*Second Reading*

Resumed from 11 June.

MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman) [12.58 pm]: I am really pleased to rise today to speak about the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. Of course, we all know the benefits of sport and recreation in our communities for physical fitness and wellbeing, but, for me, the real value of our community sports is the social connection—that building of community, the coming together of people over common interests, and the hours and hours of volunteer time that goes into building that community. I am really proud to support our community and sporting clubs in the electorate of Bateman because it really is about more than just the sport.

I will talk about some of the fantastic clubs we have in the electorate and some of the ways in which I have been really proud to support them and recognise and celebrate their achievements for all that they do. Recently, I spoke in this place about the achievements of Blue Gum Park Tennis Club, which recently turned 50 years old. I have already had the pleasure to speak about one of the fantastic volunteers, Colin Lorrimar, who won a Service to Tennis award at the recent Tennis West Awards Gala. That really epitomises his contribution to not only tennis, but also Blue Gum Park Tennis Club, which sits right at the heart of the community at that intersection between Brentwood, Mt Pleasant and Booragoon. It really is the heart of those communities. One can go down there, particularly on a summer's evening; I am not much of a tennis fan in winter. Of course, one can play year round as the club has hard courts and grass courts. Just short of \$24 000 was delivered in 2022 for the club lights program, which allows people to play well into the night during summer or winter, and they do. They have a great time there. It is more my style to go down there on a summer's night, when not only juniors, but also people of all ages enjoy the tennis. There are also family nights, movie nights and barbecues. It really has a great vibe. It is a fantastic and beautiful place to be, right in the bush, with Blue Gum Reserve Lake sitting right behind it.

In addition to the club lights program that I mentioned and that delivered LED lighting upgrades in 2022, I was thrilled to support the club with a 2021 election commitment of \$60 000. That contribution went towards shade and spectator seating upgrades. I mentioned that I prefer playing tennis in summer, but it gets hot, so the shade structure the club built provides a lovely place for relatives—such as grandparents with their grandchildren—to take children down to their tennis lessons or to watch a match. They can now do that in the comfort of this fantastic spectator stand. I was really proud to deliver that \$60 000 to the club, and the club members put in a lot of work to deliver it. Congratulations to them for that.

More recently, in fact, just last week, I went down to the squash side of the club to celebrate the opening of the new squash court front walls, which went from rendered wall to glass. I used to play squash in my younger university days. The club explained to me that the ball bounces off rendered walls at unpredictable angles, so the glass walls are lower maintenance and provide a much higher quality game. It would not matter what the quality was for someone like me, but when people get into those upper levels of playing, I am sure it will make a real difference! This year, the community sporting and recreation facilities fund contributed \$100 000 to that program. It was a fantastic effort. The club is growing and going from strength to strength, and I look forward to supporting it for the next 50 years.

I need to put on the record—I say it when I go there to speak—that every time I go there, I get inspired and think that I would enjoy a bit of tennis. A couple of events ago, I actually signed up. I got sick of saying it, so I signed up, and I am a member. But have I been yet? No, I have not! The ambition is still there; the intent is good, but the time and perhaps sometimes the motivation is still a little bit lacking. Hopefully, I will get there.

Another amazing community club is the Kardinya Bowling Club. It is amazing for not just what it does, but also its outreach into the community. I have been really proud to support it. Every year it hosts the all-abilities bowls championships, and some incredible athletes turn up to that. A couple of years ago when I had the pleasure of presenting some of the awards, a vision-impaired bowler was there and their accuracy was incredible. They had really amazing skills. It is fantastic to see people from across Western Australia come to Kardinya, be supported and welcomed so warmly by the Kardinya Bowling Club, and experience the joys of the sport that they love. One of my 2021 election commitments was \$121 000 to the Kardinya Bowling Club. It delivered a shade sail, which is really important for the people there to be able to enjoy the sport that they love even as the temperature rises.

Another fantastic bowling club in my electorate—I have three and they are all fantastic—is Mt Pleasant Bowling Club. A \$100 000 election commitment was delivered to the club for a significant upgrade. This was in partnership with the City of Melville, so the Cook government did not deliver all of the \$100 000. As members can imagine, the cost of building upgrades has gone up significantly, which was the case here. What started as a \$300 000 project ended up pushing close to \$1 million. The club saw some significant upgrades that will enable it to meet the current and future needs of its members. The upgrades included the construction of a universally accessible toilet and a retractable wall, which will separate the facility if a couple of groups, such as playgroups, want to use it during the day. Any number of community groups can now go in there and use that space. There was also a partnership with Melville Cares. The upgrades have brought that building and facility to life. I enjoyed going down to celebrate

the opening of those upgrades. Some of the club members were miffed that I wanted to get a photo of the toilets, but what amazing toilets! They are universally accessible toilets, and it is a much safer facility now for everyone to enjoy.

I mentioned that I am trying to get motivated to be involved in a sport, and I thought tennis might be it for me. When I was much, much younger, my sport of choice was netball.

Mrs L.A. Munday: You look 25 now, member.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Thank you. I will pay the member later!

Netball was my choice of sport, so I have a passion for it. I have only boys and, of course, boys can play netball and enjoy it; however, my boys do not. My son, who likes basketball, said to me, “What would you know about basketball?” He is a teenager, so what would I know about anything! What would I know about basketball? What would I know about ball sports? He says, “Netball is easy, Mum.” I would like to get him on the court and challenge him on that. I reckon I could do a hip and shoulder on him! Netball is not an easy sport, son. It is a fantastic sport. It is fast. It is dynamic. It is powerful. It is skilful. I am really pleased to support netball clubs in my electorate. It was a no-brainer to support the Kardinya Netball Club with \$80 000, which was a 2021 election commitment. It had been supported in former years by the member for Willagee, and after a boundary redistribution, it fell within my boundary. The member for Willagee formerly committed to provide funding for a storage container, and the \$80 000 that I delivered as an election commitment provided the upgrade of the court surface. It went from being a hard, cracked bitumen surface to a beautiful, bright blue, safe court, which supports everyone from juniors all the way up.

The other club that I was really pleased to support in 2021 as part of the election commitment process was Tingara Netball Club. It is such a large club that it is split over two training sites, one of which is at Brentwood Primary School. We gave \$100 000 to Brentwood Primary School to resurface its courts, and they also look amazing. They not only have basketball rings, netball rings, a new court surface and lovely lines, but also have managed to draw around the boundary some fun games like hopscotch and others. The courts are enjoyed by hundreds of Brentwood Primary School children every day and then by the Tingara Netball Club in the evenings for training.

One of the things that really stood out to me when I became the member for Bateman, as I moved around the electorate and got to know our community clubs, was that netball in the community has not received its fair share of resourcing and facilities. Local government has a really hard job because like every other level of government, there is always more need than resources. The City of Melville does a fantastic job providing facilities to our community groups, but I think netball is an area that has been overlooked. Out of all the other sports in the community, I cannot think of one that does not have a home, a clubhouse or somewhere to hang up their pennants and flags, store their trophies and build that history and sense of place over time. That to me seemed like a real gap, and I have been advocating for it every time I meet with the City of Melville administration. We meet often and have a really productive and positive relationship, but, of course, the council always know—it is almost a standing item on the agenda—that I will ask it about netball facilities. To me, it is about addressing an imbalance and inequality for a sport that is amongst the top of our nation’s highest participation sports.

I have been really pleased to work with the City of Melville, and I am pleased to have delivered upgrades to two of our clubs, but there is a way to go. As a result of my—I do not want to use the word nagging—constant reminders and advocacy for netball in the community, the City of Melville has committed to a netball and hardcourt strategy. It will start consultation shortly with all the clubs, and I would love to be involved with that and drive the conversation so that we support young people in a fantastic sport and we drive the opportunity for them, whether it is at community level or going on to play for West Coast Fever or even Australia. I would like to thank the City of Melville for committing to that strategy. As I said, I really look forward to working with the clubs.

There have been a couple of good outcomes since I became the member for Bateman and have been working on this issue.

Mr D.A. Templeman: There have been many good outcomes!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Yes, there have been many. Thank you for that!

I am referring to netball specifically. I mentioned that when I started in the role in 2021, none of the netball clubs had a place to position themselves. As a result of some of the conversations and advocacy, St Christopher’s Netball Club, which was located in the electorate of Bicton—my good friend and neighbour—is now located and has a home at Tompkins Park. That is a fantastic outcome. When Sam Lim was the candidate for Tangney, I was really proud to work with him on a number of areas of need in the community. He committed funding to upgrade court services at Karoonda Reserve, which is fantastic. Of course, Sam is now the member for Tangney. It is great to have him as a colleague and a friend. As a result of that, Tingara Netball Club now has a home at Karoonda Reserve. There were a couple of wins there for the netball community, and there are more to come. I really look forward to continuing to advocate for netball in the community.

Of course, I mentioned netball as one of the sports with the highest participation in Australia. As I look at the member for Rockingham, it would be remiss of me to not talk about the other one, which is, of course, football—

or soccer. Luckily, the Deputy Premier is not here. I am sure if I used the word “soccer”, she might get a bit cranky with me and say, “It’s football! It’s football!” I have two amazing football clubs in the community. There is the Murdoch University Melville Football Club, which my children have enjoyed playing for, and Perth Saints Football Club. Those are two really strong local clubs.

We call the Murdoch University Melville Football Club MUMFC, so that is what I will call it. It has really benefited from a number of commitments delivered in this term of the Cook government. Of course, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, who is sitting across from me, would be well aware of the great news—he rang me to give it to me personally—of a \$1.2 million community sporting and recreation facilities fund commitment to upgrade Len Shearer Reserve. It is very welcome. I thank the minister very much.

Mr D.A. Templeman: That is because of your strong advocacy, too.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: I thank the minister. It is a great club. Thousands of kids go through that venue. On a Saturday or Sunday, literally hundreds of junior players are there. Of course, they bring along their parents, proud aunts and uncles, grandparents and dogs—the whole works are down there. The facility is old and not fit for purpose, so that funding really will revitalise that club and provide for it well into the future.

I put on my summer lens again. There is the Melville Roar Athletics Club. Little Athletics is also pumping on a Saturday at the same venue, Len Shearer Reserve, on the weekends in summer. That is very welcome. I thank the minister very much.

Of course, that builds on the \$300 000 women’s world cup legacy grants program for National Premier Leagues clubs, which was a commitment of this government following the hugely successful FIFA Women’s World Cup last year. I want to put something on the record. The member for Fremantle is not in the room. She occasionally likes to claim Sam Kerr as a Fremantle local.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Who does?

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: The member for Fremantle.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Oh, yes.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: She does. She is known for claiming Sam Kerr as her own. To be fair to the member, I believe that Sam Kerr played for a Fremantle club. However, I want it on the record that she is a Kardinya local and is, along with her family, definitely a constituent of Bateman. I am proud to claim her as such. Of course, the legacy from that world cup was fantastic. There will be \$300 000 allocated to MUMFC. I believe it is going through the process, but I really hope that it will be delivered. Again, that will contribute to bringing its elite women’s team, which currently trains over two locations, into the heart of the club at Len Shearer Reserve. That will make the elite women’s side of the game more visible, which is really important. Not only are they skilled and deserve to have that visibility, but also it will provide an example to all the young players coming through. I really think that the quality of that game, as high as it is now, is just going to go from strength to strength. I cannot wait to see that happen.

Amongst all that, I got excited!

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: I am not sure if I mentioned that it was also the recipient of, believe it or not, one of my 2021 election commitments, which was \$60 000 towards lighting upgrades at Winthrop Park. Speaking of lights, the minister will also be very interested to know that Perth Saints Football Club received just short of \$63 000 as part of the Club Night Lights program. One of the challenges we have in an established area like the electorate of Bateman and its suburbs, unlike some of the greenfield sites or the newer electorates, is that we are quite constrained for space. Believe it or not, there is a fantastic amount of open space to be seen in some parts when driving past, but the demand for sports is huge. Having good-quality lights enables more teams to go through to play longer into the evening to get the most out of those facilities. I know that Perth Saints Football Club really appreciated that contribution.

Mr D.A. Templeman: That was to do the lux, I think.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: It was the lux—100 lux lighting! The minister is across the detail. I am not quite sure what it means, but it is a good thing, I am guessing!

Mr D.A. Templeman: It is brighter! It means it is all brighter. It is really important for safety—very critical.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: It is a bright light. It is important. As much as I do not know too much about lights, I believe that it is quite directional. It minimises the impact of light spill, as they like to say. That is a fantastic quality there.

I find it really surprising how quickly time goes when I talk about all the fantastic clubs in my electorate. I want to go through some of the other big infrastructure projects that have been delivered in the last few years.

Of course, people who are not interested in sport might have enjoyed a drink down at the Rowing Pavilion. It is a beautiful spot on the foreshore right near Canning Bridge. It is a great place to go for a cocktail and sit on the

deck in the nice weather; I highly recommend it. That venue is part of the facilities of Rowing WA. There has been \$250 000 allocated from the community sporting and recreation facilities fund to upgrade the facilities in that location. People can go down for a drink and maybe sign themselves up for a row as well.

I will talk about Shirley Strickland Reserve. Shirley Strickland was an amazing athlete. I was actually not aware that she was not only an incredible athlete, but also a strong advocate for a whole range of social justice issues off the field.

Mr D.A. Templeman: A great educator, too.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Yes, she was incredible. I am really pleased to have that facility in my community, the electorate of Bateman, named after her. She is somebody to aspire to, that is for sure.

The Shirley Strickland Reserve is an incredible place. People can take their kids to play, and there is a beautiful playground there, a basketball half-court and a little bit of a pump track. You name it, you can do it there. Football—sorry, that is football with the oval shape—cricket and a whole number of sports go on there. Again, there was \$800 000 allocated from the CSRFF and \$710 000 from Lotterywest. It was a great pleasure to represent the minister to see the opening of that facility. As I said, on any afternoon or day of the week, one can see the whole community enjoying that beautiful facility.

Let us go back to lights. Almost \$60 000 has been allocated to upgrade the Kardinya Tennis Club's floodlighting. It is located at Morris Buzacott Reserve, which is home to a number of Bateman's incredible community sporting clubs. It is right next door to the Melville City Hockey Club, which is a great little segue. It also received money for lighting for the grass hockey pitches at Morris Buzacott. In 2021, I made a \$20 000 election commitment on behalf of the WA Labor government for the Windelya Sports Association for clubroom fit-outs. It has a beautiful facility.

Recently, I had the Minister for Commerce, Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, come down to present with the Department of Commerce a fantastic session on how to stay safe. I kept calling it a scams forum but, of course, I was missing important words. It was not a scams forum; it was a scams prevention forum. There were some really helpful tips on how to keep safe. My point is that Windelya Sports Association has a beautiful facility. It managed that build itself and saved a significant amount of money in the process, and it is gorgeous. The \$20 000 I delivered as part of a 2021 election commitment went to things to finish it off, so it now has some beautiful, big flat screen TVs on the walls, some nice seating areas and things like that. It is well deserved by the community at that club.

South of Perth Yacht Club received \$80 000. A lot of people are sailing. It is an Olympic sport. We have lots of competitors from Western Australia who really enjoy sailing. A 2021 election commitment was \$80 000 to provide funding for a rescue boat, which they need at the starting lines and to follow the competition races. Importantly, from my perspective, the rescue boat is used by Sailability WA, which is a fantastic volunteer-led community program that takes people with a range of disabilities and needs out sailing. Its volunteers do an incredible job. It has dedicated volunteers, and I am really proud to support the South of Perth Yacht Club and the Sailability WA program, in particular.

I mentioned that a teenage boy lives in my house, so rugby has to come up. He does not play, but I feel that they are constantly getting tackled in the hallways or in the kitchen, so I will need to divert that energy into the rugby club. Part of my 2021 election commitments was \$10 000 for two custom-made spectator marquees as well as some new club equipment for the Palmyra Rugby Club, or the Pally rugby club. I congratulate the club for hosting the rugby grand finals last year at Tompkins Park. It was a fantastic event and a great day. The weather kind of behaved itself, and I was really proud to see the community on show.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member, you might want to clarify whether you are talking about rugby union.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: It is union, yes! Sorry!

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is the real rugby, member for Willagee.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Yes, I should clarify. My husband would say that there is only one type of rugby and that is union. Others in this place might disagree, but thank you for that.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Not everyone plays active sports; that is for sure. I do not see active sports being in my immediate future. I talked about how Sailability recognises that people have different needs and abilities and some are people with disability. Fishing—I do not know whether we would call it a sport.

Ms M.J. Davies: It is recreation.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: It is recreation? Okay. I know that my son likes to go off and do it. He fishes along the river every weekend, so I am really pleased that this government has supported providing \$1 million for the Mount Henry Bridge jetty replacement.

Mr D.T. Punch interjected.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: That is fantastic, and there is lots of enthusiasm over there from the Minister for Fisheries. That was part of the outdoor adventure tourism package of \$352 million announced as part of this year's budget. Some of that funding, \$1 million, is going right to the heart of my community and activating that fantastic space. It is under construction, and I look forward to opening it. Perhaps I will get both the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Tourism to come down and enjoy it.

Mr D.T. Punch: I will bring my rod!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: They can bring their fishing rods. That is fantastic, and I look forward to seeing that done.

I will talk about the Rhein-Donau Club. I can never say that properly. If anyone has any German skills, please correct me. The Office of Multicultural Interests gave the club a capital works grant of almost \$200 000. People might ask why I am talking about it with sport. The club, which sits in my electorate in Myaree, is a bit of a secret. It is in a semi-industrial warehouse area. It does have good signage on the outside that people see as they drive past, but it really does not give many clues about what happens behind those doors. Of course, as people would imagine, it is the home of the great Oktoberfest and other things German, but it is also home to lots of little community sporting clubs and groups, like table tennis, billiards, pistol and dance groups. I am not sure whether I would put this in the sporting category, a bit like fishing, but it has a strategy board games group. I am sure that gets quite competitive.

Ms M.J. Davies: The Minister for Sport and Recreation will be able to tell you that there are about 70 state sporting associations, and anything that falls outside of that is recreation and not a sport. Funding is provided to the state sporting associations through the state government. They recognise these bodies federally.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Thanks for that. I will claim it as a sport because I reckon that they get competitive. If anything is competitive, I reckon it is sports-like. Finally, in the four minutes I have left, I will recognise some of our local sporting champions.

Lenny Golding has been selected to represent Australia in under-16s baseball, so I assume that he is 15 years old. He is off to Atlanta, Georgia, this September. That is an incredible achievement. I really wish him well. He is holding a fundraiser to get him there. As anyone who participates in sport at that level knows, it can be expensive. There will be a rock 'n' roll versus sports trivia quiz, which will be hosted by Chris Murphy and Network Ten's Lachy Reid, taking place on 19 July at the Success Regional Sport and Community Facility. If anyone would like to know more about that, go along, have some fun and support Lenny on his trip to America, please contact my office and I will give them the details.

Mia Kretzer is a year 4 student at Bateman Primary School, which is the school one of my children attends. At the tender age of nine years old, she already has some incredible achievements under her belt. As parents know, mums say it best, so I will use Mia's mum's words to tell everyone a little bit about what she has achieved. Mia's mum wrote —

My nine year old daughter Mia Kretzer has recently been giving the opportunity to compete overseas in Salt Lake City in June for an international skateboarding competition run by Tony Hawk.

Mia has been skating since she was 5 and these days dedicates her time out of school to skateboarding. She is self taught and has had an incredible level of passion and dedication since the beginning. Mia has no coaches but skates daily for 2–3 hours a day after school. She loves all aspects of skating but dedicates most of her time the large vert ramps, in particular City of Bayswater Vert Ramp where it has become her second home.

Last year, Mia was seen by international scouts through her social media account and also her strong presence at national competitions and Mia skates well beyond her years. It is because of this that she was given the incredible honour of receiving the first out of four wild card entries into Tony Hawks Vert Alert Competition this year where she will skate with and against 19 other competitors where by 16 are professional skaters that have had to pre-qualify for the event. This competition is on the same level as Xgames at an international level.

Mia is also part of the newly created Nationally Accredited Skate Australia Pathways Development Program that was announced this year, where she will commence training and development as a pathway to the Olympics in years to come.

What a fantastic achievement this is for Mia. Good luck! I believe she is actually already in the United States. We really look forward to hearing how she goes and watching her development.

I am not sure when the clock will tick over, but I want to say thank you to Ken Farmer. Ken has ridden in the Tour de Gracetown to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer. He is not riding any more, but he has participated in a number of those rides to raise money and awareness. This is evidence to me that sport is not just about the game or what people are doing on the pitch or the field; it is also people's contribution to the community. Thank you.

MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville) [1.28 pm]: It is my pleasure today to stand and make a contribution on the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. This bill represents a significant and much-needed step forward in how we manage and oversee Western Australia's premier sports and entertainment venues.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Sport and Recreation, who is also my neighbour as the member for Mandurah, and thank him for bringing this legislation to the chamber. The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust trades as VenuesWest and has been the backbone of our state's sports and entertainment infrastructure, managing iconic venues like Optus Stadium and RAC Arena. These venues are not just buildings, but also the beating heart of our community—a place where we gather to celebrate, compete and create memories. However, the legislative framework guiding VenuesWest is over three decades old. The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust Act, introduced in 1986, has served us well but is now antiquated and restrictive. As the portfolio of venues has grown from one to fourteen, spanning various management models, the need for modern, flexible legislation has become evident.

The Cook government has been proactive in driving reforms to modernise our public sector. Since VenuesWest was appointed as the governance agency for Perth Stadium in 2013, it has become clear that we need an updated legislative framework. The key areas for reform in this bill are comprehensive and forward looking. We need to clearly articulate the management of multiple venues, not just one venue. Financial provisions must be updated to give VenuesWest the flexibility to undertake various business activities, implement strategic plans and continue to grow. Improved reporting governance is essential, as is the ability to better manage public safety, including the power to ban individuals when necessary. Legal clarity on exemptions from parking levies and council rates is also critical.

Looking locally as the member for Dawesville, it has been a highlight of my job to sponsor and support individuals in their dream to be sporting greats in their chosen fields. I was a young netballer and basketballer in a small country town, and distance, time and money—and probably a little bit of effort!—were a blocking agent to accepting opportunities to train in squads and the possibility of being selected to play in state teams in both sports. Having opportunities to support kids and adults in my electorate to play and train makes me very proud.

Some of the people I would like to talk about include Blake Morrissy. This year he is playing league for the Halls Head Football and Netball Club. His team is at the top of the ladder with only one loss so far this season. Blake was also a major player when he was in the colts, which was when I was introduced to the Halls Head Football Club. I originally sponsored the colts in 2021 and 2022 and they took out back-to-back grand finals. Blake was the rising star and most courageous in 2021, and the most valuable player in 2022. He has won quite a lot of best-on-ground awards already this season and I am super-excited to see what Blake achieves this season. He has been noticed in the Peel region as well, playing for Peel Cavaliers. He was best on ground and the team won its regional grand final as well. There are big things ahead for this young man.

Visitors — Attadale Primary School — Statement by Speaker

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Can I interrupt the member for a minute and welcome Attadale Primary School to the gallery, who are of course in the member for Bicton's electorate. Welcome. You have come at a great time because the member for Dawesville is giving a very interesting speech. Thank you.

Debate Resumed

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: Thank you, Acting Speaker!

I have sponsored Leticia House, like Blake, for her football every year I have occupied the seat of Dawesville. She plays for the ladies' team at South Mandurah Football and Netball Club. "Tiesh" won fairest and best for her team last year and best on ground in 2020. She was selected in the Peel Cavaliers regional team, which won its grand final last year. Tiesh is also an awesome netball player. When I talk to Tiesh, who is a young mum to two-year-old Rylan, she tells me how important sport is for her life; it gives her an identity and saves her mental health. I am sure that Tiesh would not be half the legendary person she is today without sport. She said it is a whole family thing. She plays sport with her sister, Tanika, and mum, Beth, who also play in my cricket team. Tanika also plays netball and football, too, when her injuries allow. Beth and I are the two old girls in the cricket team! I really appreciate her friendship over these last few years and how warm and welcome they have made me feel in their family when we sit and watch Tiesh play footy, or any sport for that matter. I often rug up with Beth's mum, Joy, on a cold Sunday morning and share a bacon and egg sandwich and a cuppa. We chat more than we watch, but it is a lot of fun.

Amelie Reid is a little super star. She is another young girl in my electorate who has come to see me. She rides BMX. She is absolutely taking it by storm. Listen to this: Amelie is currently ranked number one for world girls, number one for Oceania, and number one for Australian girls her age. Amelie asked me for some sponsorship money because she is absolutely devoted to BMX. It takes up a lot of her hours—and those of mum and dad—but they have made it a family commitment and her mum and dad said they will support Amelie for as long as she wants to do it. She competed in the United States last month at the UCI BMX Racing World Challenge. Congratulations on all your hard work and commitment to the sport, Amelie.

Another two local legends in my electorate are a mother and daughter duo who excel at wakeboarding. When I spoke to Symonne, she said that despite how many national champions it turns out, it is not a sport that garners much media attention. I guess we are dyed-in-the-wool footy and cricket fans, so wakeboarding does not get a lot of media attention. Stella Kennedy turned age 14 this year, and has won the Australian open junior series, the

Australian national title for the 10-year to 14-year age group, and was selected to compete in the under-18s International Moomba Masters in Melbourne, where she made the finals and placed fourth against 18-year-olds. As I said before, Stella has only just turned 14—so how amazing is that? Stella and every other successful athlete do not win titles like that without hours and hours of practice and commitment. It takes a special kind of something to create a sports star, and it is kids like Stella that I am happy to help to achieve their goals.

As they say, an apple never falls far from the tree. Stella’s mother, Symonne Kennedy, is also a bit of a wakeboarding legend. She has 10 WA state titles and seven national titles. She was selected in the Australian team for Italy in 2022, and went on to win the world champion veteran women’s section. She is now training for the world championships in September this year, which will put her in good stead to make the Australian team to compete in China in October. Symonne said that the lack of media attention limits big sponsorship opportunities; therefore, if there are any journalists watching my speech today, could they publish a big picture of Stella and Symonne, and probably Amelie—because BMX does not get the national attention it deserves—and do a write-up because they are looking for major sponsorship.

