



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2021

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 5 August 2021

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 9.00 am, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPERS TABLED

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

WITTENOOM CLOSURE BILL 2021

Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the bill.

CORONAVIRUS — RELIEF FUND — INDONESIA

Statement by Premier

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [9.03 am]: I rise to inform the house that my government has established a relief fund for Indonesia as it grapples with a severe outbreak of COVID-19. Our state's closest international neighbour has been working to contain an outbreak of the deadly Delta variant, with tens of thousands of new cases every day, and nearly 100 000 deaths. Indonesia is a nation very close to the hearts of many Western Australians. It is an essential trading partner and a frequent travel destination, not to mention the family ties for those in the Western Australian Indonesian community.

As with the recent outbreak in India, we have moved to establish a \$2 million Indonesia COVID-19 relief fund, allowing local community organisations to work with partners to provide on-the-ground support. Applicants will be required to directly partner with a registered, not-for-profit Australian charity with operations in Indonesia, or affiliated with a reputable and officially registered not-for-profit Indonesian charity. The funding will provide for genuine community assistance for our friends in Indonesia.

For Western Australians wanting to contribute, we recommend donating to the Save the Children and Australia Indonesia Business Council's joint emergency response. Western Australians can donate online at <https://aibcsavethechildrencovid19response.raisely.com>.

Indonesia is not the first place to suffer a major outbreak and it will not be the last. It is important we can still help our friends in their time of need.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — KOOLANGKA BRIDGE

Statement by Minister for Health

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.05 am]: The new and colourful Perth Kids' Koolangka Bridge linking Perth Children's Hospital to Kings Park, over Winthrop Avenue, is now open. The Premier, Minister Saffioti and I had the pleasure of joining representatives from the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation for the first walk over the bridge yesterday. The Kids' Bridge has been dually named the Koolangka Bridge, which means "children" in Noongar. The idea of the Kids' Bridge was originally raised by the then Princess Margaret Hospital Kids Advisory Group, which included Matthew Carulli, who sadly lost his life after a long battle with leukaemia.

The three-metre wide, 217-metre long structure will provide patients and families with easy access to Kings Park. It will provide an opportunity for a range of therapies, including allied health, to be delivered in an environment harnessing the benefits of nature. This bridge will also deliver vital benefits for the families who need to use these facilities, with clinicians noting outdoor visits have a positive effect on the overall wellbeing of these families. Staff and the wider community will also benefit from the connection of the structure to existing local path networks in the area, and the ability to use Kings Park for fitness, lifestyle and work breaks.

The bright, colourful palette of the Kids' Bridge is complemented by programmable feature lighting that will be able to coordinate with other state government structures such as the Matagarup Bridge. Local company Civmec constructed the bridge in six months, using almost 300 tonnes of locally fabricated steel, supporting 40 local jobs, including apprentices and trainees. Managed by Main Roads Western Australia, the project was made possible with \$6.3 million from the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. Congratulations to all involved, particularly the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation for all its work in making this project happen.

DAME LUCETTE ALDOUS, AC — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.07 am]: It is with great sadness that I inform the house of the passing of one of Western Australia's and Australia's best-known ballerinas and living treasures, Dame Lucette Aldous, AC. She passed away in Perth on 5 June 2021 at the age of 82. Dame Aldous

dedicated her life to excellence in her beloved ballet, and was a passionate champion of the broader dance community in Western Australia, Australia and around the world. At the tender age of 17 she was awarded a scholarship at the prestigious Royal Ballet School in London. She excelled and went on to have a long and highly successful career in Europe. On returning to Australia in 1970 at the age of 32, she joined the Australian Ballet and very quickly became a principal dancer, an incredibly challenging and physically demanding career at the peak of her profession.

Her passion for dance continued well after her retirement as a ballerina. In 1982 she joined the faculty of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts at Edith Cowan University in Perth. After retiring from full-time work she went on to share her love of dance as a teacher, coach and adjudicator both locally and nationally. In 2009 her unwavering dedication to the dance community was acknowledged with a lifetime achievement award from the Australian Dance Awards. In 2018 she was bestowed with a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Dame Aldous's passing is a great loss to Western Australia, and is met with sadness by the local, national and international dance community. I am sure all members of this house will join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Dame Aldous's family, as well as her many colleagues and friends. A memorial will be held on Wednesday, 25 August, at His Majesty's Theatre to celebrate the life of Dame Aldous.

Vale a great Western Australian dancer, Dame Lucette Aldous.

POINT-TO-POINT SPEED CAMERAS

Statement by Minister for Police

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police) [9.09 am]: In a first for Australia, the Road Safety Commission will be trialling new mobile point-to-point speed cameras. Currently, our only point-to-point speed camera is along a 28-kilometre stretch of the Forrest Highway in the south west region. The current cameras calculate the average speed over a distance and will capture a driver who goes above the average speed. In addition, they function as a standard speed camera. However, these cameras are unable to be moved to other locations across Western Australia. The new mobile point-to-point camera equipment, which can be mounted in trailers, will be able to move around metropolitan and regional WA to detect average speeds along specific stretches of road. As well as detecting speeding motorists using point-to-point capability, these new mobile safety cameras will aim to detect a wider range of offences, including mobile phone use, drivers and front-seat passengers not wearing seatbelts and unlicensed vehicles. The trial of these new cameras will be rolled out in collaboration with Western Australia police and local governments. If the trial is successful, this technology will be used on a more permanent basis. No infringements or penalties will be issued during the trial period.