The best thing about all these sponsors who I have chatted about is that each one of those kids came to see me; they talked about their passion and what they wanted to achieve in their sporting field. It was a great honour from my perspective to be able to play a small part in them reaching their potential and having opportunities. Sponsorship is a big part of sport these days, and I know that fundraising and asking for money for yourself is extremely uncomfortable. No matter how much you believe in yourself and what you do, it is still really uncomfortable. Therefore, I am so proud of those young people brave enough to come and ask me for help. I wish I could totally fund their sports, but, unfortunately, like everyone I am sure, I have a budget I have to work within, but I know every dollar counts.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You help a lot of young ones there, so well done.

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: Thank you, member for Mandurah.

Like Symonne said to me, as a mum and coach it is hard to see kids who have to miss out on sport they are good at because their parents cannot afford it. She said that on the flip side, though, watching kids’ confidence grow from having personal achievements through sport is incredible and sometimes it is literally a fork in the road in that sport has saved their life.

To finish up, I would like to talk about some of the sports I have been a part of as a direct result of this job and meeting some great people. I met Gerard Leddin and Nicole Dalglish of the South Mandurah Cricket Club when we were looking for small commitments back in 2020 when I was a candidate. With the member for Mandurah’s help, we committed \$10 000 for a hybrid pitch to be put in at Falcon Oval. It was the first hybrid pitch in the Southern Hemisphere and took out a major award for best surface at the Australian Sport, Recreation and Play Innovation Awards for 2023.

I went on to sponsor the ladies’ T20 cricket team, headed by a super trio of Nicole Dalglish, Jeanie Thompson and Jax Daw. Nicole and Gerard talked me into playing, and I have completed three seasons. I have to say it is hard to be on a cricket field and see your face on the back of your shirt every game. I try to distance myself from that. We won back-to-back grand finals in our first two seasons. My bowling is marginally better than my batting—but both are not great. I have managed to win best on ground a couple of times, but mostly best on ground is an apt description of me throwing myself at the ball to stop it getting too far, and then crawling around trying to return it because I need two hands to get myself back up off the ground. So, really, the award is for best lying on the ground rather than best on ground!

I met Nonah cold calling. As a result of that conversation, I have a great new friend and a commitment to the Mandurah District Ladies Darts Association with the purchase seven new dart boards. I used to play every Monday night; however, I am having this season off due to campaigning and work commitments. You need to be pretty reliable when you play darts.

Over the last three years, I have played in the golden oldies round robin weekend that the Mandurah District Ladies Darts Association hosts with teams from all over Western Australia. I have learnt a lot of new terminology while playing darts; for example, to “peg out”. It is not what it means as a paramedic. Pegging out has a completely different connotation to it. It means that to win a game, you have to “peg out”, which means to score a dart in a double to win. A lot of my time has been spent trying to peg a double 1, which is the lowest score people can peg out on. When they say to me, “You know where you are now,” it is a very kind way of saying, “Can you hurry up—we’d like to go home?”

Mr D.A. Templeman: At least you’re not a “chucker”. That is a dart term for something.

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: What was that term?

Mr D.A. Templeman: A chucker—it is a dart term for someone who is very clearly a novice. The other one I like is the “premature projectus”, which means someone who gets too excited and takes their turn before it is their turn.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Minister, I think that sounds like a premature interjection, which is disorderly!

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: That is okay.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Tell them about the weekend!

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: Yes, I am just getting to it, member for Mandurah.

Last weekend was the fiftieth anniversary of golden oldies, and I was lucky to be a part of that and filled in for a division 1 team, which I know meant they could not find anyone else! Anyway, I did not do too badly; I won a few games. I need to give a shout-out to president Nonah Dalwood and the entire team of legends on the committee for another fantastic weekend, and a special shout-out to our very own member for Mandurah, David Templeman, who sang a little ditty celebrating their 50 years to the tune of *Feelin' Groovy*.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It was called *Old Farts Playing Darts*. It was well received.

Mrs L.A. MUNDAY: And the ladies loved it. Thank you, minister. I think we have some video footage that we need to put up somewhere.

I am also a patron for the Port Bouvard Surf Lifesaving Club and in 2022 I was invited to swim the Dawesville Cut 2 Club. I thought, “Why not? What’s the worst that could happen?” I figured there would be so many people out there that if I started to drown, they would probably come and get me. The last time a shark was sighted in the Dawesville Cut was many years ago. I figured that I would be one amongst hundreds anyway. From a 55-year-old point of view, there are a lot more softer, tastier people out there than me. There are two distances: 3.5 kilometres, which goes along the cut out into the ocean and back to the club, or 2.4 kilometres of just swimming in the cut and into the jetty, which I did, because I was not going to try to take on the ocean.

The first year I practised my heart out, because I suffer terribly from vertigo and I cannot swing my head around, so that cancels out overarm swimming, which is not a great outcome. This swim organisers allow people to wear swimming aids, so with a snorkel and goggles, I got out there and it was great, as I could keep my head down and swim without having to turn my head. I made it without too much pain. I am not sure what people who swim or run marathons do with their brain, but as I was swimming, my brain was saying to me, “You’re mad, just stop; are you crazy? Why are you doing this?” When doing a long swim or run, it really is a fight against what is happening in your head.

My hat goes off to people who regularly swim kilometres and kilometres or run marathons. It is incredible. I made it without too much pain. Since then, I have done the 2.4-kilometre swim in the last two years as well. I have not really practised much the last few years and have suffered a great deal more, but clearly I am a bit slow on the uptake with that. I managed to get to the end. I need a hand getting out of the water because of my vertigo, but it does not take long to settle in. It should be put in *Hansard* and into the contract for any future member for Dawesville who takes my place after I retire that they must swim the Dawesville Cut 2 Club. That is something I will make sure of.

Soccer is my new sport. As the member for Rockingham said, it is the rest of the world’s version of football. I am a very proud sponsor of the junior girls’ teams, supporting them with trophies and money for them to hold their events. I have recently come to meet Mel Loreto, who works hard at the Mandurah City Football Club, including with the continual promotion of girls’ and women’s soccer, especially after the recent and ongoing success of the Matildas.

In discussions with Mel and Belinda, I have somehow found myself joining the division 8 women’s team. They told me there were two 45-minute halves, to which I immediately said, “I don’t think so”. It was definitely a hard no and above my 55-year-old body’s capabilities, but they quickly followed that up by saying that they have 22 players, so I would be on for only 10 minutes, and they just need extra players because it is winter. I said, “Sure, no worries”. With 11 players on the field at a time, I figured it would be okay. There I was on Sunday, two days ago, with borrowed boots packed, prophylactic Nurofen and Panadol taken, knees and ankles strapped, ready to go, and I started looking at our messaging app: “Sorry, I have got a cold”, “Sorry, my dad”, “Sorry, my dog”, “Sorry, my kids”. We ended up with 11 players, and I had to run two 45-minute halves as defence. Let me tell members, the blister on my left big toe and my poor left knee—because I am extremely left-footed—has a lot of bruising to show for it, but I survived. The next few weeks of soccer are happening in I think August or September. The good thing is that I do not have to train, I just show up on a Sunday and play. During campaigning, that will fit in very well as a mental health break for me. I leave my contribution there. I am a very proud sponsor and supporter of constituents in my electorate, and I commend the bill to the house.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [1.44 pm]: It is a pleasure to today rise and make a contribution to the second reading debate on the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. I take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation for not only bringing this bill to the house, but also the huge amount of work done during our term in government, and the previous Labor government’s term, with investment in infrastructure for sporting clubs in each and every part of our electorates, not just the bigger sporting facilities. We have seen pretty significant investment to upgrade facilities, with the inclusion of much-needed change rooms to accommodate

additional female players' participation in sports, and to encourage female participation in sport, which is something I feel really passionate about. I think a record amount has been invested, and I acknowledge and congratulate the minister for that, because it is hugely impactful for communities like mine.

I also acknowledge the doubling of the KidSport payment. Taking that from \$150 to \$300 per eligible child is impactful. It encourages participation and is sometimes the difference between whether a child can or cannot participate in sport, because so many families are currently struggling to make ends meet. That extra support sometimes means the difference between a child playing organised sport or not. It is fantastic. We all are aware of the benefits of sport, but it does not hurt to reiterate that, especially when we are seeing a lot more instances of mental health issues, particularly in younger children, than we have seen in the past. Making sure that kids participate actively in organised sport is really important. We are encouraging greater numbers of kids to participate in sport with that additional KidSport payment.

I think that everyone would acknowledge that most sporting clubs would not exist and would not even be able to run a single thing without the incredible work of their dedicated volunteers. Every single season these people turn up quietly behind closed doors and do an immense amount of work. It is often a very thankless task because kids, understandably, have too much fun participating in the sport to even notice all the things that go on behind the scenes, such as getting their uniforms organised, making sure that there are referees and all those things. Without volunteers, we would not have sporting clubs and without our sporting clubs, our communities would not be as rich as they are. As someone who is unfortunately not able to assist very often by volunteering my time for sporting clubs due to work commitments, I am deeply grateful for all that they do, especially as my kids participate in quite a bit of sport themselves. Volunteers do a huge amount of work and I acknowledge that.

When I was younger, I certainly was not gifted in any sporting capacity, and I dare say I still am not. I think that not being particularly sporty had a pretty terrible impact on my confidence at a young age. Thankfully, I feel that sport has become much more inclusive. I am always pleased when I am out in my community and see sporting clubs and the way that they interact with the children. It is fantastic and really refreshing. Given my experience growing up as a kid in the 1980s, if you were not good at sport, you got picked last with the inevitable groans of, "Oh, we've got Cassie on our team!" The shame was real.

Mrs L.A. Munday: There was nothing worse than those days when they had to choose.

Ms C.M. ROWE: I know. There is nothing worse than standing there and being the last chosen. I suppose it led to an illustrious career in community theatre as a teenager. Although I was not sporty, I loved drama.

Anyway, going to my local sports clubs, it is wonderful how are enthused all the coaches and presidents of those clubs are. They give up so much time. It is so great to see people who do not have children participating in their given sporting clubs. Their children have grown and may be at university, but these people still give up their weekends, their precious personal time, to invest in future generations, future children not even their own. They are a pretty special bunch of people. I ask for the house's indulgence while I name some of these fantastic people.

Belmont Junior Football Club is massive. It runs a junior academy over the summer months outside of the football season. The Belmont Redcliffe Junior Football Academy was established purely to make sport accessible for people in our community who might not be able to afford traditional sporting club fees and to accommodate multiple siblings in one club. It was originally set up by Leigh Searle. He had a vision of setting up an academy for as many kids as possible. No matter what their parents' ability to pay was, he would accept everyone and talk to me or my sister about sponsoring certain kids if they could not afford to pay whatever the amount was. That has grown and grown over the years. The Belmont Junior Football Club is run by Darren Guild. He is one of those people who give so much to our community—one of those whose children do not play in the football club but who still dedicate so much time. He and his committee do amazing work.

The Redcliffe Junior Football Club is also incredibly popular. There is a little bit of rivalry between the two clubs, which is great. I like to think it is healthy rivalry! That club is run by the wonderful Jared Wilson, who is also so dedicated in giving so much time and energy to this club. There are some wonderful volunteers there including Sarah Lovegrove and many more, but I will not go into all the names. That club also runs an academy over the summer months. It is really popular. I am really pleased to see so many girls playing football, which is wonderful.

The Ascot Eagles Junior Cricket Club has Peter Poli as president, and is privileged to have a remarkable local, Simone Northcott, who has been a long-time supporter of the club. She will quite proudly boast that she does not know a lot about cricket, although I dispute that fact. She taught my eldest child, Bobby, how to play cricket. She made sure that every single child felt like they deserved to be there and were made to feel comfortable and included.

The mighty Belmont Bombers, the Belmont Districts Football Club, is a fantastic footy side that always goes from strength to strength under its president Mike Brotherton.

We also have a couple of senior cricket clubs. There is the Belmont Cricket Club senior, with Josh Brown. It has some pretty good players there, including Patrick Gardner.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Ms C.M. ROWE: It is a shameless plug! He is my husband, yes!

Ascot Cricket Club seniors is also fantastic. There is a bit of healthy rivalry between the two senior clubs. Michael Stevenson is its fantastic president.

We have the Belmont Netball Association, and Jacinta Thompson is its wonderful president. What a successful association it is. It has so many players on a Saturday. It is organised pandemonium. It is so popular. I see so many girls of all different ages playing on our fantastic new courts, and it is just wonderful. Again, that is thanks to funding from the state government, the local council and the club. There is a pretty special little player down there by the name of Rory Rowe-Gardner, who is a bit of a stand-out!

The Cloverdale Comets is a tee-ball club run by Melissa Zampatti. It always punches above its weight. It is very competitive and does great things. We have the Belmont Villa Soccer Club, and the delightful Mehdi Langroudi does a great job there. I am a very proud patron of the Belmont Tennis Club, and we have Ivy Mutch, who is its terrific president. I give a shout-out to Stephen Hopkins at the Belmont City Bowling Club. I acknowledge Nathan Cunningham at Belmont Little Athletics Centre, Neil Crabb at Kewdale Little Athletics Club and Carlisle–Rivervale Little Athletics Club president, John Van Heerwarden. They are great clubs with great presidents who do so much work. I know that Nathan Cunningham, for example, has been doing that role for a long time. I do not know that his kids are involved, which is yet another example of terrific dedication. We now have a croquet club, so I would like to do a shout out to the Belmont Croquet Club and its president, Terry Brown.

Although it is not strictly a sporting club, I would like to acknowledge the fact that another incredibly popular sporting activity in Belmont is dance, and we have a really great local dance school called Pazaz Dance Company, which does some wonderful shows. Since I have now put the names of my family members in my home in *Hansard*, it would be remiss of me not to mention Bobby Rowe-Gardner and her terrific dance skills displayed down there!

We all know how important sport is, but we often forget that as we get older sport can become one of those things we are too busy to participate in. I would argue that as we age it becomes even more important to remain active, not just for physical benefit, but for mental stimulation as well—for those social connections and interactions. When I go to the Belmont Park Tennis Club, for example, on a Friday night to pick up my little one who plays down there, it is fantastic to see people of all different ages coming together, rain, hail or shine to have a hit. They have often asked me to join and I have said that they would not be able to unsee a member of Parliament playing appalling tennis! They often remind me that lots of people there will not necessarily be the next Ash Barty, but they come down for that connection. I feel that is a really important thing that sport provides. It provides so much connection for people of all ages. Further to that, it is the same in our senior clubs, being the cricket and footy clubs.

There is a lot of stress for people in this modern era with their busy lives, especially with cost-of-living pressures, and people have a lot of commitments. They might work or have young families. To get together and forget the worries of any given day and participate in just good old-fashioned fun on a sports field is really important. It is something we should nurture for people young and old. I am always happy during the summer months to be a cricket widow so my better half is allowed to participate in cricket because I see the value in it and the friendships that are formed. It is quite enviable to see that classic mateship. There is a bit of a camaraderie that brings people together. It is so vitally important. Even if someone is not terribly good at sport, there is merit in giving it a go for all those reasons. Hopefully, we are nearly at question time, but I am happy to keep going!

I will tell members more about my tennis. I had a brief period of embarking on tennis as a new hobby when I was in my mid-20s. In fact, the first date I went on with my husband we decided to play a game of tennis, which did not end very well!

Several members interjected.

Ms C.M. ROWE: I mean the game!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member, was it love-all?

Ms C.M. ROWE: Touché! No, he won that game, but it showed a terrible competitive streak in both of us, which might have made us perfectly matched!

This is a great bill and I am happy to commend it to the house.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 2874.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — FIREARMS — FLOREAT SHOOTINGS

369. **Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the tragic shooting of Jennifer and Gretl Petelczyc. Jennifer's brother, Mr Harvey, called police after driving to Perth from his home on the south coast, concerned about whether the family had been involved in an incident.

After being told he would receive a call back, he was left anxiously waiting, to no avail. He then called back the next day and was promised a call back, but received nothing. That has led him to say that there seems to be a systemic failure at the top end. The Premier and the Minister for Police have a lot to answer for. Does the minister concede that there is a systemic failure in the way the police have handled this situation?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

The reports that the member is referring to are in the media and reflect statements made by Mr Harvey, I believe his name is. Mr Harvey is not an immediate relative of the victims, so the member needs to understand that when police notify relatives of incidents of that nature, the people who would be notified are next of kin. That aside, I do not know details, other than what has been reported in the media. The police, as the member is aware, are conducting an investigation into this matter. When that is finalised, we will know more.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — FIREARMS — FLOREAT SHOOTINGS

370. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister consider that Mr Harvey should receive an apology and will he ensure that that occurs?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I have no knowledge of the matter, other than what the Leader of the Opposition has read in the media. As I said, there is an investigation. Once the investigation is complete, we will know more.

TOURISM INDUSTRY SUPPORT

371. Mr S.N. AUBREY to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to a strong, diversified economy, including through growing our tourism market.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this government's support for the growth of WA's tourism industry is supporting more local jobs and creating more opportunities for small business?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether there are any other Western Australians who will benefit from this government's strong support for tourism?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) Tourism is a key part of our economic diversification strategy. Under the leadership of the former Minister for Tourism, the current Premier, and, of course, the former former Minister for Tourism, the member for Mandurah —

Mr D.A. Templeman: For nine months!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: At a time when no-one visited the state, members—just remember that! The worst Minister for Tourism ever!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Stop reminding me!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Tourism is now part of our economic diversification strategy, and we have seen a number of incredible events throughout Western Australia. Last night, we saw the Socceroos play at HBF Park, winning the game 5–0, as part of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers. A couple of weeks ago, we saw thousands of people travel to Western Australia to see two Serie A teams, AS Roma and AC Milan, play in what was an absolutely spectacular evening.

We have also seen the launch of Camping with Custodians at Lombadina, member for Kimberley, and further in-reach for Aboriginal tourism and Aboriginal experiences in regional WA. For lovers of basketball—of which there are many both in this house and across the state—we have announced HoopsFest Perth 2024, which will be the biggest basketball spectacular Australia has ever seen, with all opening-round matches of the NBL, the whole WNBL preseason and the under-18s being played here in Perth. That will happen later on this year.

Today we announced the economic impact of Thomas Dambo's Giants of Mandurah, which injected \$54 million in visitor spend into the Peel region. That, again, shows what iconic tourism experiences can do to support the state and, in particular, regional WA. More recently, we saw in the Kimberley—we discussed this in Kununurra—the success of the Ord Valley Muster 2024 and the program of events through Kununurra. We will also be hosting the World Travel and Tourism Council Global Summit 2024 in Perth.

There is a lot happening. There was also the announcement of the consolidation of the Perth Airport terminals—a project that has been long-awaited. It is great to see that decision to create a whole new terminal. Rex Airlines is the airline that the Nationals WA did not want to operate in WA; it has announced that it will fly from Perth to the eastern states, which will bring more competition and diversity —

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, you have been criticising Rex Airlines for as long as I can remember. You called for it not to get the contracts for Western Australia, but now it has put faith in Western Australia to create a new carrier to fly between Perth and the eastern seaboard. I am very proud that our faith in Rex is now resulting in a wider outcome. There are also new direct flights into China.

When it comes to tourism, there is a lot happening out there. We are seeing a lot happen, but do members know what we are not seeing out there in regional WA? We are not seeing the opposition spokesperson for tourism, because they were one of the deselected members. They were not part of the “save the midwest from the Leader of the Opposition” faction. My intel is that the Leader of the Opposition is so worried about the now-Liberal member for North West Central that —

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: I have a point of order.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! I need to remind a couple of ministers that points of order are heard in silence.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I think we are seeing a repeat of yesterday. The minister is straying well away from the original question that was asked.

The SPEAKER: Minister, just make sure your answer is relevant to the question you are asked.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will come back to the portfolio of tourism and the fact that the Nationals deselected their opposition spokesperson for tourism because, as I understand it, this is about the Leader of the Opposition making sure he has members from the midwest in the upper house. That is pretty brutal. I understand that those deselected members are not happy, either.

Mr P. Papalia: He’s got a mild-mannered appearance!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Mild-mannered but ruthless in the party room.

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker, I think the minister is treating your direction with contempt.

The SPEAKER: The minister is very broadly answering a question about tourism and the midwest, it would appear. Judging from the usual length of her answers, I am quite confident that there is only a little while left to go.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I think my average answer time would be pretty short, actually!

The SPEAKER: It is. You have a gold star compared with your colleagues!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: When we think about tourism, do members know who else is sort of moving around the north of the metropolitan area?

A government member: Brendon Grylls?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No; that is inner city! It is, of course, a former member of the Liberal Party, Ian Goodenough. We have seen a bit of a colour palette change in his material, members! It has gone from royal Liberal blue to Nationals green!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker, this is becoming ridiculous. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the original question that was asked.

The SPEAKER: Minister, you have been given quite a lot of latitude. I am wondering whether you are finished.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I will just again highlight what we are doing in regional Western Australia and across the state to support tourism and jobs. This is another example of the dysfunctional chaos that is the opposition of today.

Visitors — St Mark’s Anglican Community School

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the Leader of the Liberal Party, on behalf of the member for Hillarys, I want to acknowledge Mr Lehman and the students of St Mark’s Anglican Community School. Welcome to Parliament today. It is nice to see you here.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT

372. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I refer to recommendation 4 of the independent inquiry into the death of Aishwarya Aswath, which highlighted —

The importance of the parent's extraordinary role in the recognition of deterioration ... be reinforced and embedded throughout all clinical and administrative protocols and training curricula.

Can the minister explain why, three years after this report highlighted the clinical importance of not dismissing parental concerns, another family has tragically lost a child, complaining that their pleas for help to GPs and hospital staff were ignored?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

The Leader of the Liberal Party well knows that the state government has no regulatory oversight of general practice and primary care. The government has oversight and responsibility for the state system, and, of course, we expect parental concerns to always be taken into consideration. As I have said before, parents know their children best, and that is why, across the system, there has been significant training, including mandatory training on the use of the PARROT chart for healthcare staff who interact with paediatric patients and their families. We have also introduced Aishwarya's CARE Call, which is an opportunity for an avenue for parents or any caregiver to escalate concerns if they are concerned that the care pathway is not appropriate or their concerns are not being taken into consideration. My understanding is that is in operation at Joondalup Health Campus. I have seen it all over the country. I have seen it at Roebourne Hospital. That is something that the system has rolled out consistently and across the state. Mandatory training has also occurred on the PARROT chart, which is the Paediatric Acute Recognition and Response Observation Tool chart. That was also rolled out at Joondalup Health Campus. They also implemented a waiting room nurse as part of some of the recommendations that were actually identified at Perth Children's Hospital but have been taken on across the system.

Staff are also undertaking mandatory cultural awareness training, which is incredibly important, given our increasingly multicultural community, to understand the signals of distress and understand that people in some cultures have a view of healthcare workers as being in positions of authority and that one person's way of signalling distress and concern may not be considered appropriate in someone else's culture. The system has implemented significant changes in the way it addresses concerns from parents and children.

I reject the member's assertion that healthcare workers dismiss parents' concerns. I reject the assertion that they completely dismiss parents' concerns. There is an investigation underway in this particular instance. The family deserves a full and fair investigation; the healthcare workers involved deserve a full and fair investigation. It would not be useful to that investigation for me to provide a running commentary on reports and accusations that are around. I respect the right for everyone involved to have a fair investigation, and I call on the Leader of the Liberal Party to do the same.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT

373. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the Premier committed to make sure that we learnt from Aishwarya's experience and that it never happened again, how can this possibly have occurred again under the minister's watch?

Ms A. SANDERSON: The attempts by the Leader of the Liberal Party to conflate two very different circumstances and again exploit incredibly tragic circumstances is distasteful. It is appropriate to ask questions about process, transparency and all those things, but that is not what the Leader of the Liberal Party does. The two circumstances here are quite distinctly different. That is going to be fully investigated and thoroughly ventilated through the root-cause analysis. It is important that that is allowed to occur, and it is important that staff feel safe to be able to be honest and completely up-front about the circumstances around the clinical care of Sandipan. That is incredibly important. Providing a running commentary or finger pointing or making the kinds of accusations that the Leader of the Liberal Party has made is not conducive to the family getting a transparent, fair and honest report. It is just not conducive to that. I call on the Leader of the Liberal Party to stand down and allow the root-cause analysis to be undertaken appropriately with the clear air that the family deserve and the healthcare workers involved also deserve.

HOUSING — SUPPLY

374. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Minister for Planning:

I acknowledge the student leaders of Southern River College, my former school, who are joining us.

I refer to the Cook Labor government's nation-leading, common sense planning reforms, which are now in effect.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how these reforms are providing an acceleration to the delivery of more housing supply?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of anyone who opposes these important reforms?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for his question. Yes, I can indicate who is opposing our planning reforms. As everyone knows, there has been a national cabinet on housing and planning. Every state, whatever colour it is, is pursuing planning reforms, for the simple reason that we have to do everything we can to remove the barriers to accelerate the delivery of housing in Australia and Western Australia, and Western Australia is leading the country. Our reforms came in on 1 March and they are having a real effect. We have a new significant development pathway, with consolidation into three development assessment panels, creating streamlined approvals. As at 2 May, 35 development applications, as part of all our reforms, have been approved through the part 17 significant development pathway, with a total of \$4.33 billion. Our DAP reforms, started under the previous planning minister, are also seeing processing times going in a downward trend, so the median timeframe for DAP assessments that require public advertising is 93 days. More reforms are coming. On 1 July, the reforms to the Western Australian Planning Commission will come into effect, with expertise for strategic planning. A critical reform is that approval for single homes will no longer be decided by elected officials but by planning staff to streamline that process. It is likely that will save two to three months in the approval of single homes. That is our agenda—clear, ongoing—to boost housing supply.

Let us look at the other side. The Nationals WA has announced its position; that is, it is going to make it harder to approve workers' accommodation and housing for small and medium builders. It will lift thresholds and reform the DAP system so that it will go into being just a stagnant process. That is what members of the Nationals have embraced, even though the member for Roe has complained about local governments holding up housing developments. And the Liberal Party—I wish I could tell members an exact position! Quite frankly, it is all over the place. I quote the Leader of the Liberal Party, who said —

We need to ensure there is independence at the development level of decision-making, and that is why the Liberal–National government introduced the development assessment panels. We need to ensure developers can deliver an affordable product and have efficient systems to work within.

That sounds great. She says that at all the housing forums, yet every Liberal candidate campaigning out there is saying something completely opposite. The Liberal candidate for Nedlands said that one of the key shared Liberal values is the decentralisation of local decisions being made at a local level. This is a critical one. He said that development should stay in the hands of local authorities wherever possible. That is totally contradicting the Liberal leader. We see it everywhere. This is a Liberal leader who is being undermined at every opportunity by Liberal candidates who are contradicting what she says. But I note this. Even the Liberal leader cannot really give a clear policy or resolution. She went to the Urban Development Institute of Australia retreat and I heard that it did not go too well. She was very nervous and could not commit to anything. I want to make this point.

On one hand, the Leader of the Liberal Party is out there saying that she will cut green tape—even though we are already doing it—but on the other hand she will impose more red tape in the planning system. Therefore, she will give with one hand and take with the other. It is very clear that on this side of the house we are driving reform to accelerate housing delivery, and, on that side, we have a Liberal leader —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: — who is getting agitated.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr J.N. CAREY: It is interesting that we have a Liberal leader who is all over the place and is getting very agitated. Does the member want to interrupt me further? She is getting very upset. Let us be very clear that we have a Liberal leader who says that she will cut green tape, yet, on the other side, the person right next to her and all her candidates are arguing for more red tape by handing power back to local government. Right there is an example of weak leadership.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PAYMENT — INFORMATION RELEASE

375. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

The minister's Department of Education has refused to release a breakdown of student payment information to anyone but Labor government members of Parliament despite this government's claim of gold-standard transparency.

- (1) Given the minister's agency's refusal to provide this information, will the minister do the right thing in the interest of gold-standard transparency and publicly release a breakdown of the number of eligible students and those paid out by school?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

(1)–(2) I can let the member know that as of 9 June 2024, just under \$65 million has been processed for payment to families in Western Australia. This is a policy that the member opposed. Out of that, 194 393 were primary and kindergarten students and just over 142 000 were secondary students. We will not be releasing the information to the member because he opposed it. He will not go out and support it. I was at a conference on the weekend with the Leader of the Liberal Party. It was a Catholic Parents' Association conference, and one of the paid employees came up to me and said, "Thank you very much. That was something that we really needed." But if she had come to listen to what the member has been saying about this scheme, she would have thought she was on a different planet. The member opposed it, so why is he interested in the statistics?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: We have given the information to our members because they are out there advocating for it. I have just told the member that \$65 million has been paid out.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PAYMENT — INFORMATION RELEASE

376. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. The minister knows the challenges that some members of the community have had in accessing this payment. Is it appropriate for Labor members' Facebook pages to be the avenue for people to inquire to apply?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Ministers! We will just wait. I had about eight ministers interject before I could give you the call, Minister for Education.

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There is nothing stopping the member for Roe from advocating for the scheme. The member knows what is involved. He can go and advocate for it. Members on this side of the house are actually going to visit their schools. They are actually doorknocking. They are not just on Facebook. They are actually doorknocking on doors and going to their schools. If the member has an interest in advocating for his schools in his electorate on this government policy that he has opposed since day one, come and see me and I will assist him in advocating. We can go out together! I am more than happy to go on a drive in Roe, and we can go and visit all the schools. I am very happy to do that! There is a challenge for the member. He knows how I like his company. If he wants to come out with me, I am more than happy to join him in Katanning. We can go on a road trip. I would love to go through the wheatbelt with him, and we will go to the schools. We can even have meetings with parents and citizens associations and parents, and we will help them if they are having any difficulties in accessing registration for the payments.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — FIREARMS ACT REFORM

377. Ms C.M. TONKIN to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's reforms to prevent family and domestic violence incidents. Can the minister advise the house how family and domestic violence prevention and support organisations in Western Australia have responded to the government's reforms to WA firearms laws that will make the community safer?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

I thank the member for the question and for her ongoing advocacy. Members on this side of the house know that owning a gun is a privilege, whilst women feeling safe in their homes is an absolute right. That is why these reforms are so critically important. I have spoken to a range of organisations and individuals who work in the family and domestic violence area and do incredible work. They have told me how critically important these reforms are, and they welcome them. Additionally, we all know Alison Evans from the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing. She is an incredible advocate and champion for the prevention of family and domestic violence, and I deeply respect the work that she does. She has welcomed the speed at which these reforms are occurring. She said —

"The timeliness of that and the immediacy of that is critically important ...

These changes are about putting public safety first. They are about putting women's safety first and paramount before anything else. I know that women right across Western Australia—many have contacted me privately—support these important changes, and the organisations that support these women do so too.

I saw a report Last night from 7NEWS that identified that the Liberal Party's petition to keep guns in the community—not take guns out of the community—is in fact riddled with fake and fraudulent names and signatures. The Liberal Party's lack of credibility is absolutely in plain view for all to see. We know that it will do anything, including tabling a petition full of fraudulent misinformation, to undermine these laws. We know the Liberal Party's views on these laws that will help to keep women and children safe.

The Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Vasse, even refused to vote on those laws. She says one thing outside this place when there is a microphone around, but runs for cover when it comes to the crunch in this place. Of course, she is happy for her colleagues—members know those colleagues in the other place—to do everything they can to block and obstruct the laws. When lives are on the line, the Liberal Party is trying to court the gun vote. When the opportunity came to stand and vote in support of these laws, the Leader of the Liberal Party did not do so. Even today, the Leader of the Opposition refuses to guarantee the future of these laws under his leadership.

I challenge the member for Vasse to stand in this place today and make a guarantee to the women of this state that a Liberal–National government that she will lead will not wind back these laws. Get up right now and make that guarantee! She should stand right now, but she will not. She will not stand and give that guarantee. I tell the member that the women of Western Australia who support these laws want that guarantee from a government that the member for Vasse will lead, but she is not prepared to give that guarantee.

Ms L. Mettam: I supported the bill!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Not you/I; you as the leader.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Members, this is not just about the member for Vasse and her position; this is about the Leader of the Liberal Party and the leader of a future government's position. That is what is critically at stake here. Those members in the upper place champion petitions against these gun laws—Liberal Party petition that works to undermine these gun laws. As a leader, the member for Vasse needs to stand and ensure that what she individually says in this place is representative of her as a leader.

Now let us be very clear what is at stake here. Of course, we know the Nationals' position on gun laws. I do not need to ask the Leader of the Opposition for his position. We know and he is on the record as saying that he wants to wind back these laws if he ever gets the opportunity to be in cabinet. We know that a vote for the Liberal and National Parties will mean a vote for more guns in our community. The Leader of the Liberal Party shows no leadership. You are gutless at bringing into line those in the Liberal Party in the other place to guarantee for the women of this state that a government you lead will not wind back these gun laws!

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — WAIT TIMES

Ms L. METTAM: Madam Speaker!

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr T.J. Healy: She stood up to do it!

Ms L. METTAM: What?

Mr T.J. Healy: You stood up to answer the call.

The SPEAKER: Member for Southern River, your interjection is unhelpful.

378. **Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to my question almost two years ago regarding the practice of “red squaring” patients in corridors and the minister's following response —

We are investing in our long-stay patients and moving them out into aged-care facilities and transition care. We are investing in virtual emergency medicine ... there is significant investment happening across the system ...

If there has been such significant investment in beds and staff across our health system over the past two years, why was a 65-year-old cancer patient, Mr Gary Helm, forced to spend more than six hours on a trolley parked next to a public toilet in a hospital corridor for the second time?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the Leader of the Liberal Party for outlining all our investments and reforms in the health system. What we have seen over the last two years, in particular in the last year, is a significant drop in the wait times to come

into an emergency department. There has been a significant drop in those ramping hours. That is because of our record investment and the reforms going in on our health system. We cannot continue to do things the same way. We cannot continue for emergency departments to be the only catch-all for health in our community. That is essentially what occurs on weekends when it is the only health service that is open. It becomes incredibly busy.

That has an impact on those following Mondays and Tuesdays. From my understanding of his records, in the week that that gentleman was admitted, he spent four hours, not six as reported, waiting for a bed. That week was incredibly busy. There are a number of reasons for that. It was the first wet weather that we have seen this winter. Every first wet weekend or wet day sees a spike in emergency department attendances. Police probably see a spike in activity as well. It was also a long weekend. Staff take leave on long weekends. That makes it more challenging to discharge patients over those weekends. We had fewer staff and were covering more positions. That made for a very busy Monday and Tuesday.

On top of those things, we saw a 23 per cent increase in presentations. That is an almost unheard of as a single-day increase in presentations. There is a confluence of issues on those particular days. I will tell members what: there were more patients waiting, but the staff saw sicker patients first, and that is what they have to do. They have to triage. The system is designed to flex up and flex down on demand. We saw more sicker patients coming in and more of them being seen. That is what the staff did. That is a good thing. The staff are actively triaging and seeing sicker patients first.

There is a range of complexities here. We have seen that system recover and we are back to more normalised attendances and activity. But what we did not see on that day, which is really important, was a drop in the priority 1 response for ambulances. We did not see a significant drop in their standby capacity. The ability for the system to continue to respond to those priority 1s was maintained. That is because of record investment and a new contract with the ambulance service; that is the system working to release paramedics back on the road. The sickest people in our community who needed that health care got there.

We have long called for reform in the health system, and we are absolutely doing our bit in the state with a record number of full-time equivalent increases for clinical, nursing and medical staff. There have been 700 additional beds in the last two years. But we cannot keep sending everyone to hospital. We need the commonwealth to invest appropriately into primary care to manage chronic disease in the community and in more aged-care beds. Aged care is full in Western Australia. Residential aged care is not taking new residents. We need serious reform in the National Disability Insurance Scheme so that we can move patients through our hospital beds into more appropriate accommodation settings and so that we can limit the occurrence of these issues on very busy days.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — WAIT TIMES

379. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Wet winters happen every year. Given this practice was “completely unacceptable” when the minister was in opposition, how can she continue to support and defend this practice now?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I support and defend the staff who triage and see the sickest patients, particularly on very busy days. That is standard procedure. I support and defend the staff who flex up and flex down and respond to really busy days. It is true that every first wet winter day is incredibly busy. There is a spike in activity. It is the same for the police as it is for health care. The problem is that the Leader of the Liberal Party never actually listens to the answers. I just outlined it incredibly thoroughly. This is a complex system and we are seeing record reform and investment in both the staff and the way we deliver care, but we are not an island. The system does not operate in a vacuum.

I would love to see the Leader of the Liberal Party advocate for primary care. I would love to see her advocate for more beds in aged care. Geraldton needs more aged-care beds. Bunbury needs more aged-care beds. Albany needs more aged-care beds. They all put pressure and create long-stay patients, which makes it challenging to bring other people into hospital. But I will tell the Leader of the Liberal Party that I will always defend the staff when they triage and see the sickest patients first.

CLEAN ENERGY SKILLS NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

380. Mr W.J. JOHNSTON to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

I refer to the Cook Labor government’s delivery of Australia’s first Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how the Centre of Excellence will put Western Australians at the forefront of Australia’s clean energy transition?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how the centre will support Western Australia in creating new quality local jobs in the energy transition?
- (3) Is this another example of the Cook Labor government doing what is right for Western Australia?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

Before I answer this question, I will just clear something up for the parliamentary record that the member for Bateman said during the previous debate in which she tried to lay claim to Sam Kerr being from her electorate. In fact, as I understand it, Sam Kerr has bought property in my electorate of Fremantle. I will also draw her attention to escape.com.au. When Sam Kerr was asked for her favourite place to holiday in Australia, she said —

Western Australia, of course—my home state. I love going back home to Fremantle, it's where I get the best coffee, see my friends and get to spend quality time with the family.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms S.F. McGURK: I am just saying it for the record.

The SPEAKER: I think that has nothing to do with the question you were asked.

Ms S.F. McGURK: You are entirely correct. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

(1)–(3) I am also very pleased to talk about the announcement that we made this week with the federal government. It will be not only a Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence, but the national centre for excellence here in Western Australia. It is the first major national centre of excellence for skills in the country. It is for clean energy and will be here in Western Australia. I thank the federal government for its cooperation, not only for the new five-year skills agreement, but also for the vote of confidence that this national centre for excellence is for our state. It is not only a vote of confidence for Western Australia and its capacity to leverage off our current industry and oil and gas resources throughout the length and breadth of our state as we transition to clean energy; it is also a vote of confidence in Western Australia's vocational training sector. That includes, of course, our TAFEs as the heart of the system, and our private registered training organisations as well. Of course, that has all been supported by the Cook Labor government, which put not only more resources into our vocational training sector, but also thoughtful application into how those resources are applied. It is a great announcement for Western Australia and, in fact, for the country as we deal with the challenges of transitioning to clean energy.

We made the announcement at South Metropolitan TAFE's campus in Munster. Some people might be aware of it. It is actually the Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training. There are very few of these facilities around the world at which industry partners with a vocational training organisation like TAFE to do energy training, process training, automation training, operation training et cetera. Industry donates a lot of equipment and is really at the centre of that campus. Industry drives cooperation with the training organisation to make sure that it can get people with the right skills. We delivered the announcement at the TAFE campus, and it was great to meet the students who are studying courses in electrical instrumentation, automation, alternative energy sources and, as I said, processing and operations. Those students will stand to benefit from the sorts of partnerships that will be driven by the centre for excellence. It was also really great to meet a number of women who are training to be electricians. This is a key demographic whom we need to attract into our clean energy workforce.

The numbers are very stark, not only for the amount of investment that the state is putting into clean energy, which is around \$200 billion across a whole range of areas, but also for the projections of the sort of jobs that will be created from this transition. That is huge. For the next 25 years, from 2025 to 2050, it is estimated that about 350 000 jobs will be linked to clean energy. If we look at just the next seven years, it is estimated that Western Australia will need somewhere between 30 000 and 40 000 more electricians; that is just electricians. There are huge opportunities in the design, construction and operation of clean energy in all its forms—renewables, wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries and also, of course, transmission.

I want to talk briefly about the model for the national centre for excellence. Although it will have an office in the CBD, which will be a place where industry and the public can come and interface with it, it is actually built from a network of existing TAFE colleges throughout our state. The strength of our model is that we need to leverage off not only the industry around the state but also the clean energy transition that will occur, whether it be in the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the midwest, Geraldton and the like, the goldfields, the great southern, the south west or our metropolitan area. All the regions' needs will be different throughout the state, and it is important that our training system not only understands the needs of industry and the energy transition but also trains local people for those jobs. If there is a better story than how the Cook Labor government is investing in our regions, it is how we are investing in TAFE and the vocational training system in our regions. It is absolutely spectacular and a huge uplift. It is a capital injection of nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in TAFE facilities around the state, particularly in the regions; 60 per cent of that investment will be in the regions. It is a huge opportunity.

I again thank the federal government in this instance for its vote of confidence in Western Australia and the Cook Labor government for its vocational training system. Our message to everyone in Western Australia,

particularly to families and young people, is that there are exciting, well-paid and long-lasting jobs in clean energy. If people want to learn, we want to train them. Jobs are up for grabs, and the national centre for excellence in clean energy skills will help to facilitate that.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Calm down.

NICHELIVING — HOME CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

381. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I refer to the hundreds of Western Australians who have been waiting more than three years for their homes to be completed by Nicheliving and the significant financial impact and emotional toll this has had on them. Many struggle to pay mortgages and are on the brink of homelessness or, indeed, are homeless due to the business practices of Nicheliving.

- (1) Has Nicheliving applied for or been awarded any interest-free loans through the builders' support facility, and what is the quantum of those loans?
- (2) What conditions are attached to those loans to ensure that Nicheliving delivers the promised builds in a timely manner?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for such a detailed question. Some notice would have been preferable, and many of the issues he raised fall under the commerce portfolio.

In relation to housing supply in this state, we understand that building more homes is the biggest priority for this government. We are introducing a number of measures across the community to support more homes.

The builders' support facility, which is an initiative that we introduced, has been criticised, but we introduced and announced earlier this year that we are rolling out that builders' support facility. It is the first and only facility of its kind in the nation, members. We are supporting builders to finish homes. As I said, there has been some criticism of it, but we very much backed this initiative because we want to support Western Australians to have their homes finished.

The number and value of loans approved or endorsed have been 25 applications for 68 properties. They are being rolled out now, and payments have already started to be made. I do not have details about that builder in particular because, as a decision-maker signing off on these grants, the names of the builders and that information are not provided to me. I do not know, in particular, about Nicheliving, but one thing that we are very keen on is continuing to work across the community to make sure that we can build and finish as many homes as possible.

NICHELIVING — HOME CONSTRUCTION DELAYS

382. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. The opposition asked questions about this in the other place and was told that the Treasurer was the responsible minister to ask about the builders' support facility, hence my question today. Has the Treasurer received any updates on the Fair Work Ombudsman's investigation into Nicheliving and its business practices?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

To clarify, the builders' support facility is my portfolio, but some of the other issues the member is raising are not in my portfolio, so I do not have that update. I would have provided that information if some notice had been given.

FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY — FUNDING

383. Mr H.T. JONES to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to diversify the Western Australian economy through the establishment of new industries.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of the new \$233 million Perth film studios?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the film studios, supported by this government's screen investment strategy, will bring new investment to WA and create new local jobs?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I can and I will. I also acknowledge that the member mentioned to me earlier today that in his electorate the Roleystone Theatre has its production of *The Addams Family* at the end of the month.

A member: Is the member in it? Is he starring?

Mr H.T. Jones: I am not Uncle Fester!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is a Lurch on the other side, but I will not mention who that might be. I thank the member for the question. This is very important. As members know, we are on the great journey of delivering a world-class film studio in Malaga, and it is currently under construction. It will include a suite of sound stages and appropriate additional facilities that will see us able to attract a raft of productions going forward into the future. It is a very specific and very purpose-focused initiative by the Cook Labor government. As the Treasurer highlighted earlier, it is very much focused on the ongoing diversification of the economy of Western Australia, because we recognise there is continuing burgeoning interest in and opportunities for Western Australians in the creative industries.

I only recently launched the *Western Australian screen industry strategy 2024–2034*. A key component is the workforce development component of some \$11 million over the next four years, which is focused on building the pipeline of workers required when being involved in any film screen activity. It very much speaks to our training institutions, including those the Minister for Training and Workforce Development oversees through our TAFEs and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts at the university level. It ensures that the message is very clear to any young person in Western Australia who seeks to be part of the creative industries, particularly if it involves screen or gaming, that we are building the infrastructure, have the screen strategy and are funding it. I thank the Treasurer again for understanding that this needs to be funded and the record amount of funding that has been provided by the Treasurer in the last budget. I want to highlight that, as it includes \$11.2 million for the development of the workforce development plan and an additional \$14.4 million for the production attraction incentive fund. That fund specifically talks to those who seek to come to Western Australia to be involved and engaged in film production.

We have seen some huge successes, many of those in the regions. Very soon, in July, we will see the production of *The Twelve*, which includes Sam Neill, filmed in Western Australia, including in Perth and the wheatbelt in York. It will be the largest production of its type to be filmed in Western Australia. We will see more and more of these. Why? It is because we are putting in place the infrastructure and funding that infrastructure through the screen strategy, and we are funding that infrastructure through the production attraction incentive fund. We are also doing more than that, because we are focused on making sure that this is all about team WA. The activity in this industry has broad influence across a range of other portfolios including, of course, the tourism portfolio. When people, only three weeks ago, at the Cannes Film Festival saw *The Surfer* with Nicolas Cage, which was filmed in the south west near Yallingup, it highlighted and promoted the Western Australian tourism story, and thereby encouraged people to come to beautiful Western Australia. When people see that film, they see the majesty of the south west landscapes and ocean scapes, if you like. It continues to highlight why Western Australia is punching above its weight in attracting a whole range of activity into the future.

This Labor government is very future focused. We are putting the investment in place, whether in tourism, in the screen industry or the cultural and arts industries, because we recognise that that will place us very, very well when we are being looked at from abroad. Producers and directors around the world are now looking to Western Australia because they know we will have a film studio in place, and they want to come and film here. That means that if any young person—a number of young people were sitting in Madam Speaker’s gallery earlier today—has a bent towards being involved in the creative, film or gaming industries, they will know that this government and only this government has a clear plan and strategy to move forward for the creative industries. I applaud the Treasurer, the Premier and all those on this side of the house for their understanding of how important this is. With a \$233 million investment in Malaga, and the additional money to support the industry, this is a game changer for Western Australia. I am so pleased that the member supports it. Of course, if a film comes up that needs a sea captain-type person, the member for Darling Range would be a perfect captain. He could even go for the captain of the *Titanic*, because he looks similar to him, but I will not go into that. It is great news. I thank the member for asking the question. Please keep asking them.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. The member for Cottesloe with the last question.

HEALTH — AMBULANCE RAMPING

384. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to reports that ambulance ramping time for the first six days of June was 1 242 hours. The Premier, when in opposition, stated that monthly ramping of 1 030 hours was a crisis. How does the minister explain this shocking new statistic that clearly illustrates her inability to manage our health system properly and give sick Western Australians the health care they deserve?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I will run through the answer that I provided to the Leader of the Liberal Party, who asked exactly the same question. I assume they are not even coordinating within the same party, let alone within the coalition.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: Since 2017, but particularly through the pandemic and post-pandemic, we have seen record investment and reform in our health system. Health systems around the country and the world are under pressure and we are seeing a fundamentally different profile of patients. That is everywhere; they are seeing that it is fundamentally different in the United States, as it is in the United Kingdom, as it is in Canada, as it is here. People are sicker post-pandemic. There is a significant amount of delayed care and we are seeing higher rates of chronic disease.

As I outlined, we have seen significant reductions in ramping over the last two years. Year on year, when we compare the same month of the previous year, it is coming down steadily and in the right direction. That is exactly what it should be doing. That is due to our investment in staff, 700 beds in our health system, and our investment in reform, importantly. In August we will see our \$47 million investment in the establishment of the State Health Operations Centre, which, for the first time—the Liberals had eight and a half years to do this, it never did it—will see whole-of-system coordination of patient transport and bed flow across the entire system.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: Whether they are in Halls Creek, Albany, Bunbury, the midwest or in one of our metropolitan tertiary hospitals, it will be better for regional patients. There will be greater communication and better patient flow for those people. It will also take pressure off our colleagues in the police force, who often assist with mental health transfers regionally. This is a massive reform and a really important reform. Although we have seen the early gains in bringing down those ramping numbers, the next stage of reform will really make the biggest difference. I am happy to keep talking about this, because it is an incredibly exciting new phase in our health system. That will be established in August. For the first week of June, as I have outlined, in that long weekend alone we saw a 23 per cent surge in attendance. That is a quarter more of what normally would attend.

This year, more than in previous years, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, where we have had some challenges, is seeing long-stay NDIS patients who have plans. Previously, it had long-stay patients who were not having plans approved fast enough by NDIS. Although it is still slow to approve plans, we are now seeing plans managed by third-party providers not being managed appropriately. Their plans run out of money before the end of the financial year and they put their clients in hospital.

It is disgraceful behaviour and a disgraceful practice. It is occurring particularly at Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. That is a mismanagement of those complex clients who have supports in place and plans approved, but are not being appropriately managed. To cover the gap for the six weeks to the end of the financial year, they put them in hospital. That is a disgrace.

HEALTH — AMBULANCE RAMPING

385. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. How many more excuses will the minister invent before we see a meaningful reduction in ambulance ramping hours to anywhere near those achieved by the previous Liberal–National government?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

There is nowhere in the world that will achieve ramping numbers, or the same kind of profile, that we saw pre-pandemic. There is nowhere in the world that is going to do that, so the member is setting himself up for a world of pain if that is a commitment that his government is going to make.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: We are making genuine and meaningful investment and reform in our health system, and it is showing with the significant reduction in those ramping hours. Also, I have to say, in May and that first week of June, we performed 1 000 more elective surgeries across the system than we have previously. There were 1 000 more elective surgeries. We are doing a record number of surgeries and we are seeing a record number of patients, as well as increased attendance. The system is busy—it is always busy in winter—and it will flex to accommodate those patients, and it will have to do it in the best way possible by seeing the sickest patients first.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the WA domestic gas policy — Extension of Reporting Date — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [3.00 pm]: Members, I advise that the Economics and Industry Standing Committee has resolved to extend its inquiry into the WA domestic gas policy to 15 August 2024.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT TRUST BILL 2024*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [3.01 pm]: I rise today to make a contribution to the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust Act was introduced in 1986 to provide governance and oversight of WA's major state-owned facilities. The WA Sports Centre Trust, which trades as VenuesWest, manages WA's most significant sport and entertainment venues and precincts, including the iconic Optus Stadium and flagship RAC Arena, plus 12 other important venues, including HBF Arena in Joondalup. Since the introduction of the act, the portfolio has undergone significant growth and diversification, expanding from a single facility to now encompassing 14 venues that operate under various management models. This act has not been updated since it was first passed over 35 years ago, and it has hampered some of VenuesWest's potential to deliver on its strategic priorities. The time has come to move to the contemporary legislation, which will allow VenuesWest greater responsibilities, increased clarity, broader powers and greater flexibility to carry out its duties.

I will take a moment to congratulate our Minister for Sport and Recreation on his dedication to what I have heard him term many times as "all sporty things". The state government needs to continue investing in quality sporting infrastructure. The integration of sport into community life brings many benefits, such as promoting a sense of belonging, providing role models for our young people and encouraging healthy lifestyles. By promoting inclusivity and sustainability, sport also contributes to a more integrated and environmentally conscious community. Sport significantly contributes to the overall wellbeing and cohesiveness of a community. We have a very active and engaged community in Joondalup and have a large sporting community that plays sport at a community grassroots level right the way through to the elite level. It is also important to note that the overall impact of sports in Joondalup extends far beyond its playing fields. Our clubs are a place of friendship, camaraderie and support, and enrich the lives of all of our residents. I must say that our community and sporting groups provide support for individuals and families, particularly those in need and doing it tough. I have seen a number of GoFundMe pages set up to help families facing challenging times, and our community always rallies together and supports that.

This debate provides me with the opportunity to raise in Parliament some of the amazing sporting clubs and organisations within the Joondalup electorate. Locally, our HBF Arena is a multipurpose recreation and sporting facility located in the heart of our northern suburbs. Built in 1992, it is now home to more than 30 sporting clubs and 2 000 fitness members. In late 2017, a \$24 million redevelopment provided world-class football and basketball facilities to the West Perth Football Club and the Joondalup Wolves, providing the perfect home to foster sporting success and support the social sports operating there. HBF Arena also caters for a variety of other sports, including hockey, netball, rugby, athletics, tennis, volleyball, badminton and soccer.

One of the largest clubs at this location is the Joondalup Wolves, with 5 000 members. There are seven clubs, 586 teams and 165 referees, and a whopping 8 777 games are played annually. They use 50 courts at 26 venues, with 17 160 court hours used annually by 11 000 users a week. They are phenomenal statistics from a club growing in numbers and strength in our northern corridor. What is of interest to me is that the Wolves unfortunately find themselves having to turn away around 1 500 kids every season due to the fact that there are simply not enough facilities in the northern suburbs to cope with the growth and demand. Anecdotally, I have heard about a number of players who travel from the further regions north down to Joondalup, spending hours a week in the car to take children to and from training and games. It really is due to the success of the sport and the growth in participation in basketball throughout our community and the state, if not the country.

I know that it is really important that when a child shows interest in playing sport, they have the opportunity at that moment to play that sport. It could be because they want to play on a team with friends or try something new. With two teens myself, I know that if a child is unable to try that sport and give it a go when they really want to or perhaps cannot be in a team with their friends, they can change their mind, and that moment can perhaps dissuade them from getting further involved. Now, more than ever, making sure that our kids have the ability to be social, engaged and connected in a team sport, or, in fact, any activity outside of formal schooling, is very important for their mental health and wellbeing. An issue I have been working on for some time along with my colleagues and co-conveners of the Parliamentary Friends of Basketball Group is to highlight the number of kids I mentioned who cannot access the opportunity to play basketball and make sure that we continue to highlight the need to continue our investment.

In April, Premier Cook visited Joondalup and our first stop was to shoot hoops with the Wolves and chat with some of the teams firsthand about how the club has grown and the challenges they now face, such as just finding courts to play on, due to this success. We caught up with president Andrew Summerville and some of the NBL 1 players. Given the visit coincided with the school holidays at the time, the Premier was able to watch some of the three-by-three games being played by our young people on some of the courts there. In a slight segue that is related, I look forward to the completion of the Ocean Reef Senior High School sports hall, funded by the Cook Labor government. I have had conversations with the principal, Dr James Kent, particularly because of the strong

collaboration that happens in the northern corridor. I detailed to Dr Kent the challenges of court space and I am really excited to hear that the high school is willing to communicate with the Wolves and work towards making sure that we have every opportunity to increase the number of courts in the northern suburbs. Being innovative about the facilities that are already located in our communities really makes sense.

Over the years, my colleague the member for Burns Beach and I have sponsored the Wolves, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to share the game night with our junior clubs. I attended the women's game last weekend. Last month, I attended both the women's and men's games with Rob and Janelle from the Eagles Junior Basketball Club. The Lakers Junior Basketball Club also visited and came along to our box. The North Metro Marlins Basketball Club will host some of its representatives very soon in the coming weeks. I also look forward to our Minister for Sport and Recreation coming to join us at a game in about a fortnight or so. When I am at the games, I particularly enjoy watching our youngest basketballers from our junior teams take to the court at half-time to play a quick scratch match. The Eagles Junior Basketball Club had the ability to do that last weekend.

Just on basketball, I am really looking forward to this September when WA will host HoopsFest, Australia's largest basketball festival, with some of the events taking place locally in Joondalup. The four action-packed days will include the opening round of the 2024–25 Australian National Basketball League season and the under 18s club championships.

Going back to some of the other clubs that operate at HBF Arena in Joondalup, the Joondalup Netball Association is located at the northern end and caters for players from NetSetGO right through to the senior competition. In fact, a bit like the member for Dawesville, I joined the JNA for a number of seasons. The teams were scratching around for some numbers so, having played when I was younger, I thought I would give it a go. I did about two seasons. The last game of the last season was played on a stormy night—we are a little bit tougher than the basketball crew as we play outside—and I had a fall. Gosh; it just takes that little bit longer to recover. I twisted an ankle and was hobbling around. The member for Belmont spoke about those who watched the member for Joondalup have a really good fall. I do not think I will do that again! Watching from the sidelines and supporting our clubs will be the go for me.

I mentioned that I grew up playing netball, as did my daughter. I played a bit of mixed netball when the kids were young, which was a great opportunity to foster social connection and catch up with a lovely group of ladies. I love the opportunity that all our sporting codes provide as a pathway for young people. My daughter ended up participating in the Joondalup Netball Association Green Shirt program a few years ago, coordinated by Alana Perry at the time. That program provides mentoring support for young players who feel as though they would like to head down the umpiring pathway. The program not only grows the confidence and self-esteem of these young people—I saw wonderful growth in Mya when she went through—but also provides them with a little bit of pocket money. They usually play their game and umpire afterwards. It is a really good, wonderful environment. There is fantastic mentoring and support throughout both the winter and spring competitions.

I have sponsored the Joondalup Netball Association for many seasons. I have provided coffee vouchers for the club to present to its amazing and dedicated volunteers to acknowledge the time they dedicate to supporting our kids to play sport. I know that our local sporting organisations would not be able to operate without their volunteers, and for that I want to say thank you to our volunteers, as I do at every opportunity. I give a big thankyou to outgoing club president Kerry Collings, who has been dedicated to that role for many years. Although she has stepped down, she has not completely left and has taken on the role of treasurer. That is the case with many of our volunteers, who tend to put up their hand when there is a need. She is still very active. I also take the opportunity to welcome the new president, Anna Hopkins, who I understand is settling in well to her role. I look forward to meeting with her soon to continue my work and strong relationship with the Joondalup Netball Association.

The Joondalup Lakers Hockey Club is also located at HBF Arena. It is a thriving club with around 400 members from five-year-olds to masters, with no age limit I am told. The club motto is "Hockey for all". As long as you can play hockey, you can play at this club. I again appreciate the strong relationship I have had over many years with the Lakers. Past president Cameron Fellows and current president Bryan Angerson have both been, and continue to be, strong champions for their club. I know they have also appreciated the recent upgrades to the lighting of the hockey pitch from our state government.

In 2020, Joondalup Lakers began its involvement in the Containers for Change scheme. Since then, there has been no stopping this club. The club tries to convince members, friends, families and, from what I understand, anyone who is willing to listen to get involved and support this program at the Lakers. By embracing the program, the club not only acknowledged the importance of reducing waste, emissions and the effect on the environment, but also set out to make hockey more affordable for its members, with the program assisting the club with its fundraising efforts. The club recycled over 32 000 containers in both its first and second years in the program and was a finalist in the Change Maker Awards in 2022. In September the following year, the club reached 100 000 containers and was a state finalist in the WasteSorted Awards and was again a finalist in the Change Maker Awards later that year. All involved have put in an amazing effort and are having a positive impact not only on the environment by encouraging everyone to get involved, but also by helping with membership fees. Well done.

Over many years, our state government has continued to invest in the western side of the arena. We have seen almost \$6 million in facility upgrades across all the sporting codes that call it home. In 2017, I committed three quarters of a million dollars towards the Joondalup Sports Club. We saw additional change rooms to allow for the growth in the number of women in sport, additions to the clubroom itself, a kitchen area and an additional storage area for the Joondalup Athletics Centre. At the end of last year, a new all-inclusive change room and toilet block was opened to support both the hockey and netball clubs. We have seen significant growth in the number of players and spectators. It was fantastic to be able to work in a collaborative way with both those codes for that investment. West Perth Football Club calls HBF Arena home and has seen significant investment. There has also been investment in the new 50-metre pool that is currently under construction. The pool will be well used by members of the community, right the way from training squads to swim classes. We are committed to replacing that pool as soon as possible to ensure that northern suburbs residents have a choice of venue for their swimming.

The opportunity to speak about sporting infrastructure must include our government's investment in our community sporting and recreation facilities fund and the Club Night Lights program, both of which have provided a significant increase in funding over recent years to important infrastructure projects. Those grants have benefited local communities not only in Joondalup but also throughout the state. Not only does the grants program increase the investment in infrastructure but also the Club Night Lights program creates additional time for training and games on those pitches and fields. Most recently, we have seen almost \$162 000 provided to the City of Joondalup to upgrade the lighting at Santiago Park in Ocean Reef. That will support not only the community, but also Joondalup City Football Club, Ocean Ridge Junior Football Club, Joondalup Kinross Cricket Club and Joondalup Lakers Hockey Club. We have seen an almost \$30 000 upgrade to the lighting of pitch 5 at Iluka District Open Space and almost \$470 000 was provided to the Joondalup Sports Association in Iluka for bowling green and lighting upgrades. As the patron of the Joondalup Bowling Club with my colleague the member for Burns Beach, we know that these are welcome additions and a welcome investment in the club, which it has been working on for many years.

The year 2023 was a big year for Joondalup Bowling Club as it celebrated two significant milestones. It marked 30 years since its founding as Beaumaris Bowling Club and 10 years under its new name of Joondalup Bowling Club, and it also hosted the Bowls Australia national competition. This was the first time that the competition had been held in WA and included more than 800 participants of all ages and abilities. There were junior, senior, para and able-bodied events across three northern suburbs bowling clubs. The club has developed over the years in leaps and bounds, with greens that I am told are the envy of other clubs. It now has new lights and new shirts, and even managed to make it into the premier league last year. Having attended the annual presentation dinner just last month, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing club president Chris Leggett and warmly welcome Greg Barry to the role. I will see you all on Sunday at your Bunnings sausage sizzle, Greg; I am happy to share that.

For many years, I have taken an active role in sponsoring many of our sporting clubs. I tried to put a list together and this is just some of the many, I am sure. As I said, I have supported Joondalup Bowling Club, Joondalup City Football Club, Joondalup Districts Cricket Club, Edgewater Woodvale Junior Football Club—my son did a season or two there, until he decided that it was more fun to run the other way when the ball came; that changed the sport, so he was not too interested after that—Joondalup Netball Association, Joondalup Athletics Centre, Joondalup Giants Rugby League Club, North Metro Marlins Basketball Club and the Joondalup Wolves, just to name a few.

Like many other members of this place, my office is contacted from time to time by wonderful young people who are really excelling in their chosen sport and often have been chosen as local representatives on their journey for further participation in state, national or international competitions. Most recently, I met Amelie from the Joondalup Athletics Centre, who participated in the 2024 Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide earlier this year. It was a pleasure to meet her, hear about her journey and present her with a WA flag pin to wear on her travels.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms E.L. HAMILTON: I want to take the time to highlight a few events and activities that I have attended recently and just acknowledge that there is a lot of different events and activities in the Joondalup and broader northern suburbs community that really warrant acknowledgement in this place. They are testament to the depth and breadth of our sporting community.

I attended the annual Brooks Joondalup Running Festival, which took place at Neil Hawkins Park in Joondalup last month. Around 900 individuals competed in the five kilometre, 10 kilometre and half-marathon races. Just this week, I met with the new commodore of the Ocean Reef Sea Sport Club, Graham Hindley. I acknowledge the work of the previous commodore, Ken Wood, and thank him for all his hard work and dedication to that role within the club. It is a club with more than 1 700 members, and that number is steadily growing. Something that I am working closely on is the continued development of the Ocean Reef Marina. I am really excited that work is underway on the new facilities for the Ocean Reef Sea Sport Club, Marine Rescue and Joondalup City RSL.

I visit a number of sports carnivals every year and it is always wonderful to be able to present our young people with their ribbons. There are always a few tears, which is hard, but it is great to see them all try their hardest. In March I went along to present ribbons to some of the youngest athletes at Currabine Primary School. I also had

the pleasure of watching a great game of women's cricket when the Joondalup Kinross Cricket Club competed against the member for Kingsley's Kingsley Woodvale Cricket Club during their most recent season. It is great to see a solid pathway for female cricketers, so a big shout-out to Joondalup Districts Cricket Club, which will be fielding its first women's team very soon.

There are always opportunities to get involved in basketball, and I attended the Marlins Junior Basketball Club's presentation and summer wind-up at the end of its season. While the minister is here, I also want to acknowledge the grand final game between Lynx and the Southside Flyers, which was just phenomenal. It was a nailbiter; we were on our feet right down to the last seconds. Unfortunately, the other side sunk a hoop and we did not get there, but it was fantastic to see such quality sportsmanship from our women players at Lynx.

Not long ago I welcomed new Joondalup Football Club president Steve Amphlett to that role with a lovely cuppa at the local Sistas Cafe at Burns Beach and had a chat about the upcoming season; I managed to get to a game just the other weekend. I want to make quite a few acknowledgements, the last of those being the Joondalup Athletics Centre. I got along to their north zones championships; there were 146 young people, from under-sevens to under-15s, participating, and I presented some of the under-seven and under-eight competitors with their medals. That was fantastic.

More broadly, it is my strong view that we need to continue to invest in our sporting infrastructure. It is great to see that the \$600 000 allocation for a BMX track at Lysander Park is really starting to bring that to fruition. I secured that funding, and community consultation is being undertaken by the local government. The idea is to develop a new space for young people to get active and connected with our community. That facility at Lysander Park in Heathridge will provide an opportunity for young people in that suburb; it is also located very close to, via an underpass, the suburb of Connolly, which has a growing demographic of young families. This will be the sort of wonderful, high quality community infrastructure that is so important for our young people and kids to be able to interact. Young people will be able to get physically active and it is also really important for social connectivity. There is lots of enthusiasm for that in the community and I will continue to keep in touch with the community as that project progresses.

The Yalbunullup mountain bike trail is well under construction, again located in the heart of the northern suburbs. A huge number of people participate in mountain biking; it is really a growing sport. I am really proud to see that come online and I look forward to it opening later in the year. I would also like to talk about Heathridge Park. I have talked about it quite a lot in this place and with my community. Not long ago, I attended a City of Joondalup council meeting to show my support and advocacy for getting this project moving. For many years I have advocated for a major redevelopment of Heathridge Park. I understand the need for upgrades for both the groups that use that facility and its grounds but also the broader community. In 2021 I managed to secure \$2.5 million of state government funding to get this project moving. It has always been my view that we need to invest in the major redevelopment of the site; the facilities are some of the oldest within the City of Joondalup. According to the council's documents, the facilities have, after about 40 years, reached the end of their asset life. I am really looking forward to seeing that project continue and progress. It is a shame that it has taken this long, but the community is still really excited about what can be delivered here. The City of Joondalup will very shortly undertake community consultation and I will share that far and wide with all of our community—not just the sporting groups that use the site, but also community groups and the broader community. I am really looking forward to seeing a multigenerational community facility that is fit for purpose. I will continue to keep in touch with our community on that.

A lot is happening in the northern suburbs with regard to community sporting infrastructure. However, I will make a few concluding comments. I note the fact that Joondalup is located in one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. We need to continue to ensure that we deliver enough infrastructure for the growing number of people living in the area to be able to access, including the young ones who are really interested in getting involved.

This bill really will provide significant reform of the management of the major sports and entertainment assets in this state, in recognition of the value of sports and entertainment to our community and the part that these assets play in making Western Australia a great place to live, work, invest in, and to visit. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [3.26 pm]: It has been an absolute joy to sit in the chamber and listen to everybody's stories about their sporting prowess, and I would like to contribute a bit of that also; not that I want to brag or anything, but further along in my contribution, I will be giving myself a bit of a plug, too!

Dr A.D. Buti: It's a famous family!

Ms L. DALTON: Exactly! Thank you for pointing that out, minister.

I also rise today to speak on the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. This, like many pieces of legislation put forward by WA's strong Labor government, will modernise our laws and, to put it plainly, will level the playing field, so to speak. The primary purpose of the bill is to repeal and replace the outdated Western Australian Sports Centre Trust Act 1986. This bill will create the sports and entertainment trust and provide the new trust with a clear and contemporary framework to deliver outcomes.

The trust, once established, will operate and maintain venues for sport, entertainment and recreational purposes, just as VenuesWest has done since 1986, with exemplary professionalism and innovation. The jewel in the crown, so to speak, is Optus Stadium. Home to AFL, rugby and cricket codes, this award-winning stadium is also fast being recognised as an entertainment venue and, through continued support from this government, will be developed to create a larger entertainment and recreational precinct.

I know how important Optus Stadium is to many people in my electorate. They have been lucky enough to secure tickets to events such as the Coldplay and Pink concerts. As we know, more than 50 000 attended the WWE Perth Elimination Chamber. An incredible 59 000 attended the 8-nil pre-qualifying match between the Matildas and the Philippines. Venues like Optus Stadium are very important to people from the regions because they offer us opportunities to attend events on a larger scale than we can attend at home. It was really exciting to find out that on a major event day, more than 1 500 people are employed at Optus Stadium. That is definitely worth noting.

To be Australia's leading provider of sport and entertainment venues and precincts is the vision—that is the goal. With these changes to the trust, the government is supporting the organisation to meet those achievements and more. As I alluded to earlier, I come from a family that is heavily involved in sport, particularly football, basketball and hockey. Both my parents played, coached, managed and umpired, and held various positions on each of their clubs' committees. Both my mum and dad are life members of their respective clubs. My dad came to Geraldton from Perth because he had been asked to coach the Brigades Football Club league team. He had previously coached the South Perth juniors and played for Perth Football Club. He later went on to be president of the Brigades club and was instrumental in building its clubrooms and the club that it calls home today. My mum played hockey for Rovers Cardinals Hockey Club and basketball for Trades Basketball Club. She also coached and managed teams within those clubs. Consequently, both my sister and I played for those clubs, and so did my daughter. Members probably get the gist that in my family, we have no choice. We have loyalty to our club no matter what, just like everything. It is a bit like the Labor Party. We are all part of the Labor Party, and no-one had any choice but to be a member of the Labor Party as well!

Over my childhood, I spent many summers and winters at footy ovals, hockey grounds and our basketball stadium basically getting dragged around from one court to another. I learnt from an early age the value of being part of a team—a club—and volunteering to help keep the club running. It is just what we did. Before I had my own children, I was coaching and umpiring other people's children, because that was what we did. My parents set that example. I believe that sport plays a huge part in regional life. It connects us and brings us together. When I was travelling around Australia and new to an area, I would seek out the local hockey or basketball club. It is a fabulous way to meet people and make new friends. It solidifies our place in a community.

Although my body and work commitments have limited my actual playing time, I still love to go and watch my beloved Cardinals hockey girls play, and I have season tickets to the Geraldton Buccaneers, which is an absolutely awesome night out. My partner and I joke regularly that when we go to a Buccaneers game on a Saturday, we can be there at seven and home by nine, which is absolutely fabulous for people of our age group, and still feel like we have had an absolutely fantastic night out. I think that the Buccaneers have lost only one game this season, so well done to you guys.

I want to touch on the School Sport Western Australia Country Week, particularly for members in this place from the metro region. This is always a highlight for regional school communities and also regional clubs. School Sport WA Country Week is celebrating 94 years in 2024. The Department of Education has a current funding agreement with School Sport WA, and School Sport WA allocates \$100 000 a year of department funding to Senior High School Country Week. Of this funding, \$80 000 is allocated to subsidise travel so that all education department schools can attend. As I have said before, these are great opportunities for our regional youth because they get to come to the city and have the opportunity to play on fields and courts and surfaces that they may not always have the opportunity to play on. Young athletes from around regional WA converged on Perth in June 2024 to compete against their regional counterparts in a range of sports. The new speech and debating category, which is growing in popularity, is also coming on board. We are unique in Western Australia as the only state to run an interschool sports carnival specifically for regional competitors. Many of these students, particularly in my electorate, do have fine facilities where they live. Examples of these—thank you to our government—include the \$3.5 million grant to the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association for four indoor courts, club storage and a remodelled canteen; and \$220 000 for the Geraldton hockey stadium to access the high standard of VenuesWest facilities, which inspire our young athletes to keep striving. The students will access the following VenuesWest venues: basketball at Bendat Basketball Centre, netball at the Gold Netball Centre and volleyball and speech debating at HBF Stadium. VenuesWest has identified water polo as a rising sport, although I can tell members from my experience in Geraldton that water polo has been a very strong sport in my community for a number of years.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It has; I'm aware of that.

Ms L. DALTON: Definitely. When I was 19 or 20 years old, I played a fair bit of water polo, although I had a lot of moments when the competition was so fierce that I actually thought I would drown, but that probably says more about my capacity as a swimmer than anything else!

We have had a lot of local sport good news stories in Geraldton. Lately, the Geraldton electorate has received an incredible amount of support with sporting infrastructure and events. Improved local facilities also mean we can attract interstate and international teams to our region and allow some flexibility, I guess, to our already existing stadiums. As I have already said, I am a regular attendee at Geraldton Buccaneers games. On Saturday, due to the inclement weather and high levels of humidity, there were going to be some issues of slippage and condensation on the main court, so it was decided early in the piece to change the time from seven o'clock to three o'clock, which was fine. We all rearranged our day to make sure that we could support the Buccaneers. But, at the very last moment, it was realised that because of the way the concrete is laid underneath the court, condensation had already started, so they made a really quick decision to move the main game between the Buccaneers and the Warwick Senators to the new courts as part of the new stadium. As the local member for Geraldton, that was one of my major election commitments, so I must admit that I was really proud to walk into the stadium that day and be able to see firsthand the flexibility and capacity for the Buccaneers to move from their main court into the other stadium to use those courts. It was far better than having to cancel the game. I think that maybe, from a spectator point of view, it was not fabulous for all spectators; I managed to grab a seat close to the courtside, but that was just luck. Due to our government's commitment, we were able to continue with that game and it did not have to be cancelled. I know that the Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association and the Buccaneers board of directors were really pleased with that.

Another investment from our government through community grants—actually, Minister Templeman was with me for this announcement—is for the Rover Football Club to redevelop its facilities and change rooms to support women in AFL.

Mr D.A. Templeman: We went there together.

Ms L. DALTON: We did. I think I remember seeing the minister kick a football.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I know; it was good.

Ms L. DALTON: I was really impressed with that; I did not realise that the minister had such talent. I thought he was more of an entertainer. I did not realise he had such prowess on the football field!

Mr T.J. Healy: He's a sporty sport minister.

Ms L. DALTON: He is a sporty sport minister! We have also received funding for the Geraldton Hockey Association. It has had very tired turfs for some time. As I said, I played A-grade hockey for many years, and those turfs have been very well utilised. Through some funding commitment from the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, we were able to provide \$220 000 towards installing new turf and also some support for the clubrooms.

As has already been mentioned, cycling is really starting to pick up speed in all regional centres, as well as metro areas. The expansion of the Geraldton cycling network and the shared paths has been a really fabulous commitment from this government. It means that more people are using their bicycles to get into and around town.

The recreation ground is one of the oldest grounds in the electorate of Geraldton. It received \$190 000 to upgrade the floodlighting to 100 lux LED lighting, which expands the hours of use and gives other user groups the capacity to use that facility. I have met with the city a number of times about sporting facilities and use of change rooms, and one thing that we have seen—it is a great thing; it is a wicked problem to have—is that with the rise of women's sport across the world, across Australia and particularly in regional centres, more women are playing sport, so we need more ovals and change rooms to be built and more facilities to be provided. It is a wicked problem to have, but it is an excellent problem that I am sure this government will work very hard on to help support local governments in solving.

We also had \$750 000 as part of a refurbishment and major upgrade to the outdoor Geraldton Aquarena. This included a 25-metre access ramp, which is fantastic for people in wheelchairs or who have to use some kind of walking frame to access the pool. It is absolutely brilliant. The Geraldton Bowling Club received \$42 750 for the replacement of floodlighting on two of its bowling greens. The Geraldton Softball Association also received funding for floodlighting. On Friday, I will be at Wonthella Bowling Club for the opening of its synthetic bowling greens for which it received over \$79 000. Geraldton Athletics Centre is a fabulous little sporting group, and I have been along to a couple of events there. It has just installed a new long and triple jump runway. The Geraldton Pistol Club received funding for safety upgrades on its range. The Geraldton Yacht Club received over \$46 000 for the construction of a storage extension.

We have seen a lot of investment in Geraldton. Geraldton is very focused on sport and entertainment, and all the sporting groups have been very appreciative of those kinds of investment. We have also successfully hosted mass-participation sporting and cultural events. Most recently we held the Country Surf Lifesaving Championships and the junior windsurfing championships. I know it is always a topic of mirth in this place that Geraldton is a windy city. We do not mind being a windy city because it means we are able to host fantastic sporting events such as the windsurfing championships. We have also hosted the country athletics championships. We are supported by the Tourism WA regional events scheme. This government also supports events in Nabawa and Dongara, which

injects valued visitor spend to the midwest and extends the visitor stay period outside of traditional peak seasons, which is really important to regional towns. I would like to invite all members to come and join us in the midwest for the Backroads gravel race in August.

Mr T.J. Healy: Huzza!

Ms L. DALTON: Yes—or join us in Dongara–Port Denison for the Denison Foreshore Sprint and Mid West Show 'n Shine in September! It is a most beautiful time of year to come to Geraldton and the midwest, and I am sure members will not be disappointed.

Some of the smaller local commitments that we were able to provide funding to were the Woorree Park BMX Club track resurfacing and the Geraldton Yacht Club junior rescue boat. The Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association also received some solar panels to help run its huge GABA stadium, which uses a lot of electricity and power. We were able to provide it with solar panels to help reduce the cost of its electricity.

As a local member, and as many members in this place know, I am often asked to support community groups and sporting clubs. I have found that doing this is one of my biggest privileges. I have been able to sponsor many different groups since becoming the member for Geraldton. I will not list them all because there are far too many, but one of those that stand out is the Chapman Valley, Valley Shears Shearing Competition, which will be held again in a couple of months. It is an event with major sponsors. I have an annual sponsorship with the Geraldton Surf Lifesaving Club. I am also a patron of the Geraldton Croquet Club. I enjoy attending all the different events and sporting awards ceremonies throughout the year. It is always my absolute pleasure to go along to these places. What I find about going to open days and awards nights is I can see the diversity in ages and demographics. That is what makes living in the regional communities rich. It also brings the value of sports tourism to the midwest, which we see when sporting groups and people from outside the region come along because an event is happening. I think that is fantastic.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L. DALTON: The Mid West Sports Federation calculated that more than 84 sporting events were held during 2018–21, which brought 21 000 visitors and generated \$5.9 million of additional visitor spend. As I mentioned earlier, this is vital to our regional communities because it keeps our economies moving through peak and off-peak times. The trust will be empowered to conduct the commercial, retail and promotional activities essential to optimise the use of venues and precincts to deliver sport, recreation and entertainment outcomes for Western Australia, and it will deliver world-class training and competition venues for high-performance sport.

In conclusion, for me, sport and entertainment venues provide three important aspects to society. Firstly, they enhance self-esteem. Being able to participate in hobbies, artistic pursuits or social events boosts our self-esteem and reminds us of our abilities and passions and fosters a positive image. Secondly, they build friendships. We come together because we have a shared interest, and we create bonds with each other. Whether it is discussing a favourite show or attending a sports game, entertainment facilities and sporting groups provide connections with others. Thirdly, and probably most importantly, they create and generate employment. The entertainment and sports industries employ millions of people worldwide. They create lots of opportunities for young people in and around the regions.

I would like to commend the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024 to the house.

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.46 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Sports and Entertainment Trust Bill 2024. I indicate that I will be voting in support of the bill. First of all, I will get right to the point. The bill is fantastic. VenuesWest is fantastic, and I will tell members why my family and my electorate loves VenuesWest. It is simply because of RAC Arena. Because of the Minister for Sport and Recreation and VenuesWest, my family got to see the Wiggles in a VenuesWest facility. I think we have been to the Wiggles three times. We got to see Emma with my children. We got to see Tsehay. We have been to *Disney on Ice*.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Did you go recently?

Mr T.J. HEALY: No. We missed that one, but I have been multiple times and seen multiple generations of Wiggles because of the fantastic venue that is RAC Arena, a VenuesWest facility. It is absolutely amazing.

Dr A.D. Buti: What about Champion Lakes? No-one's mentioned Champion Lakes.

Mr T.J. HEALY: Minister, in a moment I will expand on a number of other potential VenuesWest locations, from the bill, that also include the Gosnells and south east corridor. Do not worry about that!

RAC Arena is a standout facility. I would like to commend Michael Scott and his team for the difficult time during COVID. There is no doubt about that. I know there are many different shows and many different performances. I think Jerry Seinfeld will be there later this month, and there are a number of exciting things happening. But when I go, I get to see mums and dads from my electorate in the foyer of RAC Arena enjoying wonderful times with their families, and we have all been dressed up as the yellow Wiggle or we have been dressed up seeing Moana and Elsa and others. I want to say thank you.

I want to draw the chamber's attention to a number of potential venues that I think, minister, would make absolutely standout facilities for VenuesWest. The minister might say these might not be, and that is okay, but I will still talk about them. We are building a fantastic facility for young people to enjoy sport and expand their sporting ambitions and activities in the youth plaza at Sutherlands Park in Gosnells. Members would be aware that the state government is investing \$2 million, which is a long-term commitment. I also commend the City of Gosnells council for making an investment into the facility.

Members will be aware that there are a lot of playgrounds and facilities across the south east corridor in Gosnells, but we do not have many facilities for teenagers. Today I was at Action Sheds Australia to congratulate it. It will be building the very first 100-plus metre long shed, which will go on top of the youth plaza. That will mean that when it is raining or sunny, the facility will be fully lit-up at night but covered during the rain, and it will protect a multipurpose court, climbing wall and skate park, which will allow people to enjoy the facilities all year round, day and night. We have been advocating for a number of things. There will also be a pump track there with a playground next to it. It is all designed so that when I am there looking after my kids on the playground, I am helping to create passive surveillance and a very safe community. It is going to be fantastic.

Reserve A at Sutherlands Park, for those playing along at home, will have a \$498 000 Club Night Lights grant to assist with the surrounding lights to allow other teams to play alongside the park, because there are other sporting ovals and facilities. It will allow the next generation of young people to play soccer and football; there are baseball grounds there, too. It is a fantastic facility. I was very excited for the closing of the final part of the tender on Thursday last week. As I said, Action Sheds Australia has the tender for the shed. Again, I want to congratulate Action Sheds Australia, as well as Fielders, which will be doing the pre-fabrication work.

[Interruption.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T.J. HEALY: I join you in congratulating the member for Landsdale, Deputy Speaker, for her endorsement of the youth plaza!

I have long been an advocate for the facility there. That project should be finished by January 2025. It has been a long time coming, but we are getting very close to finishing the project. The council is currently potentially choosing to delay the pool project for a number of years to 2030. More and more people are telling me about the importance of building stage 1 of an outdoor water park at Sutherlands Park at the youth plaza. I think that is a fantastic concept. I encourage people to let everyone know their thoughts on, for example, a \$2 million or \$3 million facilities that will allow the first stage of that pool to be built and for the council to achieve its pool build by 2030, if that is its wish.

I draw members' attention to the Southern River College oval. I had people from Southern River College here for lunch today who were mentioned during question time. I used to teach at that school. It has a fantastic proposal. I thank the Minister for Education for already funding \$24 000 towards the first stage of a bore, which will allow an outside section of the oval to be irrigated meaning more playing fields and a shared facility with the council and the school to allow young people to play sport at all times. It has recently completed stage 1 and I know that the council is very eager to proceed. I am very proud that we have already been able to contribute \$24 000 towards that, for which I commend the Western Australian government and the minister.

I draw members' attention to another great piece of infrastructure next door to the Southern River College oval—that is, the Pat Morris Pavilion. It was a promise of the previous Parliament in our first term. We named the indoor basketball court in honour of Pat Morris, the titan of Gosnells. It has been operating now for five years. It was a great addition to the school. It is a wonderful entry statement to the school and a beacon of light through Gosnells. If people drive past, they will see that every night there are community groups and sporting groups using that facility, with churches, hockey clubs and sport clubs on the weekend. I think it would be a great opportunity for VenuesWest if it were to so choose, but, again, I do not necessarily think it will.

Another great facility that is developing alongside that is the Langford indoor netball court. I greatly thank Bill Johnston for his advocacy in ensuring that the new indoor netball courts at Langford proceeded. Again, we are working very closely with our federal member, Matt Keogh, and the Gosnells council. Although that facility is based in Langford, it is absolutely a south east corridor facility. That facility means that families from communities all the way from Cannington and Victoria Park through to Southern River and Armadale can play in a fantastic new indoor netball facility. Again, works are proceeding very well. It is great to see the clubs and the Southern Districts Netball Association be a great part of that process.

I give another quick shout-out to a number of different facilities. Whenever I talk about Western Australian government funding, I have to commend the department and the community sporting and recreation facilities fund for the programs and support that they have given. We built cricket nets for the Gosnells Indoor Training Facility. It is a fantastic facility. Gosnells still holds the record for the most amount of people cutting a ribbon. That was opened four years ago and 100 people cut that ribbon! It was quite a logistical exercise. I hazard a guess that we hope to beat that record when we open the youth plaza next year. I plan to have a 200-metre ribbon this time around the full youth plaza. Every person who attends will get a pair of scissors, like we did with the cricket nets. We had

a fantastic big long ribbon. It drove my staff nuts trying to create that ribbon, but achieve it we did and chopped it was by 100 young local cricketers when we opened that facility. Again, it is a great facility that is already well used by the local community.

I give a shout-out to the council for its Bracadale Park development—a fantastic facility in Canning Vale. The council has a master plan for a dog park, playground, more sporting fields and more soccer facilities at Bracadale Park. Bracadale Park itself is also benefiting from the Minister for Environment’s allocation of 1 100 trees to Canning Vale. A large chunk will go into the Bracadale section, which will create a large urban canopy covering a well-used facility. Again, the council is currently in the stage of finishing the latest water body, installing soccer goals and barbecues, as well as the potential for a basketball court.

Members would be aware that I have advocated putting more car park bays in the dog park next door. Speaking as a high school English teacher and not an engineer, it is relatively simple to create more parking bays. Again, the council has invested in the great facility there, which I greatly appreciate, but it has so far been unable to create the parking infrastructure now required because an empty park has now become a very popular park.

I do not think I could speak now without acknowledging the great Olympians from our community in the south east corridor and my electorate who will represent us in Paris. I give a very big shout-out to Caitlin Parker from Gosnells, and I wish her luck in her boxing. We wish her all the best. I would like to say congratulations and good luck to Yusuf Chothia from Canning Vale in his boxing debut. We are all very proud of what he will be doing. Of course, everyone across the City of Gosnells is very proud of the work that Peter Bol has done, and we wish him well in his competition for the Olympics in Paris. From everyone across the City of Gosnells, we wish him all the best. To all the support teams and players who will be there, we wish them the best for the Paris Olympics.

It is a slight segue, Deputy Speaker, but it costs to play sport and participate in our community. One of the things that I think is a great allocation and support for young people playing sport is the WA student assistance payment. Applications close on 28 June. A lot of schools run their own sports programs. Families can utilise the \$150 per primary school child and \$250 per high school child however they wish to and put it towards school costs, or school and sports costs and allow them to do that. If people have not yet made their application for the WA student assistance payment, I encourage them to call their school reception, or call my office or email us. They can also drop by the office and pick up a hard copy application if they cannot use the app. It is very important that they get their applications in very soon, because they will close on 28 June.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Motion

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [4.00 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Cook Labor government for failing to address the rise of family and domestic violence.

He we are again. We have heard the rhetoric over and over again from this government: “Violence in a family context is a scourge on our community” or “Women have a fundamental right to feel safe in their homes” or “One death is too many”, yet nine women have been killed in violent acts this year, which is double the rate in New South Wales. On May 24 the murders of Jennifer and her teenage daughter Gretl Petelczyc made national headlines after they were shot dead in their own home by a man armed with a handgun looking for his estranged wife. However, these murders could have been prevented. Ariel Bombara and her mother had repeatedly alerted the police of their fears concerning Mark Bombara, including an early morning visit to a police station to express their very grave concerns. Ariel stated that she had informed officers about her father’s guns and emphasised that she and her mother felt their lives were in immediate danger, requesting a 72-hour violence restraining order. From 30 March to 2 April, she contacted the police on three different occasions specifically mentioning a missing Glock handgun from her father’s collection. Tragically, this was the weapon Bombara used to murder Jennifer and her daughter Gretl in their Floreat home while he was searching for his wife. During this time, Ariel and her mother were hiding from Bombara, allegedly. They were so worried, they had even requested and received a police escort to their home to retrieve their belongings.

Despite these warnings, Commissioner of Police Col Blanch and Minister Papalia have stated that the situation did not meet the threshold for a 72-hour police order. If Ariel’s complaints had met the threshold, police could have issued the order to Bombara, assessed the danger posed by his access to firearms, obtained a warrant and confiscated his weapons for three days. However, that did not happen, yet we continue to examine the fallout of family and domestic violence and violence against women and children with this hindsight lens.

It is concerning that I have stood in this place many times, not just since this tragedy but on many occasions over the last two years, repeating the same message I am about to deliver on family and domestic violence in this state. The stark reality of what is happening out there on our streets is clearly illustrated by harrowing statistics from the government’s own websites. The 16 Days in WA website highlights that one in six Australian women have endured

physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner since the age of 15 years. In 2022 alone, 37 per cent of homicides and related offences in WA were related to family and domestic violence, claiming 18 victims. The number of assault victims in WA surged by seven per cent to 38 743, the highest in 30 years, with 64 per cent of these assaults, or 24 896 victims, being related to family and domestic violence. Intimate partners accounted for nearly 80 per cent of hospitalisations of women from family and domestic violence while 20 per cent of perpetrators were other family members. Disturbingly, family and domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness, with 51.5 per cent of women and 37 per cent of young people seeking assistance from homelessness services due to domestic violence.

We are all aware of the housing crisis that is happening under this government's watch. Equally concerning is the societal attitude towards domestic violence, which continues to undermine efforts to combat this crisis. Only 64 per cent of Australians acknowledge that men are more likely to be perpetrators of domestic violence, illustrating there is much work to do. Alarming, up to 30 per cent of Australians believe that women can provoke a man to hit her without him meaning to. Nearly 42 per cent think that what is often termed family and domestic violence is merely a normal reaction to everyday stress and frustration. This is simply unacceptable. The issue is not new. It has persisted for far too long, leaving countless victims in its wake.

This afternoon, I intend to address the systemic failings of the Cook Labor government's response to family and domestic violence. It has repeatedly fallen short in its duty to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. Family and domestic violence is a brutal reality for many individuals, predominantly women and children, across our state. It is a violation of the most basic human rights and a profound breach of trust within families and communities. Despite numerous promises and initiatives, the Labor government has consistently failed to implement effective measures to combat this menace. Its inaction and lack of decisive legislation has left many in our communities unprotected and at risk. In 2022–23 alone, police crime statistics highlight that the state experienced its worst year ever with a sharp 15 per cent rise in family assault offences and an even more staggering 38 per cent increase in threatening behaviour against family members. There were also 15 198 breaches of violence restraining orders in 2023, up 18 per cent from the year before. If we look back further at what this government has delivered over the last seven years, it is quite unbelievable. Family assaults are up 42 per cent while threatening behaviour towards family members is up 80 per cent. These are not just numbers. They are harrowing figures and a testament to the ongoing struggles that countless individuals, particularly women, face within our communities. Not enough is being done, with interventions always seeming to be too little, too late. The response from this government has been completely underwhelming.

One of the most glaring admissions in the Labor government's approach to tackling this scourge of domestic violence is its failure to introduce the legislation surrounding coercive control. Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour that can include threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten a victim. It is insidious and often precedes physical violence. It is about power and control, stripping away the victim's autonomy and freedom. Despite its prevalence and devastating impact, the Labor government has not made coercive control a criminal offence, despite promising to do so. Countries like the United Kingdom have already recognised the importance of addressing coercive control. In 2015, the UK introduced legislation making coercive control a criminal offence, a significant step towards protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable. Closer to home, New South Wales and Queensland have also taken decisive action in this area by introducing coercive control legislation, underscoring their commitment to combatting domestic violence. Statements from both states highlight the crucial need for such laws to protect vulnerable individuals and ensure that perpetrators face consequences for their actions. Why then is WA Labor behind? Why has this government not taken the necessary steps to criminalise coercive control and put in place the legal framework needed to combat this form of abuse? The absence of coercive control legislation means that many victims are left without the legal recourse that they desperately need. It means that perpetrators can continue their abuse with impunity, knowing that the law will not hold them accountable.

This is not just a legislative failing; it is a moral failing of this government. The Cook Labor government has a duty to protect Western Australians and put in place measures that can achieve this. In this regard, it has unequivocally failed. However, it is not just a failure to introduce coercive control legislation that should have advocates worried. The Labor government's resistance to implement expanded legislation for GPS tracking is another significant shortcoming. I appreciate that the minister was not aware of the trial that had happened under this government's watch. It is extraordinary. The GPS tracking technology is a proven tool that can enhance the safety of victims and provide a sense of security that is often lost in the aftermath of domestic violence. By monitoring an offender's movements, authorities can ensure that they adhere to restraining orders and stay away from their victims. This technology acts as a deterrent and a safeguard, yet it remains unutilised in Western Australia. The benefits of GPS tracking bracelets are clear. They provide real-time data on offenders' whereabouts, allowing for immediate action if they breach conditions. This proactive approach can prevent further harm and offer peace of mind for victims who live in constant fear of their abusers.

Other states and countries have successfully introduced such tracking measures as part of their domestic violence strategies, resulting in increased protection for victims and more stringent enforcement of restraining orders.

What has happened in Western Australia? Incredibly, answers to questions in Parliament have revealed that only 262 individuals in the state were fitted with ankle bracelets, representing a mere 4.2 per cent of the 6 156 charged or convicted adults being managed in the community at that time. These figures starkly contrast the state government's pledge to significantly expand GPS tracking of offenders on parole, bail or supervision orders. The commitment was intended to enhance public safety by ensuring closer monitoring of dangerous offenders by introducing legislation that would actually compel the courts and the Prisoners Review Board to impose GPS monitoring conditions on family violence perpetrators, subject to community supervision. However, the current implementation falls woefully short of what was promised. The minimal number of individuals fitted with ankle bracelets highlights a significant gap between what the government says it will do and what it actually delivers. There is, once again, a significant gap between rhetoric and reality when it comes to the Cook Labor government. This shortfall not only undermines public trust, but also jeopardises the safety of the community. The technology to monitor offenders effectively is available out there, yet this government has approached this issue with a lacklustre approach, which has been disappointingly inadequate. The disparity between the government's commitments and execution, again, the effectiveness of its approach in handling domestic violence and community safety, has been appalling. Properly implementing these measures is not just a matter of fulfilling promises; it is about protecting lives that are most at risk.

The Cook Labor government's reluctance to adopt this technology is not only baffling, but also indicative of its broader inaction when it comes to domestic violence matters in this state. According to the government, everything is going great. It has invested \$420 million in this term of government alone, creating stories of success and support for women and children fleeing family and domestic violence, we are told. This record funding—yes, everything in this government is a record now—is supposedly focused on holding perpetrators to account, challenging them and providing them with supports to change their cycle of abuse. Only yesterday, the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence stated in this place —

We are doing all these things on a day in, day out basis to help the services that support the women and children fleeing family and domestic violence. That is the business-as-usual work we do each and every day. But, of course, connected to that is the important system reform ... that takes the work of the taskforce, made up of key government agencies and our sector partners, to drive medium and long-term change to make improvements to the systems that seek to put victim-survivors at the heart of everything we do.

Perhaps at some point, the minister should actually see what is going on in our suburbs. Incredibly, the same taskforce that was credited with driving this change was disbanded in March because, apparently, it achieved what it needed to. The reality of what is occurring in our communities is that funding for domestic violence services remains woefully inadequate and the statistics do not lie. Shelters are overcrowded and are turning away a record number of women and children. Support services are stretched thin and victims often find themselves with nowhere to turn. Last year, five women were turned away from domestic violence shelters every day. Alongside this, over 50 individuals seeking short-term emergency housing were also left unassisted daily. These shocking figures, the worst in the nation, paint a dire picture of our current system's inability to support those in desperate need. This crisis has forced some women fleeing violent partners to be booked into caravan parks and motels due to the severe lack of available spaces in our refuges. The situation is so critical that women and children in their most vulnerable moments are being placed in temporary accommodation that offers far less security and support than these dedicated shelters. Furthermore, women who are assessed as not being at imminent risk of harm are being completely turned away, left to navigate their dangerous situations alone.

In my electorate, the South West Refuge provides critical support to women and families. It is a not-for-profit that provides safe and secure accommodation, advocacy and support to women and children facing and fleeing family and domestic violence. Alison White and her team are a very caring and compassionate group of people who provide —

Ms S.F. McGurk: Alison Evans.

Ms L. METTAM: Alison White and her team provide a wonderful service; however, in the last financial year they turned away 382 women due to not having accommodation available. These distressing statistics highlight the urgent need for increased funding and resources for domestic violence shelters and emergency housing.

The current supply of beds is clearly insufficient, failing to provide the necessary support for those escaping violence, and a \$7 million provision to assist with new phones, white goods and furniture does little if they do not have anywhere to stay. It is unacceptable that a state as wealthy as Western Australia, with a government boasting about its economic prosperity on one hand, cannot ensure the safety and security of women and children seeking crisis support on the other. The government must take action to address this shortfall and recognise that there is so much more to do. This includes not only expanding the number of available beds in shelters, but also ensuring that long-term solutions are in place to prevent homelessness and provide sustainable support for survivors of domestic violence. Adequate funding, strategic planning and a commitment to prioritising the safety of our most vulnerable individuals is essential. A legislative framework is also essential, which this government has failed on. It is crucial that we consider comprehensive policies that offer a full spectrum of support services. It should include mental health care, legal assistance and financial aid to help survivors rebuild their lives.

The government must focus on preventive measures, such as education and community programs to address the root causes of domestic violence and stop its occurrence. The statistics are damning. The Labor government has failed to prioritise essential services, leaving non-governmental organisations and community groups to pick up the slack. These groups utilise their time to not only provide essential services, but also to fundraise to provide more so they do not turn more women and children away. These organisations do incredible work, but they cannot do it alone. They need robust support and funding from the government to effectively combat domestic violence and support victims.

Education and prevention programs are critical components of the overall strategy. These programs are designed to change societal attitudes, promote healthy relationships and provide individuals with the tools they need to recognise and respond to abusive behaviour. Without education and awareness, we cannot hope to eradicate the deeply ingrained attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate domestic violence. The impact of the Labor government's failings is felt acutely by victims of domestic violence. They are individuals whose lives have been torn apart by abuse, who live in fear for their safety and the safety of their children.

They deserve a government that stands up for them unequivocally and takes decisive action to protect them and prioritise their wellbeing above all else. Instead, they have been left with inaction. We need comprehensive and decisive action from this government to address family and domestic violence in Western Australia. That starts with the introduction of legislation on coercive control. We must follow the example set by other jurisdictions and make it a criminal offence. It will send a clear message that psychological and emotional abuse is as unacceptable as physical violence and that perpetrators must be held accountable.

We need to implement GPS tracking reform for offenders. This technology is not a panacea. We know there is not one single fix, but it is something that the government spoke about last year and is yet to implement it as a priority piece of legislation. By monitoring offenders' movements, we can enforce restraining orders more effectively and provide victims with the peace of mind they deserve. Shelters, support services, and community organisations are on the front line of this fight, and they need resources to do their jobs effectively. The Labor government must commit to substantial, long-term funding to ensure that services can meet the needs of all victims. It is disappointing that the taskforce was disbanded in March. Education and prevention programs must be a priority. We need to invest in initiatives that promote healthy relationships, challenge harmful attitudes and equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to prevent domestic violence.

This is a long-term investment in the safety and wellbeing of our communities, and it is one that we cannot afford to neglect. Finally, we need a government that is willing to listen to the voices of survivors and advocates. The Labor government must engage with those who have lived experience of domestic violence and the organisations that support them. Their insights and expertise are invaluable in shaping policies and programs that truly meet the needs of victims.

Family and domestic violence is an unacceptable blight on our society and requires urgent and decisive action. It goes well beyond the gun reforms that the government has spoken about, despite desperate efforts in this place. I support the bill and amendments as the Leader of the Opposition. It is clear there was much more work to be done on that legislation, given we now see rushed amendments coming through this place; however, the Liberal Party has certainly been supportive. As the leader my position has been misrepresented in this place.

The Labor government's repeated failings around domestic violence are unacceptable and have left many vulnerable individuals without the protection and support they need. It is time for a new approach, one that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of victims and holds perpetrators accountable. Legislation on coercive control and GPS tracking bracelets for offenders must be implemented as a matter of urgency by this government. Above all, we need a government that is committed to making a real and lasting difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence. That is something a Liberal government will deliver.

I have a few minutes left. I will point out that in addition to the shelters in the community and in addition to the legislative change and early intervention programs, we need to see more support for our police. We know that there has been an exodus of police from the force, which the opposition has raised again and again. The number of police officers leaving the force due to burnout, fatigue and not feeling supported has been at a rate of about three times the average under this government's watch. Quite clearly, there needs to be more resourcing for police on the ground so that they are available and present in the community. There is a connection between the number of police on the beat—they do an incredible job; however, they are tasked with doing more with less and we need to see more support for our police going forward.

We are taking a tougher approach to law and order, parole laws and bail laws. We are committed to strengthening both under a Liberal government going forward. We consistently see a light-touch approach to law and order in our community. There is a distinct difference between community expectations and what we see delivered in our court system. A number of red flags have been raised surrounding the two murders in Floreat. Violence restraining orders were requested and there were calls from Ariel for the removal of Mark Bombara's Glock gun. We had a situation in which on one hand, police with bulletproof vests entered a home of a perpetrator, but on the other

hand the guns were not removed. A number of questions need to be answered on that case. It is disappointing that the government's first response was to politicise the issue. What was clear from Ariel Bombara's statement is that there were a number of failings that need to be transparently exposed and addressed to ensure such preventable tragedies do not happen again.

I have already pointed to the statistics. I have already pointed to the nine women who have been killed in violent acts this year in Western Australia, a rate that is double the amount in New South Wales. I have already pointed to the significant increase in family and domestic violence seen under this government's watch, as well as a lacklustre approach to family and domestic violence and reform in this place—whether it is the shelters turning away hundreds of women and children; the light-touch approach seen in the court system; the fact that there are not enough police on the beat because this government has not delivered on its election commitments; or legislation is not in place here that is in place in other states. This government is enjoying the largest boom in WA's history. This government is the most resourced that this state has ever seen in terms of the size of its benches and its ability to introduce and pass legislation. We in this place have seen how quickly legislation this government sees as important can pass through the chambers. As an opposition, we have enabled that to happen, with debate being guillotined at times.

In the midst of a family and domestic violence epidemic in which women are being murdered, what we have not seen is two pieces of legislation promised last year. We are seeing murders take place amidst some very serious reports of red flags and warnings. It is an absolute failure of this government. I know other members would also like to contribute and I look forward to their contributions, because I appreciate that every community in this state has been touched by this epidemic, which is absolutely appalling and tragic in itself.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.31 pm]: I also support the motion moved by the Leader the Liberal Party; it reads —

That this house condemns the Cook Labor government for failing to address the rise of family and domestic violence.

I will make a few points about that motion. Firstly, the Cook government has neglected to allocate sufficient resources to combat the escalating issue of family and domestic violence. This failure has left countless individuals and families in Western Australia without the necessary support and protection. The lack of action from the government has resulted in increased danger and insecurity within our communities. Urgent measures are needed to provide adequate support services for victims of family and domestic violence. The Cook Labor government's inaction on this critical issue demonstrates a disregard for the safety and wellbeing of Western Australians. As the Liberal leader also pointed out, she has had to explain how GPS tracking works, because it does not appear to me that this government seems to understand.

I am glad the Attorney General is in the chamber, because he often talks about how he introduced 57 pieces of legislation in the last period of Parliament and all the rest of it. Where is the coercive control legislation that we have been hearing about for years on end? We have not seen it. This is the time that the Attorney General needed to come to the fore. We have seen those nine deaths that the Leader of the Liberal Party talked about. This was the opportunity for the Attorney General to come to the fore, but what have we had? We have had electoral reform: "Let's try to reduce regional voices." That is more important than coercive control. It is a disgrace! Members of the police force are turning up to properties in bulletproof vests, but they cannot seem to get the domestic violence order in place: "Let us turn up at the property in a bulletproof vest. We are worried about being shot, but we cannot seem to work out how to get a domestic violence order in place." We have the scenario, even in the last 24 hours, in which a 78-year-old woman in Geraldton was attacked by a group of youths. There have been violent outbreaks everywhere. We saw 73-year-old Ninette Simons attacked by a detainee. The federal Labor government is dropping the ball as well, which is well advertised. We have seen the scenario play out in which Andrew Giles and Clare O'Neil, two ministers of the Crown of the federal Labor government, are not up to it. The Prime Minister will turn up here next week parading around with the Chinese Premier: "Look at us; we have got our trade relations back on track. Look at us. We will be down at Kwinana." He and his ministers have dropped the ball on detainees. That is in addition to the state government dropping the ball, whether it be on family and domestic violence or an Attorney General who cannot seem to get coercive control legislation on track. The federal Labor government has some real problems, as seen on Sunday night in the polling. It is dropping the ball in a big way and it is flowing on to the state government.

The other issue is the cashless debit card. I have pointed it out in here many times when I have talked about the banned drinkers register and the like. The federal Labor government minister Anika Wells came out and said civil liberties are more important and that we cannot have the cashless debit card in those communities that really need it, and that we cannot have our children getting a decent meal before they go to school each day. There are communities in which alcohol abuse is rife, and what do we have? We have the federal Labor government stating that civil liberties are more important than our children and mothers with domestic violence issues. It says civil liberties are more important than keeping the cashless welfare card on track, which was proven to reduce domestic violence and improve education for children in those families. Quite frankly, the best thing that anyone here in this

chamber can do is talk to Anthony Albanese when he comes over next week and tell him to reinstate the cashless debit card and sort out his detainee mess. Andrew Giles should go regardless, but the mess of the detainees and the mess of the federal government is an absolute disgrace. The polling indicates that the people of Western Australia are waking up to it. That is my overall comment. But it is flowing on to the state government, which is having to pick up the baton of the federal government's mismanagement.

I want to flow-on to some good and positive things happening in my electorate. I know the minister has been to Katanning on a couple of occasions relating to some of our early childhood work in that area. I will talk about the Katanning Regional Emergency Accommodation Centre, which is doing a great job. We in Katanning call it KREAC. It has been operating for more than 30 years. It is one of the few places in WA that can accommodate men. There is a miniature transportable, if you like, out to the side of KREAC. Rather than displace a mother and her children, KREAC can put the male partner in that building for two or three nights. This is critical in allowing the women and children time to organise themselves, arrange alternative accommodation, receive medical treatment or stay in their home safely with their children while the male receives counselling or support for his actions. The ladies that work at the Katanning Regional Emergency Accommodation Centre are doing a great job, and they have commended the local police for the support they receive. To be honest, the community also supports KREAC very well. When people move houses or shift to another location, quite often they give furniture and other things to KREAC to help out. As I said, the KREAC manager has actually commended the police for the support that they provide in cases in which perpetrators can stay at the centre for three days under a 72-hour restrictive order to stay away from their family. I think it is absolutely essential for the minister to have a look at places like KREAC and its operating model of keeping the male partner away from their families on occasions. This is actually a good news story about how we can assist those victims.

As we know, our regional areas can struggle at times, and I would like to talk about Esperance, in my electorate. We have a domestic violence support service in Esperance called the Esperance Crisis Accommodation Service Inc, or ECAS. ECAS was formed in 1989 when a group of Esperance people found that it was a much-needed service. Until then, the closest crisis accommodation was in Kalgoorlie. In 1994, ECAS opened Mara House, which is an 18-bed women's refuge. It was officially opened for women and their children who were escaping domestic or family violence. Mara is Wonghai for "hand", and it symbolises the centre's role in reaching out to women and children in need. ECAS also opened Lachie's House, named after Lachie Drummond, a long-time ECAS committee member who was instrumental in setting up the service. Lachie's House provides accommodation for single men or women, families with children, and couples from the Esperance community. It also takes referrals from across the state and interstate. ECAS is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Along with short-term and crisis accommodation, the service provides support, advocacy, information and referrals.

My wife and I have been through Lachie's House and had a look at how it operates. It is a fantastic facility. We talked to the people who run it and to people who were living there at the time. Once again, this is another good model that the state government could have a look at. What I really admire about the Esperance community is that it quite often sets up these sorts of services off its own bat, without any government support. It sees a need and it goes about setting up a solution.

From speaking to local service providers in Esperance, I can say that their main concerns include the lack of housing, which is a significant issue with numerous ramifications, including family and domestic violence, because victims of FDV often have no place to live. As we know, Esperance is an isolated town and community services are often based in Kalgoorlie. Those services sometimes provide support to Esperance; however, distance is the old story, as the member for Kalgoorlie knows. There is a four-hour drive down the highway between Kalgoorlie and Esperance. There are limited services in Esperance, so if a client is offside with the only service in town, such as a women's refuge, they have no other local support. The local services are isolated, understaffed and unsupported. This is an opportunity for the government to provide more funding to meet that demand. But, as has repeatedly been pointed out, the biggest issue is housing.

In 2021, I wrote to the Minister for Housing in an attempt to highlight the issues faced by local shelter organisations and the department's failure to maintain existing social housing stock. Many houses across the regions are empty due to the department's failure to fulfil maintenance obligations, leaving many families in situations of family and domestic violence with nowhere to go. I have spoken about this many times in this chamber. I have urged the minister to look at maintenance obligations and the business model relating to maintenance issues.

In his response the minister said that the then McGowan government had always taken pride in being committed to assisting the state's most vulnerable. He said that the government was investing record amounts to assist Western Australians in line with that commitment, and to address the issues I had raised that were occurring within my electorate. That was the response we got; there was no real commitment to getting those houses back on track.

I will provide a few statistics. In 2022, 37 per cent of homicides or related offences in WA were related to family and domestic violence, resulting in 18 victims. The number of assault victims in WA increased by seven per cent in 2022, reaching the highest number in 30 years. Police stats for family-related offences were up by 41 per cent over the five-year average from 2018–19 to 2022–23.

I refer to an ABC article of 19 February 2024 titled, “‘Unacceptably high’ domestic violence statistics in WA’s north leads to calls for change”. It states —

- **In short:** The Kimberley has recorded the highest rates of family violence in Western Australia, according to December 2023 figures released by WA Police.

The total number of family assaults increased from 410 in November to 453 in December, and the list goes on. The number of charges laid for family-related threatening behaviour also increased from 100 to 121.

Before I wrap up, I want to reiterate my points from the start of this contribution. This government needs to start thinking about Canberra. It needs to start thinking about how it can impress upon the federal government that it is doing some things wrong. The scenario with the cashless debit card is a real issue. There is an opportunity for the minister to actually talk to Hon Anika Wells, the federal minister, and tell her that this is not working in WA. We have alcohol-related violence everywhere. When the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge was washed away and alcohol was banned in the Kimberley region for several weeks, what happened? No-one turned up at the hospital. Family violence issues were reduced massively. This is where the state government needs to connect with its counterparts in the federal government and say, “Taking away the cashless debit card increases the purchase of alcohol in these families, especially in some of these communities in the north of the state. Taking this option away reduces the ability of young children in those families to have breakfast before they go to school. These are the flow-on effects.”

When Anthony Albanese comes here next week and parades around with the Chinese Premier—“Look at us, we’re going to Kwinana! Look at all these things we’re doing!”—the state government needs to just remind him of the performances of Hon Andrew Giles and Hon Clare O’Neil, and their failure with the detainees. It should remind the federal government of the poor lady in the northern suburbs who was attacked due to their policy failure. It should remind the federal government that it is dropping the ball on the cashless debit card. It is not good enough. It is time for the WA state Labor government to start protecting our vulnerable women and families.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [4.48 pm]: I rise to join the condemnation of the Cook Labor government for failing to address the rise of family and domestic violence in Western Australia. In doing so, I will point to some statistics, some of which we have already heard from other members. Before I begin my contribution about the state Labor government, I will reiterate the member for Roe’s concerns about the pattern we are seeing repeated with Labor government’s failing to keep communities safe, as illustrated by the absolute debacle of the immigration system at the moment, culminating in the awful assault the member for Roe spoke about. The pattern is very clear. The inability to keep the community safe is not just a state Labor government issue; it is also a federal Labor government issue.

Last year, the Commissioner of Police made a shocking announcement on domestic violence when he said that his officers were dealing with a domestic violence incident every four minutes. At the end of the day, the police are the people who are brought in to react to situations that are already out of control. It is important that we do not get to that situation in the first place, but when it happens, it is important that the response is appropriate and enforceable.

We know that it was reported earlier this year that there has been an 18 per cent increase in breaches of violence restraining orders in 2023, with 15 198 incidences recorded. Year on year, there is an 11 per cent increase in family assault offences, with the rate of threatening behaviour against family members increased by 36 per cent, and also a 40 per cent increase in the five-year average of domestic violence rates. It is evident that this government is asleep at the wheel. This situation is not improving with the measures that the government has undertaken thus far.

What is the government doing about this? We know that last year, the Attorney General promised to introduce amendments to the Restraining Orders Act 1997 relating to coercive control to better reflect the nature of coercive control behaviours and their cumulative effects. I notice that lots of other legislation has been brought in since that undertaking, and we have not seen that promised legislation come forward. I have forewarned the Attorney General that I am going to read from this correspondence that I sent to him on this matter back in May.

Mr J.R. Quigley: And my reply?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I will refer to the Attorney General’s reply and the discussion we had, so fear not.

In May, I wrote to the Attorney General and sought a meeting with him to discuss the introduction of the coercive control measures, and also pointed out to him some of those matters that I have just talked about, such as the 40 per cent rise in domestic violence rates. I will quote a little of the background of the letter. I wrote —

We know coercive control is often a factor in the relationships of DV victims and evidence has pointed to this: the Australian Capital Territory conducted a Domestic and Family Violence Review last year which focused on a review of 12 DV-related homicides, finding that coercive control had been at play in almost every single case. It was also noted in 75 percent of these cases there was an absence of ‘significant physical violence’ prior to the homicide. Similarly, a New South Wales Domestic Violence Death Review Team found in 97 percent of intimate partner DV homicide cases between 2019–2021, coercive and controlling behaviour was present.

There is a dangerous link between the two, and, as I say, last year, the Attorney General promised that he would look at this. In fact, in a public comment, he said —

“We need to make sure that we have in place a justice system which can respond effectively and appropriately to these ongoing patterns of behaviour.

“The proposed amendments to the *Restraining Orders Act 1997* will make it easier for victim-survivors to obtain a restraining order, by amending the definition of ‘family violence’ to include specific reference to coercive control, the patterned nature of these behaviours and their cumulative impact.

Indeed, that has some resonance with some of the measures that are being discussed in the proposed changes to the firearms legislation. There will be another opportunity to discuss coercive control when those amendments come to this place as expected next week.

I offered to the Attorney General that we seek to progress those matters in a bipartisan way. He responded to me; we had a discussion, and I will leave it to the Attorney General to outline some of the issues around the development of and the response to the coercive control issue that we discussed. But as part of the response that I assume he will be giving, I ask him to outline what budget matters his government has applied to that issue, the timelines of any of the reforms and how they will be progressed. I ask him to make those matters known, because it is an issue that needs to be urgently addressed, as does the entire landscape of the culture of the way we regard family and domestic violence at all levels and how we go about responding to and preventing it.

We know that there have been GPS monitoring trials. This has failed to be implemented in the way that had been promised, and we have asked questions in various formats throughout the term of this government about how the promised GPS legislation is going. Even earlier this month, the same question was asked of the Premier, who said that these matters would be introduced shortly. But we are dealing with just about every other bill that the government wants to get through before the end of the term of this government, and we have not seen that legislation come forward.

I turn now to the obviously horrific events at Floreat, where the Petelczyc family suffered that terrible loss. We know that the response from our Minister for Police was to launch some sort of political posturing and manoeuvre changes to the law, which ignored the fact that the police actually had the power to act and take the firearms away from the perpetrator to ensure that at least that component of risk to the family was acted upon. A protection order could have been issued but apparently was not. Again, one has to wonder about a system in which the Commissioner of Police says that the police policies and processes had all been followed, and yet we saw the result. We have to say that the policies are not appropriate and need to change. The government’s response to that situation has been to bring to the house the proposed amendments to the Firearms Bill 2024, which I spoke about a little while ago. I think what is really required is for the government to sit down with the police and say that these matters must be taken seriously now, not when the legislation is implemented. As I understand it, the Firearms Bill 2024 will not be implemented until next year, probably around about March, which means that those measures will not protect families in Western Australia until then. We need an urgent directive to the police to use the powers they already have under firearms legislation in circumstances in which family violence is evident and people are asking to be protected.

We know that pushing that legislation through Parliament will not bring forward the implementation of the legislation. All it will do is curtail discussion and achieve a quick political point for the government as it ends this autumn session of the Parliament so it can claim to have acted and not have the legislation still sitting in the Legislative Council. People should bear in mind that that will not affect the timing of the implementation of the legislation one iota; it is a con job by this government to try to appear to be doing something when, in fact, we are seeing a shocking rise in incidences of family and domestic violence and associated matters, which are just continuing apace under this government.

The opposition also raised the fact that we have seen similar circumstances in other cases. We know that in April last year, police insiders raised the alarm that staff shortages were hampering the operation of the then family violence teams with a letter written to *The West Australian* claiming that family violence-related cases were at risk of not being investigated thoroughly and quickly enough as a result of Western Australia Police Force staffing pressures.

We had the case of Lynn Cannon who was tragically stabbed to death by her husband in late 2022. The family were desperately trying to alert police to that situation. I understand that the police promised a review of the case but apparently Lynn’s family never received a copy of that investigation. They only had a meeting with a senior police officer to walk through some of the results and were told that there would potentially be a coronial inquest down the track.

If we look at the regional areas, the Kimberley Community Legal Services has raised the alarm on much-needed funding to support its vulnerable community members. The Women’s Legal Service WA supported some 945 clients last year, but had to turn away an estimated more than 2 000 women who required assistance. Right across the state, there has been a 43 per cent increase in the demand for help from Aboriginal family legal services for representation in court.

This situation is not easily solved. The opposition knows that there are no silver bullets, but it needs urgent action and a government that is committed to ensuring that that action is taken as quickly as possible. We know that housing crisis centres across the state under enormous pressure. In some country areas, women and families may have nowhere else to go and be left to face harm or even death if they stay in their premise. We know that there is a dreadful shortage of housing in Western Australia. That is another issue that sits at the feet of this government.

This government has been unable to ensure that our building industry can continue to provide sufficient housing in Perth and all the communities across Western Australia. We have seen overcrowding and a shortage of housing. I know of communities in my electorate that have government-owned housing in which only two to three people should be living, but there is often 20 or 30 people in that particular house because communities move around and families visit each other. People may travel to another town and stay with relatives, and suddenly a house that was built to house a maximum of half a dozen people is hosting five times as many. The obvious effect is overcrowding, tension and eventually violence. That is just one area in which this government has failed.

What staggers me is that in many communities in my electorate and other regional electorates, the government has ceased to build new social housing. All it ever does is pull down the older houses. In many of the smaller towns, the housing stock is becoming run-down and scarce, and there is no commitment from the government to ensure that social housing is put back into those communities. That means that people are forced to drift from those smaller towns to the major centres like Geraldton or Perth. Often that accentuates the tensions that exist between family members and different groups of people throughout the region who need to have space away from each other, which can produce a negative result. For instance, in the midwest, communities such as Three Springs, Mingenew and all those other towns are not receiving government support to maintain their housing stock and they are not getting new houses either. Those people who actually need a house cannot get one, so they drift into a couple of suburbs on the outer areas of Geraldton. That is not an ideal situation for them because they are not in their own country, which can have ramifications for domestic violence.

That is just one challenge in my electorate that is not about services in general or police, but the simple ability to have a house and a safe place to go. If a person does not have a safe place, they may well be forced to stay where they are very much at risk. I wanted to highlight that particularly difficult situation happening in many of the small country towns around the electorate that I represent. There are many different communities that could do with more places for people to go to when there is a crisis. I think that one of the findings made at a summit that was held a little while ago around domestic violence was that more crisis facilities need to be made available for people so that they can have somewhere safe to go in times of need.

I have not got much more to say today because I know that many other people want to make contributions, but I find that time and again, with many of the government's announcements, sometimes we might see a budget allocation, but we do not see results on the ground. We do not see a government that is actually able to provide the services that it promises to provide. It makes a promise, but it seems incapable of converting a budgeted allocation of money to a service. One of the things that I put that down to is the machinery-of-government changes that were made when this Labor government first came into office in 2017 and created this mishmash of uncertainty around who is responsible for what in different areas. A department might have half a dozen ministers, but the director general reigns supreme because they have not got one, but a group of ministers to answer to. There does not seem to be any cohesion across government or any cooperation or local leadership.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.S. LOVE: That is no more evident than in regional WA where often there are no decision-makers on the ground who can actually make a difference. I want to see some positive change to the way in which these matters are handled in a place like the Kimberley, for instance. The member for Kimberley is not here at the moment. There are so many different services and groups operating in that region that I do not think there is the bird's-eye view or the overall coordination because there is no local regional leadership or decision-makers living in the region. They can visit a town like Broome and stay overnight in a lovely motel, hotel or club. They can have a couple of meetings in air-conditioned comfort and make some pronouncements—"Here is the plan"—and then fly back to Perth and nothing happens. That is the problem with this government. It does not understand how to actually deliver programs, especially in regional areas, because it has stripped away regional voices and regional representation. It has turned the development commissions into nothing more than a figurehead. Nobody knows what they do in the communities anymore. They do not have any financial resources. They are only answerable to the minister in Perth. Their role should be to facilitate all the organisations in the region to come together for a common purpose—that is, to improve the lives of the people in those regions. One of the fundamental things that improves the life of any community is public safety. Public safety starts at home. It is the safety of the public, not just the safety of being out in public. If people in our communities cannot feel safe in their homes, where can they feel safe?

Not every behaviour is the responsibility of the government or minister, but ensuring that there are measures to encourage and enable better behaviour certainly is, as is accepting that we have had a 40 per cent rise in these violent incidents over five years. Something is not right and needs to change. The government needs to look at the fundamentals of how it goes about its business because it has failed.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [5.10 pm]: I rise to join the excellent motion put forward by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Obviously the most disappointing thing in recent times is the absolute tragedy of two women being killed and the impact it has had on the whole community, particularly on the Petelczyc and Bombara families and those who love and know them. The most disappointing aspect in this place has been the response of the government to seize on this as a way of scoring a political point against this side on the gun legislation that is currently sitting in the upper house. I think it has been absolutely disgusting.

The ABC and other television channels pointed out that the member for Baldivis, the Minister for Energy, was all too eager to make statements attacking our side for somehow holding up people from discussing the gun legislation. As was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, the minister had to know that for all the supposed urgency and discussion on the other side about it, at best, that legislation will not be in effect until late December or, likely, not until next year. The government has seized on this horrendous event as an opportunity to score a cheap political point against this side, making odious statements about the Leader of the Liberal Party—we heard a continuation of that today—instead of doing what it should do as a government, which is to deal with the substantive issues behind it. The pretence that the passage of that gun legislation will have a major impact on domestic violence, particularly domestic homicides, is demonstrably wrong. I will go through that.

I am not saying that it will make no difference, but the pretence that it will make a major difference to domestic violence is fundamentally wrong and misleading for the public of Western Australia. If that is the mentality of the government, then it will fail to make a meaningful impact on reducing domestic violence.

Ms C.M. Rowe interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday): Member for Belmont!

Dr D.J. HONEY: The member will have an opportunity to make a contribution. My point is that her side is promoting that view in its response to the media and in this place. I frankly find it disgusting.

Ms C.M. Rowe interjected.

THE ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Belmont! Member for Cottesloe, are you taking interjections?

Dr D.J. HONEY: I do not wish to have interjections. I have limited time.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is right. Can you talk through the chair, thank you.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, chair. I frankly find it disgusting. There is a tin ear on that on that side about those matters.

During our matter of public interest yesterday, I went through some experiences of close relatives of mine about the police reception when reporting serious matters of clear domestic violence or of threats of violence to a person. In the contribution, I made it clear that I was not blaming the police in that matter. It is clear to me because I do not believe the experience of those relatives was unique; in fact, I think it is a common experience. If I have time, I will go through some numbers about the percentage of domestic violence that is actually reported to police in any case. I think one of the reasons for that is because there is no response to these matters.

We saw that with the murders of Jennifer and Gretl Petelczyc. The daughter of the murderer informed the police that the Glock that I believe was used in the murder was missing from the gun cabinet. It is an offence for someone to not safely store their weapons. The police knew that the case was in the context of a domestic dispute and the separation of a couple. I will go through the figures if I get the time. An inordinately large percentage of these violent acts occur when a separation occurs. I am certain that is why the police wore bulletproof vests when they visited the home, accompanying the partner when she was trying to get her possessions to leave. The police know that. It is an offence for that weapon not to be stored safely. That was raised with the police by a family member and there was no response.

As the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, and as I have made personally clear and otherwise, I think there are some sensible changes in the gun laws that the government has proposed. I particularly think too many people have gained guns through the permission letter system. That system has been absolutely abused. I completely support the government's initiatives to change that to make sure that it is not misused in the way it has been. Far too many people have had them. But the reality is that it appears—I am sure we will find out in the fullness of time—that the police were notified in this case of the weapon that was involved in the murders, but nothing was done. As I understand it, it is an offence to have a weapon that is not stored properly and correctly, particularly in this circumstance.

I find it upsetting. I do not pretend this matter is simple. I am not some pie-eyed fool thinks that dealing with these matters of domestic violence is simple. I have sympathy for the minister involved, the Minister for Community Services; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. I think she has a really tough job. I think this is a difficult area, but I think there are things that she can do.

I will come back to the example yesterday. When I brought those issues to the Minister for Police, I did not raise them to complain about what happened to members of my family. I raised those issues because they were experiences

relayed to me by women who did not have their serious concerns responded to by the police. As I said, I believe that is a common experience. I made it very clear that I do not blame the police. I believe the police are overwhelmed by this. In fact, I think the information relayed by the Leader of the Opposition about the number of domestic violence reports illustrates the point that the police are simply overwhelmed in this area and so they are triaging only the most serious incidents. Anyone who looks at this knows that. In fact, domestic homicide is commonly preceded by previous incidents of domestic violence.

What was the response of the Minister for Police yesterday when I raised those issues? His response was: “Essentially, it was your fault because you should have followed it up. You should have contacted me and told me about those incidents.” I will say two things about that. The first thing is that I am extremely conscious of not being seen to use my position in this place to take advantage simply for matters that occur to members of my family. I try not to do that, and I think that is important. The second is that, more particularly, my point was not to complain about those incidents. It was to indicate to the minister that the Western Australia Police Force has a structural problem, which is that the reports of domestic violence are not received by the police. The Minister for Police said to me yesterday that they should have taken an incident report number, and they could have used that report number. I could have reported that number to his office and he could have followed it up. My point was that they could not get a number. The officers refused to take the report. They said that they would not take that report or would not follow up the matter. As I said, I do not blame the police officers. I am certain that they had more immediate and desperate priorities. They may have had other incidents of domestic violence. That was not my point, but I think that police are reluctant to receive and record complaints about domestic violence because they are overwhelming them and they are triaging domestic violence.

As I said, I do not think that it is a simple matter, and I am not trying to paint this in a simplistic way. Equally, I think that the government should respect that it is not a simple matter. When I listened to the debate yesterday, much of the Minister for Police’s response to the matter of public interest motion was about the domestic violence issue. The response simply said that if this gun legislation had gone through, it would have made a difference. As I have already demonstrated, I do not think that is true in this case. In the majority of domestic violence and domestic homicide cases, I believe that the laws that we have seen presented will not make the major difference that we need in this space.

One important thing is that it is a complex matter. It is important that we look at the reasons and the available information behind it. When I hear the government and the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence talk about its response to domestic violence, I think that the increase in the number of refuges for women to go to has been a great thing. Refuge availability is clearly a major issue for women being able to safely leave home. The majority of women who experience domestic violence do not leave home. There are a couple of reasons they do not leave home, but one reason is that there is nowhere to go. I really resonate with that. We have seen a housing spike recently and the absolute absence of anywhere for people to go. Rental availability is less than 0.4 per cent. In a normal market, it should be about three per cent. That means that rental accommodation is being filled in part of the same day that it is vacated. When people are contemplating leaving home, there is no shelter to go to. We heard from the Leader of the Liberal Party that shelters are overwhelmed. There is nowhere for people to go, and that is a matter that has been in the hands of this government.

I listened to the member for Roe when he spoke about the cashless welfare card. Again, I reinforce the point that this is a complex issue. I note that the government has made moves to control alcohol in some communities, and it sounds like that is having an impact. I am really and genuinely interested to hear the results of the trials that have been conducted to date to remove that. A very large percentage of family and domestic violence incidents are associated with perpetrators who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drugs and alcohol are major things that need to be controlled.

Domestic and family homicides rarely occur without warning, a point that again has been made. Clearly, major societal factors are afoot. It is a disturbing fact that if we look at global figures, in Oceania, which includes Australia, the proportion of homicides of women in which they were killed exclusively by intimate partners is 42 per cent. In Europe, it is 29 per cent. There are clearly major societal factors. Some really interesting data is available on this topic. The Australian government’s Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collated data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ personal safety survey, and that survey highlights a range of major issues. One-quarter of women have experienced family and domestic violence since the age of 15 years. Interestingly, one in eight men have experienced family and domestic violence since the age of 15 in the figures reported. Both men and women were more likely to experience family and domestic violence from an intimate partner than from other family members. I know that ministers opposite know this in detail, but 23 per cent of women have experienced family and domestic violence from an intimate partner, compared with 8.1 per cent who have experienced family and domestic violence from other family members. This reinforces that point. Of course, it affects the whole family. The estimate is that 13 per cent of people aged over 18 years have witnessed violence in their families. Women are the overwhelming majority of victims of domestic violence, and clearly that is a major issue. I am pressed for time here and I cannot go through all the details, but when we go through statistics, we realise that data matters and highlights some of the issues.

I refer to the new gun laws and violence restraining orders. A current domestic violence restraining order was in place in only about one in five domestic violence homicides. If all our focus is on whether a violence restraining order has been issued before guns are taken from a person, that accounts for only one in five cases when an intimate partner is killed. In the majority of cases, violence restraining orders are not taken out. It is slightly higher if we look at whether there was a historical restraining order. Then it is two out of five cases, but, of course, that does not apply to the gun legislation.

I talked before about reporting domestic violence to the police.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: If we look at domestic violence reports to the police, police were never contacted by women who had experienced violence from a current partner in eight out of 10 cases. In eight out of 10 cases in which a woman experiences domestic violence, she does not report that matter to the police. Let us look at the reasons people do not contact police. There was a feeling amongst women that they could handle the problem themselves. In fact, victims were the generic "partner", but they were mostly women. They did not consider the incident to be a serious offence. They did not want the perpetrator arrested and charged; in other words, the victim did not want the perpetrator to be contacted by the police.

If we look at the incidence of intimate partner homicide, a very large percentage of those cases are when the violence restraining order is taken out. I have heard nothing about that from the government. I am not criticising the government for this. I know that it is a complex issue, but I do think that it is something that needs to be dealt with specifically. The most dangerous time for an intimate partner—mostly women—is when the violence restraining order is taken out. What processes are in place to intercede at that point to ensure that it does not escalate into violence? That matter needs to be looked at. My suggestion—it is not Liberal Party policy; it is not anyone's policy—and there is a strong argument for it, is that when a violence restraining order is issued, the person who that violence restraining order is issued against needs to undergo some form of counselling, because it is very clear that that is the most dangerous time for an intimate partner to be murdered and the like.

I will finish on one area. It appears that Western Australia does not take a strong response to breaches of violence restraining orders. The custodial sentencing rates for family and domestic violence offences in other states are Victoria, 12 per cent; South Australia, 46 per cent; Queensland, 25 per cent; Tasmania, 22 per cent; the Australian Capital Territory, 23 per cent; and the Northern Territory, 71 per cent. In WA, it is 11 per cent. I will leave it there, because my colleagues want to make contributions as well.

It is clear that this is not a simple matter. The other side politicised this and it has simply focused on its gun legislation. As I pointed out about the incident we have talked about, it is clear that the police had powers to intervene in a way that may have made a difference. I am not saying that was guaranteed. It is also clear that the gun legislation that the government is proposing will not be in effect until December or even early next year. Please do not go out in the community promoting that the government has done something meaningful to address that aspect of family and domestic violence when, in fact, it will be doing nothing until the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [5.31 pm]: I rise to make a short contribution to this motion. From the outset, I want to pick up on something that the member for Cottesloe just said. I acknowledge from the outset that we are dealing with an extremely difficult and complex situation. I had a conversation with the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence recently and acknowledged that it is an enormous job and undertaking, but family and domestic violence is a grave concern that affects countless individuals and families across Western Australia. Some of these stories do not come to light. Despite the increasing prevalence of incidents, from what I can see, there is a lack of resources in relation to trying to curb some of these situations. Some of these situations, particularly in my electorate, which I think one of the other members touched on, are small easy things, as in they do not have to be complex. It is a matter of housing, or a matter of finding solutions for some of these people.

Police statistics reflect that there were 1 702 incidents of family and domestic violence in the Kimberley between January and March this year. Extrapolated out, that is 19 domestic violence incidents each day. I acknowledge the incredible and difficult job that police undertake, often in really challenging situations and with limited resources. Last week, the minister had a go at me for not contacting his office regarding a situation in my electorate in relation to the call centre. If I did that, I would be contacting him constantly, because the police are under-resourced, they cannot attend to everything and they prioritise these calls; obviously, each of these calls is important. The member for Cottesloe touched on it. I see that quite regularly. It is no reflection on the police; I want that to be explicitly noted. I acknowledge that the police, who do an amazing job and are often at the front of these situations, are under-resourced. Across my 820 000 square kilometre electorate, there are limited resources and wraparound services to help the police. The funding levels are obviously not there to support that. That lack of action is a major priority that needs to be addressed.

There is a fundamental failure to protect our vulnerable children and their carers; I see it every day. They are extremely vulnerable. We all know that these children are exposed to domestic violence, and they are not just passive witnesses; they experience trauma that leads to long-term psychological, emotional and physical harm. In the

absence of support, those children are left without the protection and intervention that they desperately need. I spoke to a mother who moved inland with her several children. She had a horrendous story to share with me. She is a single mother supporting five or six children. She is trying to access holistic help for her kids in terms of trauma psychology—all sorts of services. Firstly, it is very difficult to get services where she is located now and, secondly, as a single parent, she is now financially responsible for that and it is incredibly difficult. I asked her, “How about you; are you okay?” and she said, “I have no choice but to be okay.” That was quite confronting to hear. She took the big step to get out of a horrendous situation. After she did that, the support that she needed was not a short-term level of support. It has been going on for a long, long time. For those children, it will probably go on for decades. They will be left with that for a long time. There needs to be a sizeable contribution to some of these services that we need. There is a greater lack of services in regional locations.

I mentioned the need for safe houses. I am led to believe that it is really difficult to put safe houses in place. People on the ground in my area say, “No, it’s not that difficult. These kids just need somewhere to go.” It does not have to be a multimillion-dollar space. Members in here have mentioned it as well. Housing is crowded; they need to escape situations. In general, there is a massive deficit in housing. We have so many boarded-up houses and overcrowded houses across the regions. I believe a lot of these locations need safe houses as a resource for police. They have nowhere to take people. It is devastating for them to have to take some of these children back to spaces that are not safe. They do not want to be there, but that is their home and where their carers are. I would urge the government to look closely at how it can address that issue. We owe that to our children. We have safe centres in Perth, and I acknowledge that that is needed as well, but in my mind, there has been no commitment to the safe spaces that are desperately needed across our regions.

Another comment made today, which I think is vital, was about the need for regional senior managers who can make decisions, provide guidance, identify shortfalls in resourcing and address those issues. We have refuges at capacity in the town of Carnarvon. Many of the towns across the region do not have a refuge. We have no transitional housing; we do not have any men’s refuges. There is clearly a need for men’s refuges. Some of those people would escape these situations if they could, before it escalates to a major domestic violence situation.

Drug and alcohol services are needed across the region. We have a drug and alcohol service in Carnarvon that does not operate seven days a week. I have had calls from people saying that someone is sitting outside the drug and alcohol centre who needs help, but they cannot access that service. If we are going to stop those situations and have people seek out the help that they want, we need these services to be available. That extends through to education. Education programs need to be ramped up. That is where a lot of these children go, and where they can be directed out to services that will help them and their families. The kids need to receive a whole lot more education about domestic violence.

It is increasingly obvious that victims of crime and domestic violence are looking for mental health support. An example is the mother of a family who escaped a dire situation and is now going solo. In those situations, people need a lot of help.

I have had people say to me that they need help going through the Department of Justice. Meekatharra is an example of this. The office there has been closed and the onus is now on the police station. People go to the police station on their court date. It is not confidential and it is creating issues. We need to put some of these services back into the regions. The mega-department is certainly not helping that situation.

As we all know, child protection is a highly complex and specialised area. We acknowledge the incredible work that child protection workers do under difficult circumstances. The mega-department is enormous. I understand that five ministers are responsible for 11 portfolios. Child protection alone is an enormously taxing area and something that needs dedicated focus. In September 2021, an independent review by the Commissioner for Children and Young People found that the department was aware of victims who had been exposed to certain behaviours. In 2022, child protection workers voted to take strike action and protest to the Labor government about their working conditions and caseloads, indicating that there was stress on that department or at least on the workers, who are expected to meet the needs of many, many children.

I apologise; I know that others want to speak. There is an urgent need for action. We urgently need to implement some measures to provide adequate support services for the victims of family and domestic violence. I believe that a particular focus on child protection is needed. The government should increase funding for child protection services to ensure that there is the capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to cases involving children. That should be a priority. Comprehensive training of frontline workers needs to be broadened to recognise and address the signs of trauma in children exposed to domestic violence. There needs to be collaboration with community organisations to create a robust network of support that can provide immediate and long-term assistance to children and families—I go back to the example I gave earlier. It is really important that we have public awareness campaigns to educate communities about the signs of domestic violence so that we can protect children from the impacts of this violence.

The Department of Communities’ annual report confirmed that the department has five ministers across 11 portfolios. In 2007, Labor released the Prudence Ford review, which recommended creating a standalone department of child

protection to prioritise child protection. At that time, the department contained multiple offices and reported to only two ministers. In 2009, in line with that report, the Liberal government established a standalone department reporting to only one minister. However, in 2017, that decision was reversed and the department was merged into the Department of Communities, with five ministers responsible for 11 portfolios. That is a huge job for five ministers in areas as complex as child protection. To address these failings, the Liberal Party has announced a policy to establish a standalone department of child protection that will focus solely on child protection services, ensuring dedicated resources, streamlined processes and specialised attention to the unique needs of children at risk. The aim will be to provide a more focused and effective response to child protection issues, free from the competing priorities that currently dilute the efforts, through no-one's fault, within the broader Department of Communities. It is essential that we have a department that specialises and has expertise in child protection to safeguard children. Having one department would clearly provide more accountability and transparency, with clear lines of responsibility and performance metrics. With a singular process, the department could potentially streamline those processes, reduce the bureaucratic delays currently experienced due to the size of the department, and ensure more timely and effective interventions for children in need.

In closing, I call on the Cook Labor government to act on the critical issue of family and domestic violence and provide more protection for our children from the horrors of domestic violence. Domestic violence is unacceptable and something that we all need to work on collaboratively. I see it all the time. It is a case of the further away one goes from the metropolitan area, the more exacerbated it is. We need to hold the government to account. We are asking for immediate and concrete acts to address the crisis. Our children deserve to grow up in a safe, supportive environment free from the shadow of violence. I believe that it is our responsibility as representatives of the people to ensure their protection and wellbeing. I urge the house to condemn the Cook Labor government for its failure to address the rise in family and domestic violence and its impacts on children. It is a critical area that needs urgent attention if we are to protect the children who are exposed to the scourge of domestic violence in our community.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [5.45 pm]: I apologise to everyone who has to listen to my sniffing. I have tested for COVID and it is not COVID. I am trying not to share it with anyone, just in case anyone is concerned. We are a little thin on the ground over this side, so I do not have the opportunity to go home and take my germs with me. Nevertheless, I have the opportunity to speak to this very important motion this evening.

I thank the Leader of the Liberal Party for bringing this matter to the house for us to speak on. I note that as an opposition, both Nationals and Liberals members have raised this matter on a number of occasions. That is because no matter where one lives in Western Australia, domestic violence has an insidious effect on our communities. I know that we all understand and appreciate that. I hear various government ministers stand and speak about the work they are undertaking to address these issues, but, sadly, the outcomes are not being seen for the effort that is talked about in this house. The numbers that we see reported through the police and our supporting organisations are going in the wrong direction. That is in black and white in every annual report and in every statistic that the police publish. The organisations that we all liaise with are stretched thin. Although I know that all of them would appreciate additional funding and funding announcements have been made, other elements clearly need to link in to address these issues.

In the last couple of weeks, we saw the very high-profile case that has impacted the Bombara and Petelczyc families, but that is only one family. My thoughts and prayers go to everyone who was impacted by that, but we have heard horrifying statistics from other members around how many of those reports are made on a daily basis. I read a report earlier this month in which Commissioner Blanch, the Commissioner of Police, said that, as we all know, WA police have been responding to significant demand with family and domestic violence. They are on the front line. They are the ones who deal with the avalanche of people who are reaching out for help. WA police receive approximately 100 000 call-outs to family and domestic violence incidents a year, which converts to around 60 000 family and domestic violence offences. I noted at the time that the commissioner also said that training for WA police recruits had been increased—that was detailed as part of the budget estimates sessions that we sat through just a couple of weeks ago—yet we still see incidents in which women present to WA police and do not get the response that I think the community would expect. That was eloquently articulated by Ariel Bombara, the daughter of the man who allegedly perpetrated the horrifying murders of Jennifer and Gretl Petelczyc, who publicly said that she and members of her family had contacted the police three times to warn of her father's erratic behaviour. In the aftermath of her statement, we saw a significant number of other key stakeholder groups and lawyers representing women who are victim-survivors of domestic violence come out and say this is not an unusual circumstance. That is the reason we come to this house. I cannot for one minute think that any individual faced with a story like that would deliberately refuse to deal with that person's pain. Systemic issues are at play, not just across the agencies that the government is responsible for, but within our community, and that is the difficulty of grappling with things like this. We are talking about attitudinal change and also a systemic and very ingrained response.

I noted that on 30 May, the ABC reported on Cally Hannah, a lawyer who specialises in domestic violence. I know Cally, and I accept what has been reported because she is a person of integrity. She said that in her practice, women were faced with situations similar to the Bombara family on a regular basis, and she provided examples. She said that in one case a client had contacted a regional police station about a breach of a family violence restraining order,

only to be told that it was too busy to deal with it. We talk regularly about the resourcing of the Western Australia Police Force, but it is not the only one responsible for responding. The government will say that the police force is resourced and that police numbers are increasing, but we know that police are leaving the force at record rates. They are not resourced, and should not be the ones who bear this load alone. The Commissioner of Police was in front of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission this morning. It was a public hearing, so I am not speaking out of turn. I asked him the same question. I said, “Are you resourced appropriately to deal with what you’ve outlined, which is a significant increase in the number of people coming to your officers to seek help?” A person does not get to be police commissioner without being able to provide a response like any one of us in this house can provide. He very eloquently said, “It is not just our responsibility. We need other agencies and organisations to deal with the challenges that we see at a societal level.” Very clearly, every time he is asked, he speaks about the increase in the number of presentations that his officers are dealing with. In fact, he said that burglary crimes have gone below the number of domestic violence and mental health and wellbeing checks for his police officers in terms of the volume of the work that they are required to do. I will paraphrase, but it will be in the *Hansard* for the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. He expressed his view that a police officer’s responsibility is to turn up when someone is in an emergency. When someone calls 000, police want to turn up, but they are being asked to do a range of other things. That makes the community feel safer, but it is not necessarily their core business. He gave examples like accompanying St John WA ambulance officers to hospitals to ensure the safety of staff when events happen. I think we all agree that is important, and that community safety is important. The police responsibility is to attend when the 000 call is made. Then, when we have an examination of when that does not happen because the police do not get there or cannot respond, that all needs to be taken into account.

Not for one minute do I want anyone on the government side to say that the opposition is ignoring the challenges that individual WA police officers and those in control face, because it is a difficult circumstance. Those officers are saying to government that they have a significant breadth of responsibilities, which may be impacting their ability to respond to what they now see as a significant issue in Western Australia. I understand that a number of key stakeholders have been sitting down with the leadership of the WA police commissioner. I hope the WA Minister for Police has been a part of those conversations as well because he has made some fairly significant statements in the aftermath of this terrible Floreat incident without the full examination of the situation being completed.

There has been commentary in this house today about that, but I will go to comments made by the Centre for Women’s Safety and Wellbeing CEO, Alison Evans, who I understood to have been involved in this round table with the police commissioner. She was quoted as saying that police do not always take claims made by victim-survivors seriously enough, particularly in the absence of physical violence and damage to property. There have also been concerns that responses vary from one station to another. If a police officer is in an area that perhaps has a significant or high number of these incidents, can they be at their most empathetic 100 per cent of the time? I know they are required to be, but these are the things that, as individuals, these people are faced with. As a community, I think we need to understand that, but the government in particular needs to understand that whole ecosystem. Despite all the conversations we have about all the money being poured into it and all the actions that are being taken, the numbers and statistics are going in the wrong direction. That is the only thing that a person can look to in order to determine whether we are getting an outcome.

This government is presiding over a crisis. Family violence rates are up over 50 per cent in five years in the Kimberley. This is the highest rate of offences across the state, an increase year on year, yet it took five years before the government actually put additional family and domestic violence support teams in place to help the police and other stakeholders respond. It has only provided two years of funding. This government is sitting on a significant surplus.

We have seen an increase in homelessness in Western Australia, which is another issue that this government has failed miserably in addressing. One of the main drivers of homelessness is family and domestic violence, as other members on this side have spoken about today. In my experience, going right back to my electorate in the Central Wheatbelt where, I have to say, services to respond to family and domestic violence are scarce to nil. When I think about who is on the ground delivering those services, I think about some of the amazing people who work for Share and Care Community Services, which has a footprint across a number of other regional centres. Most of my electorate comprises very small communities. When someone is remote from all of these services, such as public transport, they have no capacity to leave the community that they may be trapped in. They have no housing to go to. In fact, I had someone come to my office. I will not say where they were from because, again, someone from a small community can be immediately identifiable. They have been living in a caravan in very close proximity to the person perpetrating the violence because they have nowhere else to go. As I know all members understand, a person in that situation has children and a life, and they do not want to disrupt them any more than they have already been disrupted. But there is no housing—not one—nowhere for them to go. I listen to the Minister for Housing make all these announcements and talk about investments and the levers that are being pulled all the time, but there is nowhere for these women and families to go, and that is an absolute tragedy. This is unlike COVID-19, when a person was locked in their house and it was very difficult for anyone to leave. They have the capacity to leave now, if they want, but they cannot because there is nowhere for them to go. Share and Care are handing them swags and

tents and telling them, “I’m sorry, we cannot assist you.” A kid over the age of 12 or 15 who is male cannot go into the women’s refuge. They are still a kid, but they cannot go into the women’s refuge, and so the family has nowhere to go. It is an absolute tragedy.

Maybe this top-down approach does not work. Maybe we need to go back to supporting those grassroots organisations that can deliver an outcome, because this government is very good at centralising, pulling services back, announcing programs with new names, and rebadging money. Nothing I have seen in the wheatbelt works other than grassroots organisations: up from the base, using the people and the organisations that are there. Maybe that is different in different regions, but in my Central Wheatbelt region, because we are such a unique population distribution and size, I urge the minister to have a think about how he can support those people who are already there instead of creating new programs, on new programs, on new programs. Every time those programs are created and a new funding pot is created, I ask, “Who is going to deliver that service? Is it someone already based in my electorate, or are we going to get someone from Midland, Girrawheen or Perth?” That is quite often what happens. I am not critical of those services, but they are not based in Northam, Merredin, Southern Cross or Mukinbudin. I am sure other members will agree. Please find ways to support the community groups that are already in existence, such as Share and Care, the Wheatbelt Community Legal Centre or DVassist. I have stood in this place and asked about that time after time.

DVassist is an online service that was only funded this year, after continued advocacy and nearly losing it completely. It is particularly dedicated to regional domestic violence support. We could not get the government to fund it because it was originally funded by the previous federal government so the state government belligerently said, “No. The federal government funded it. They didn’t have a discussion with us. We won’t fund it.” The state government nearly let that program fail. That is putting politics and ideology in front of helping people on the ground. I thank the government for funding it, but where is the apology for making that organisation go to the wall before it got the funding it deserved to support the communities we represent?

That is the contribution from my perspective: we hear all these conversations. I have no doubt that the minister is going to talk about many programs, but we want outcomes. We know we are not going to get them tomorrow, but all the numbers are going in the wrong direction. I fear for those involved in this sector who are prey to burnout and the reality of that pressure, such as WA police and all the other stakeholders. We will lose good people from the system who could tackle an issue that is really important for the Parliament, this government and our community.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [6.01 pm]: I thank members opposite for their various contributions around the scourge of family and domestic violence that this state faces but that is also a national crisis. I acknowledge the contributions that have been made, but in trying to make sense of them, it is very hard to shape a response in an organised way, given the haphazard contributions made by members opposite.

The government, of course, will not support this motion. This government has done more than any other government to prevent family and domestic violence. Since 2017, the government has done more than any other government when it comes to the prevention of family and domestic violence. We were the first government to create the position of Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, and since we have been in government we have done a significant amount of work on dealing with this scourge in our community. I welcome this opportunity to get to my feet and highlight those things in some detail. However, I have to say that overall, in summary, the contributions from the opposition on such a critical issue in our community were, in totality, pretty sad. It is pretty sad in respect of what the opposition sees as solutions to this challenging and complex issue.

Before I make my contribution, I would like to acknowledge some of the contributions made by members opposite, starting with the member for Central Wheatbelt. I acknowledge her comments around this issue being a systemic, complex issue that is not just an issue for police or the Department of Communities; it is a whole-of-government issue and a whole-of-community issue. The member for Central Wheatbelt recognises that. She made comments about being concerned that perhaps the Minister for Police was not engaged with the sector. I meet with the Commissioner of Police often, as I do the Minister for Police. In fact, we met this afternoon to debrief and talk about the round table the commissioner held with important sector representatives. I can reassure the member that the Minister for Police is, as are all ministers of this government, intimately involved in the conversations and engagement that various agencies have with our sector partners.

The member for Cottesloe in his contribution again talked about not politicising the events in Floreat, but in doing so he himself politicised it, which is kind of weird. I liked the fact that he acknowledged that my portfolios of communities and family and domestic violence are tough jobs, but he did not really come up with any solutions or any suggestions about how we can do things better. He went on a bit about police and violence restraining orders. I will not take up my time in this place talking about our responses to family and domestic violence. It is a shame that he did not take the opportunity to talk about solutions to these complex issues in our community.

The member for Roe started by talking about Canberra and the immigration system. Eventually he started focusing on the issue of family and domestic violence. He talked a lot about the cashless debit card and really emphasised

that my main role as Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence is to go to Canberra and somehow have the cashless debit card reintroduced, so that all the women in our community will then be safe. Yes, I engage with Canberra and my federal ministerial colleague, Hon Amanda Rushworth. I welcome the Albanese government's focus and priority on family and domestic violence; that was demonstrated in the latest federal budget.

The member for Moore also started going on about the immigration system. He talked a lot about coercive control, and I will talk about that in a little while just to provide some clarity for people who might be a little bit misled and confused about coercive control. I know the Attorney General will also make a contribution to round out tonight's contributions from the government.

The member for Moore said that the Cook Labor government's record investment is somehow not being seen on the ground. Well, I visit many, many services, including refuges, men's behaviour programs and other service providers right around the state. I have met with hundreds of them, and each and every time I do, I see the difference the government's record investment is making each and every day; it is being turned into real differences for women and children every day. If the member for Moore is not seeing that on the ground, I am more than happy to take him around to some of the incredible services doing extraordinary work.

We also heard from the member for North West Central. I acknowledge her contribution and her advocacy for her local community. I am glad she brought up the area of child protection, because we know that children are as much victims of family and domestic violence as women are. It is no coincidence that the portfolios of child protection and family and domestic violence are together, because we know that they are so closely interconnected. I often talk about the investments we are making into the prevention of family and domestic violence, but I would also like to acknowledge the significant investment we have made in the child protection portfolio, particularly the investment of \$130 million into early interventions, which actually directly address family and domestic violence in most of those instances. We are investing not only in the portfolio of prevention of family and domestic violence, but also in the prevention of family and domestic violence by virtue of the support and resources we put into the area of child protection. That is not often acknowledged enough.

The lead speaker was the Leader of the Liberal Party and shadow Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. She used some words, and I would like to repeat them. Her contribution was really lacklustre. She took 30 minutes from her available 60 minutes as the lead speaker on this critical issue in our state. I hope I am never in opposition, but I like to think that if I were in opposition and was trying to make the point that we were in crisis in such a crucial portfolio, I would take more than 30 minutes to demonstrate an interest in and understanding of the portfolio. When we actually dissect the 30 minutes, there was not much substance at all. When we take out the legislative reforms, which I will get to in a moment, there was nothing. There was no contribution in terms of a contest of ideas; there was no suggestion about what should be done differently or better. In fact, all it was was disregard and disrespect for the important work that has been done by the taskforce since September and the system-wide reform that this government is engaged in with our sector partners. Quite frankly, I find that really disappointing, and I think our sector partners would find it disappointing, too. I challenge the Leader of the Liberal Party to put her 30-minute contribution on her socials and see what kind of feedback she gets from experts or the sector in terms of anyone saying, "Yes, here we have a potential Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence." She absolutely definitely would not get anyone to stand beside her and say that.

I want to particularly focus on the system reform and the taskforce that, in the Leader of the Liberal Party's words, was disbanded in March. I want to set the record straight. It is a shame that I need to do that, because the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Vasse, was at those summit talks.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Sorry, I beg your pardon; the Leader of the Liberal Party—the leader of an alternative government—was at the summit talks, so she should clearly understand what was requested by the sector and what the government has done to deliver it.

I refer to the taskforce. Let me step everyone really clearly through it so that those opposite understand. The taskforce was formed as a result of our sector partners and experts in the field saying that the government should convene a short, sharp taskforce. We did not disband it; they asked for only a short, sharp taskforce. We could not disband something that was not asked to go longer. They asked for key agency heads to come together with them to review the government's direction in family and domestic violence and put together a system reform plan, and that is exactly what has occurred. That system reform plan is a systematic way in which the sector thinks that the government and service providers can do more and do better in how we deal with family and domestic violence. Four key planks or pillars were identified and, in the end, were endorsed by the taskforce. The "disbanded" taskforce endorsed the system reform plan that it put together for the next stage of delivery. That system reform plan had four key pillars: workforce development, information sharing, risk assessment and risk management. Those areas are now being taken forward with an implementation plan, which members of the taskforce—the key agencies as well as our sector partners—are now working on to actually deliver in government. There was a real outcome from the taskforce, and it was the outcome that the sector asked for. Furthermore, we backed it in in this year's budget to the tune of a commitment of \$96.4 million to make sure that the actions in the system reform plan get taken further.

I will quote Dr Alison Evans from the Centre for Women’s Safety and Welfare. She is often quoted by members of the opposition when it suits them, but let me tell members what she said about the taskforce that members opposite say was disbanded—the taskforce that Alison Evans and others participated in—and the system reform plan that came out of it, which they endorsed. She said —

There’s no overstating the importance of government leadership in this work and we believe that the government has shown leadership today by committing to a Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan, which includes exploring legislative reform.

That is what the sector is saying about the work we are doing, so when the Leader of the Liberal Party comes in here or gets in front of a camera and says that we are all words and no action, she needs to be a bit more careful and thoughtful, because what she is doing is criticising the sector. The sector came together with the government. We value the work of the taskforce and value and back in this system reform plan.

Members opposite probably do not know what the system reform plan entails. It is available on the website. As part of that process, this government has committed to being accountable and transparent and will be reporting on the progress of those key actions within the system reform plan twice a year, as requested by members of the taskforce. It is easily available on the website, but, Acting Speaker (Mrs M.R. Marshall), I ask to table it for the benefit in particular of the Leader of the Liberal Party, who is clearly not taking the issue of family and domestic violence seriously.

[See paper [2878](#).]

Ms S.E. WINTON: The Leader of the Liberal Party is clearly not being respectful of all those sector partners, who are working so well and collaboratively with government on these complex issues in our community.

I want to quickly talk about coercive control, GPS and gun laws. I will briefly talk about them for a few moments collectively.

Ms L. Mettam: You’ve got an hour, minister.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs M.R. Marshall): Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: You see, this is exactly the point I was going to make, member for Vasse. Laws about guns, GPS or coercive control or any other law are not going to solve the problem by themselves.

Ms L. Mettam: That was in my speech.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I know it was in your speech, member for Vasse, but that was all that was in your speech. The only perception they have out there in the community —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: The only perception that is out there, based on the speech that the Leader of the Liberal Party gave today —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, thank you.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I would love the interjections, but I worked really hard and did not interject on the member. It was really hard work, but I was disciplined.

In the Leader of the Liberal Party’s 30-minute contribution tonight, all she repeatedly talked about was law reform, as if that is —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Ms S.E. WINTON: —the only thing that will create a solution. Now, the member —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member for Vasse is clearly fixated on laws because she thinks that is the only way she will get on television and be heard, but when she actually needs to talk to the sector about medium and long-term solutions that are needed in our community to solve this issue, she is not interested.

I refer to coercive control. We said that we would take a staged approach to introducing coercive control laws. I will let the Attorney General elaborate in a moment, but at all times our response to family and domestic violence, like our response through the taskforce and the system reform plan, is based on listening to the experts. It is not about getting a headline; it is about actually listening to the experts. I draw members’ attention to the report that

was released by the Commissioner for Victims of Crime, particularly on coercive control. She did not call for an immediate start with coercive control. She did not say that the government should immediately legislate. The member does not want to hear it from the experts; she is groaning. In fact, the commissioner said about the recommendations that —

“A clear finding from the consultations —

That is consultations with experts —

is that the justice system alone cannot stop coercive control,” ...

Just bringing in a law ain't going to fix it.

Ms L. Mettam: Yes, I said that.

Ms S.E. WINTON: But the member is asking for us to bring in legislation.

Ms L. Mettam: Yes, you promised it last year.

Ms S.E. WINTON: No, the member was asking for us to bring in legislation when I am saying that the correct approach, which has been the approach of this government all along, is a staged approach based on the advice of the experts.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S.E. WINTON: If I may read her comments, she states —

“A clear finding from the consultations —

This is just the Commissioner for Victims of Crime saying this —

Ms L. Mettam: Oh, right!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Yes. She states —

“A clear finding from the consultations is that the justice system alone cannot stop coercive control,” ...
“What is needed is a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to recognising and responding to these behaviours.”

It takes time to get that right. It takes time to do those things. As part of the system reform plan and as part of this year's state budget, we provided the funding to do that important work around coercive control. I can honestly say to the member for Vasse that I speak to the sector nearly every day. Not one of its members will be joining the member at a press conference and saying, “We must bring in legislation right now.”

Ms L. Mettam: I do not know. I am sure they will.

Ms S.E. WINTON: No, I do not think the member is going to get them standing by her because they understand, support and are collaborating with the government's response to get this right.

Ms L. Mettam: That is not what I have heard.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member should find someone to stand with her. On this government's approach to coercive control, I have the Commissioner for Victims of Crime and all the sector partners standing beside me and saying something different. That is just the reality of it. Yes, restrictive gun laws will not solve this problem in our community, but it is an important part of the solution and a critical part in terms of allowing women to feel safer in their community. I find it so ironic and frustrating that the shadow Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence talks about legislative reform to keep women safe —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, member for Vasse! I believe that the minister was respectful during your contribution so I ask for the same courtesy. I ask the minister to please not be as provocative.

Ms S.E. WINTON: On one of the very important matters around guns—keeping women safe and women's human rights and their right to feel safe at home—the Leader of the Liberal Party cannot show leadership of her party and say in this place or outside that she commits to not winding back these laws if she were to lead the next government. She cannot do it. As the Leader of the Liberal Party, she cannot do it. I challenge her to stand on the steps —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Order, please!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I challenge the member to stand on the steps of Parliament and say that a government she leads would keep these gun laws. She cannot do it.

Ms L. Mettam: We are not unwinding the gun laws.

Ms S.E. WINTON: She is not going to unwind the gun laws. That is great. That is the first time we have heard that. Can she say that again so that we can put it on the record in *Hansard*? She has not thought through how that will work. She is sitting with her coalition partners who clearly oppose the gun laws. In fact, she is sitting behind one of her Liberal colleagues who actually voted against the gun laws. If she is going to be able to say, “We are not going to repeal those laws”, she had better make sure that all the people who she is hoping to lead will line up behind her. She cannot do it.

Ms L. Mettam: Do your job, minister.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member needs to be able to do her job as an alternative Premier. She needs to do her job as a leader and go out to the community and —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! Thank you, minister, but you are being very provocative in inviting those interjections. I ask you to not single out the Leader of the Liberal Party.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The Leader of the Liberal Party, a wannabe future Premier of this state, needs to be able to reassure the community that a government she leads would not repeal gun laws. She cannot do that.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, thank you!

Ms S.E. WINTON: She cannot do that.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I am sitting behind the minister and I cannot hear her commentary for all the noise that is coming from the opposite side. I ask that they cease the interjections.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs M.R. Marshall): Thank you, minister. There is no point of order but I will ask for order on the opposition benches. I note that the minister was quiet and respectful during the opposition member’s contribution so I ask for the same courtesy.

Debate Resumed

Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, Acting Speaker. I was constantly interrupted on the point that I am trying to make, so I will repeat my point so that it is clearly understood.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member!

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am going to make the point until I can do so without being interrupted. It is clear that the Leader of the Liberal Party, who wants to be the next Premier of this state or the next leader of the next government, cannot guarantee to the community —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, if you interject, I will have to call you to order.

Ms S.E. WINTON: If the member keeps interrupting, I will just keep saying it. It is obviously sensitive to the member because it is a clear —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member! Please continue, minister.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, if you continue to interject, I will have to call you to order.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I have a lot more to say, but I am not going to be stopped from making a comment just because it does not sit well with the member. It is actually what she needs to hear.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: She is still interrupting me, Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you, minister. I noticed that.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The point I am making is that if the member is going to lead the next government, she needs to guarantee to the community that she will not wind back gun laws that will provide greater safety for the community. She cannot do it.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! This is your final warning before I call you to order.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The member cannot do it because she cannot logically work in a coalition government when her partners from the Nationals WA oppose the gun laws and when she has a Liberal member sitting behind her who voted against the gun laws. She does not have the leadership to herd the cats that are opposed to keeping women safe. The member should be focused on making sure that —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Ms S.E. WINTON: If the member is really going to be taken seriously as a leader, she needs to make sure that she actually takes responsibility for her team members.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Each and every day from now until the next election, I am going to remind people of the member for Vasse's spasmodic interest in keeping women safe depending on whether there is an opportunity for a headline or a microphone or a camera present. I am very happy to debate with her about this government's record in family and domestic violence. I am very happy to debate with her about our future path in family and domestic violence, which is clearly working closely with our sector partners to not only ensure that the system reform plan that they asked for, that they were —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am going to have to call the member for Vasse to order for the first time.

Ms S.E. WINTON: This government will continue on its path of working with sector partners to improve systems for better outcomes for women and children. The member dismissing it says so much more about the member and her disingenuous interest in the issue than it does about me or this government. Our record in family and domestic violence —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Our record in family and domestic violence is clear: record investment since coming into government with our doubling down on our efforts with \$70 million in funding to back in the work of the taskforce in November and \$94 million in funding to ensure that the important work identified by the taskforce in the system reform plan gets underway. Those are the facts. There is no way of getting around that; it is the truth of the matter. The Leader of the Liberal Party grabbing a headline based on a particular circumstance —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: — does her no good. People see right through it. There is absolutely no detail or substance to anything she has to offer as an alternative government. The opposition has nothing to offer as an alternative government in comparison with the contributions that this government has made since coming into government. In a few minutes, the member for Nedlands also wants to make a contribution, as well as the Attorney General.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I want to outline some of the important investments we made in November and in the budget this year. Those investments were clearly directed by, and came from, the summit and the key asks the sector made of us. The direction we are taking in our funding and investments in various areas of the portfolio is through collaboration with the sector. Since coming to government, we have continued to focus on our crisis response by making sure we now have some 44 refuges right around the state. We have announced more uplift in refuges in this budget alone in terms of the refuges in Perth and Stirling and Boorloo Bidee Mia. We will continue to invest in the important work that crisis accommodation provides women fleeing family and domestic violence. Of course, it is not just about the crisis care. We want women to be able to stay in their homes in the first place. An important part of the investment we have done over a number of years is to ensure we support organisations to help women to do safety planning to ensure, whenever possible and where it is safe to do so, women and their children stay in their homes. We know that is where they can continue their lives, and continue to keep kids in school rather than having to flee not only their homes but, in many instances, the regions in which they live.

Ms L. Mettam: You've got more time.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Clearly, the Leader of the Liberal Party is hugely agitated. If she would have put as much energy —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: — into trying to interrupt my contribution as she did to providing a contribution that —

Ms L. Mettam: You should read my speech, minister.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I was here.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I suffered —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, if you continue, I will have to call you for a second time. Thank you, minister, please continue.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I was here for the entire contribution and there was nothing of substance that I was able to acknowledge and say, “That’s a great idea.”

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: There was nothing of substance. I made quite significant notes. There was nothing there of substance where I said, “Wow, that’s a great idea. We should take that on board.” There was nothing. There was absolutely nothing. Anything she suggested were things we are already doing. We have made significant uplifts in our investments, not only in crisis care, like I said. We have significantly increased funding in various areas around perpetrator programs to ensure we provide the support and services that challenge men to be better men and to break the cycle of abuse. It is a really important area of the work this government has done to not only hold perpetrators to account, but also provide support services to make sure they can change their ways. We will continue to invest in those areas. Of course, the third plank is crisis investment around perpetrator responses, but most importantly, it is also around primary prevention. Members, we were the first government ever to invest in this area. Like everybody acknowledges, and I think the members of the opposition acknowledged in their contributions, this is a complex issue that has been in the making for a long time and it challenges communities right around the country. Although supporting women fleeing family and domestic violence and holding perpetrators to account is really important, we also need to change the cycle and dialogue in our community. We have come a long way in that.

Members know the significance and recognition that the 16 Days in WA campaign held in November each year gets in our community. It was started by this government to ensure a public awareness campaign to start to encourage conversations to be had not only in organisations, but also in communities, sporting groups and between friends, families and neighbours. We are seeing the awareness around family and domestic violence growing, and that is a good thing. With that comes women identifying toxic behaviours in their relationships. They are coming forward and calling it out. That is a good thing to see and is something that we continuously need to do. In this year’s budget, our government has again significantly invested to ensure that we continue to do that important work around primary prevention and making sure that we change the prevailing attitudes that allow this violence to occur in our community in the first place.

I know this motion was worded to condemn the government. I will finish by reading out a few other comments and responses from the experts and the services that do incredible work throughout our community and make a difference in people’s lives each and every day. I will always take advice, criticism and the call to do more from them than I ever will from the pathetic efforts of the shadow Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

I will finish by putting on the record not only some of the responses to this year’s budget, but also commentary around the government’s performance on family and domestic violence. I will repeat the words of Alison Evans. She stated —

“There’s no overstating the importance of government leadership in this work and we believe that the government has shown leadership today by committing to a Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan ...

Ruah stated —

We look forward to many more bold steps by the Cook Government as they continue to collaborate with the community sector to tackle family and domestic violence.”

Ruah said we are taking “bold steps”.

Anglicare stated —

“It’s the budget we’ve been waiting a decade for,”

Let me repeat that that. Anglicare, which works each and every day with women and children fleeing family and domestic violence, stated —

“It’s the budget we’ve been waiting a decade for,” ...

“It’s a budget that recognises the crisis in our community in housing —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs M.R. Marshall): Order, please.

Ms S.E. WINTON: It continues —

“It’s a budget that recognises the crisis in our community in housing, health, family and domestic violence and cost of living.”

That was from Mark Glasson.

The Western Australian Council of Social Service is another great partner that does incredible work representing the organisations that work on the ground each and every day. It stated —

“WACOSS commends the State Government for this investment and is pleased to see the funding package incorporates various funding commitments for new and expanded services and supports, aligned with the System Reform Plan.”

Even Alison Scott commented on the gun laws. Of course, Alison Scott and her partner were pivotal for the consultancy work around getting a lived-experience entity established as part of the asks that came from the sector. I am looking forward to having more to say in this place about the establishment of the lived-experience body that will not only work and collaborate with government about improving systems and our responses to family and domestic violence, but also allow them to work with the sector as they deliver services for victim-survivors.

I am really proud of the work that this government has done over an extended period on family and domestic violence. I am also proud of the opportunities that I have had as the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence to work alongside and listen to our sector partners as they deliver on the important investments that we make that allow them to do the important work with those who are affected by family and domestic violence. Through the taskforce, which was not disbanded—the opposition is so disrespectful—and the system reform plan that is endorsed by government and our partners and is now being backed in by significant investment, we will do that work to make our systems better. At the same time, we will continue our critical work in all those key areas that I mentioned, whether it is supporting crisis supports for women fleeing their homes, making sure we hold perpetrators to account, supporting important services that work with perpetrators to ensure that we continually build on this government’s initiative of primary prevention, and making sure that our community talks each and every day about what is a scourge in our society, we can ensure that when our kids are older, maybe family and domestic violence will not exist anymore. I leave my comments at that. Clearly, this government will not be supporting this motion.

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [6.41 pm]: I, too, stand to speak to my strong opposition to this motion. First up, I appreciate the minister’s respect in providing me the opportunity to speak, given my 30 years of experience in the community services sector. When she says that she is proud of the work that this government has done in addressing family and domestic violence, I say with my social worker hat on that I think that pride is well deserved and earned. I have never known a government to do so much in responding to family and domestic violence across the spectrum of prevention to early intervention, crisis intervention and making some really difficult decisions, and taking strong leadership around some difficult and complex issues.

During my time as a social worker, I worked across government and non-government sectors in a variety of settings in mental health and child protection at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children before it became Perth Children’s Hospital, and in foster care. One of the pervasive experiences of people who come into contact with community services is family and domestic violence. I saw it in all those settings. I saw it when I worked in the university sector when domestic violence increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of my colleagues in the university sector experienced family and domestic violence. It happens everywhere that social workers encounter. One of the reasons for that is that it is an extremely complex issue. It is what we call a wicked problem. Causes are interconnected; they cannot be separated and they cannot be unthreaded. There is therefore no one solution and no immediate or ultimate test for those solutions either, because those solutions are also interconnected and have to be multilayered. This is exactly what this government and this minister understands. Policy and service responses, funding responses and legislative responses are required at multiple levels at multiple layers from prevention, which I will talk about a little more, to the gun law reform that is before Parliament as we speak. Of course, we know very well that gun reform is not the only response, but it is an important one.

I worked for a time on the women’s domestic violence helpline, which women who were experiencing family and domestic violence would ring for support, advice and crisis intervention. Women who experience family and domestic violence are acutely aware that the most dangerous time for them in their violent relationship is when they attempt to leave. Domestic violence is ultimately about gendered power and control. The loss of power and control when a woman attempts to leave means an escalation in men’s abuse and violence and more extreme attempts at further control. That is why the gun law reform is so important.

I was really interested to hear an interest in the cashless welfare card and a member imploring the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence to hop on a plane to Canberra to lobby our federal colleagues on this federal issue. I will ask the minister to not do that, and I have a couple of reasons for that. I fundamentally disagree with the cashless welfare card. I think it removes people’s humanity, dignity and choice. We all have the freedom

of choice about how we spend our income. What things are taken from somebody who is in a violent relationship? That would be their humanity, their dignity and their choice. It is not just a position of principle; it is not just my social work and Labor values about wanting to see people have their humanity, dignity and choice.

Western Australia Police Force data and research tell us that the introduction of the cashless welfare card not only failed to reduce family and domestic violence, but also actually led to an increase in family and domestic violence, including in the Western Australian trial sites in Wyndham and Kununurra. WA police data released under freedom of information laws in 2018 showed an increase in family and domestic violence since the cashless welfare card was introduced in 2016. In just those two years, there was enough data to track a significant increase in family and domestic violence. That was not an anomaly; the data continues to support that. Researchers from the Australian National University looked at the data and considered that one of the reasons was that the cashless welfare card adds another factor of stress and hardship to families and communities in which there is already stress and hardship, and that is why there was an increase in family and domestic violence. If the minister is going to get on a plane to Canberra and talk to the government about policy measures to address family and domestic violence, please do not put the cashless welfare card on that agenda.

Today, I will speak about the really essential and complex work that this government is engaged in to stop violence before it begins. This is about the primary prevention strategies that we have put in place to address the underlying causes of family and domestic violence. A few weeks ago, I had the honour of representing the minister to launch the primary prevention framework called Foundations for Change, which provides a really structured and comprehensive approach to Western Australia's primary prevention. Foundations for Change has been developed by the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing in partnership with Stopping Family Violence. There were contributions from cultural experts, from experts with lived experience who were involved in the creation of the framework and from people with diverse and extensive professional experience. The framework is informed by lived-experience evidence, and by practice and research evidence. Many representatives of the sector were at that launch, which, I have to say, came a few days after the horrific crimes committed in Floreat. The representatives' resilience was really tested, and despite the lowness of the sector at the time, their interest in, engagement with and excitement for this framework was really palpable.

At this point I will give a shout-out to all those who work in the family and domestic violence space, whether in the prevention space, the research space or the refuge space, my colleagues who continue to work on the women's domestic violence helpline or all those who work in child protection. I thank them for the amazing, important and powerful work they do with women and children who experience family and domestic violence. That complex work requires intelligence, expertise and emotional intelligence. That sector is really clear that it has a minister who supports them, who is aware of the complexity of the work that they do and who listens to their practice wisdom and their practice expertise and takes that on board and is responsive. I do not get that feedback just because I am a member of the government. Many of these people have been my colleagues for a very long time and they genuinely share that feedback with me.

What the foundations for change reflect is that we know that the underlying drivers of family and domestic violence are gender inequality, gender stereotypes, sexism and misogyny. The framework deliberately focuses on stopping violence from the perspective of preventing the perpetration of family and domestic violence, by recognising men's significant and enormous capacity for ending violence against women, changing their own behaviour, changing how they participate in conversations and changing the conversations they lead as well. The framework covers a range of different ways in which we can engage in that preventive work through knowledge, policy and really practical things that people can do in their own workplaces, homes and communities, including their sporting clubs and other places. It involves critical reflection and addressing some of the gendered nature of things by calling out some of the stereotypes and those kinds of things.

I know that the Attorney General also wants to make a contribution so I will talk very briefly, if I may, about another aspect of early intervention, and that is the election commitment we delivered during our first term of government to introduce screening for family and domestic violence in public antenatal settings. I was a social worker at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women so I know firsthand the important role that health services can play in recognising and responding to family and domestic violence. We know that for roughly a quarter of women in violent relationships, violence starts during pregnancy. Very often, the very first experience of violence is in pregnancy, and if it is already present, it is a time that violence escalates. Indigenous women and young women aged 18 to 24 are more likely to experience family and domestic violence during this time. As well as the horrendous experience that is for women, it also results in poor birth outcomes. Often there is unintended pregnancy when we see reproductive control. Some reasons for this are gender inequality being exacerbated, gender roles, gender norms, a change to financial independence and the capacity to participate in the workforce or a loss of control for the male partner.

I will give some examples of how this shows up. We have heard about the cashless welfare card and gun control. I promise that I will take only one minute to talk about how this shows up, minister. These are just some of the things that I witnessed in my time at King Edward Memorial Hospital—violence and assault directed to a woman's

pregnant stomach, insistence on being present for intimate and invasive examinations, accusations of infidelity, shaming, demands for paternity tests, refusal to have their name put on the birth certificate so that they could not be pursued for child support and demands for sex immediately post-delivery. Any woman who has given birth would know how invasive that would be.

Early intervention and prevention is the key; that is just one of the layers that the state government has addressed.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [6.54 pm]: I rise to congratulate the Leader of the Liberal Party on her self-appointment as leader of the Me Too movement in Western Australia. The Labor government appointed a Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and she said, “Me too; I am the shadow minister!” The Liberal Party never had one before Labor came to power.

The capability for GPS and satellite tracking has been around for quite a while, and it was the Labor government, and me specifically as the Attorney General, who made inquiries before anybody had started to be tracked about what could be done. I found out we could do it and would have to fuse the corrections officers with the police at a central point. We have all that happening, and what do the Liberals say? They say, “Me too; we want that too.” With the Commissioner for Victims of Crime, we said we would introduce laws against coercive control. “Me too”, said the Leader of the Liberal Party. She can follow Labor, but she cannot lead. She can follow Labor out of this mess, but she cannot lead. It is absolutely incredible that she would criticise the GPS program for which we initiated the trial. We had to do the trial and get a report. The Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Vasse, complained throughout that process, but we proved the technology, we proved the protocols and we have them happening. We are just about to introduce further amendments to the Restraining Orders Act to provide for the surveillance of people who are on bail for a domestic violence offence. Having already been bound by a protection order, going forward they will be bound with a mandatory GPS tracking bracelet. Prisoners who are released from custody and are subject to a prevention order will automatically get a bracelet, as will people on parole who, when incarcerated, were subject to a protection order. They will be mandatorily affixed with a tracking bracelet. Do not forget that when judges sentence criminals for indictable offences like grievous bodily harm, bodily harm or whatever, they put in place violence restraining orders to become operative on the day the person is released from prison, and those people will now be mandatorily affixed with a bracelet.

Opposition members in here take cheap shots and say, “You have done this law”, or, “You have not done that law.” We do lots of laws; we are a reforming government. Opposition members have to wait until the end of the process. They have to wait until the legislation is produced. The Parliamentary Counsel’s Office tells me that the office has never been as busy as when Labor came to power. It has had to employ about 11 more drafters to try to keep up. We are delivering and delivering, and we will deliver on coercive control law amendments to the Restraining Orders Act presently. We will deliver amendments to the Restraining Orders Act to enable provisions to affix bracelets on those offenders, whom I have already detailed, presently. Members will not have to hold their breath until they go blue in the face; this will come before Parliament presently.

In eight years of a Liberal government, there was nothing. Is it any wonder that reported incidents of domestic violence are rising and rising? When we came to power, one of our election promises was that when the police attended a complaint of domestic violence, they would not just go along like they used to in the regions and try to calm the situation down. Think of Jody Gore and how many times that poor woman called for police assistance for domestic violence and the police just calmed the situation down and went away until she was driven to reacting herself and stabbing her abuser. Not anymore. Since Labor came to power, it has been mandated that the police on attending these incidents will put in an official offence report. Of course the numbers of reported incidents are going up because police have to report every one now so they are on the system. Therefore, when another constable is called to that house and looks at the system, he sees the incident is a recurrence and can take appropriate action.

I find breathtaking the audacity of the “member for Me Too” to say that we have done nothing when her only contribution has been to say that we are not going fast enough. She has not put forward one further idea.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 7.00 pm