The Road Safety Commission's education and awareness campaign continues to work towards reducing unnecessary deaths and injuries on WA roads, and changing the attitude and unsafe driving behaviours of Western Australians. Although it is hoped that the trial of this new technology will be successful, no one initiative can prevent unavoidable deaths and serious injuries on our roads. Road safety is everyone's responsibility and all road users have a part to play in ensuring that everyone gets home safely.

MINISTER FOR POLICE — POLICE STATION VISITS — SOUTH WEST

Statement by Minister for Police

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police) [9.11 am]: Last month, I had the pleasure of visiting police stations within the south west police district of Western Australia. Over a busy three days, I visited police stations in Waroona, Yarloop, Harvey, Australind, Capel, Busselton, Dunsborough, Margaret River, Augusta, Nannup, Pemberton, Manjimup, Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, Donnybrook and Collie, as well as the district headquarters in Bunbury. This was a great opportunity for me to hear directly from the officers on the ground about the issues impacting their communities. Their roles often vary from day to day, and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to their local communities.

In Waroona, I was joined by the member for Murray–Wellington and members of the local community where we participated in a flag-raising ceremony as part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations. It was fantastic to also be joined by the newly elected member for Collie–Preston, the member for Warren–Blackwood and the member for South West Region, Hon Jackie Jarvis, MLC, in each of their electorates.

In between visiting police stations, I had the opportunity to visit the police and community youth centres in Bunbury and Collie. PCYCs play an important role in communities right across Western Australia. They deliver vital programs to help disadvantaged kids and ensure that they have a safe place to go. While visiting the Bunbury PCYC, I had the opportunity to speak to an inspiring group of young people participating in a leadership program. I wish all the participants the best of luck for their future. I would like to acknowledge Justine Feather from the Bunbury PCYC and Linda Gallagher and Greg Pye from the Collie PCYC, who all go above and beyond to help improve the lives of young people in their communities.

I look forward to visiting officers in more police stations across Western Australia over the coming months, and, by the end of this year, I hope to have visited officers in every police district in the state.

RACING INDUSTRY — CONTRIBUTION*Statement by Minister for Racing and Gaming*

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Racing and Gaming) [9.13 am]: I rise to update the house on the McGowan government's commitment to ensuring the future security and success of the Western Australian racing industry. It is important to recognise the economic and social impact that the WA racing industry has on our state. The significance of the WA racing industry should not be underestimated. As an industry, its economic contribution to the state is over \$821 million, with over \$620 million in direct expenditure. As a broad-scope employer, there are over 24 400 active participants in the industry and full-time equivalent employment of over 7 300 individuals. Major racing events have the ability to attract thousands of people to small country towns, and it is estimated that for every dollar spent on course, a further 84¢ is spent off course, making it a key contributor to the tourism industry and small businesses alike in regional WA. As one of the largest country racing precincts in the world, with 47 out of 50 race clubs located in regional areas, it is estimated that the state's racing industry provides over \$317 million in direct and flow-on value-added impacts for regional Western Australia.

In recent weeks I have had the pleasure of attending some of these regional race meetings in the Kimberley and the Pilbara, and I can personally attest to the local community engagement that racing provides. Indeed, many regional race clubs operate through the generous time and dedication of volunteers. The role these race clubs have as a source of true community connection is priceless, enhancing both individual and community wellbeing. On average, 260 community organisations and charities are financially assisted by the WA racing industry, and over 150 community organisations share race club facilities and resources.

As the house is aware, the sale process of the WA TAB was well underway when COVID-19 impacted Racing and Wagering Western Australia and Tabcorp in mid-March 2020. As a result, the sale of the TAB was put on hold and all parties agreed to re-engage at a later date. The state government has made no further decisions at this point. We are examining the options in relation to the future of the TAB. Any potential sale will only be in the best interests of the WA taxpayers and the long-term interests of the racing industry. The state government will ensure that the racing industry will be consulted ahead of any final decision. Finally, I applaud RWWA for continuing its commitment to actively manage and drive performance of the WA TAB business in the long-term interest of the WA racing industry throughout the process.

WOOROLOO BUSHFIRE — RECOVERY*Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.16 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the ongoing recovery efforts following the devastating Wooroloo bushfire in February this year. This week marked six months since the blaze burnt more than 10 000 hectares of bush across the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring. Sadly, 86 homes were destroyed and many more were damaged. This has been a difficult time for the community, and residents have continued to show great resilience.

Members, this week we have reached an important milestone. As of Monday, 112 of the 137 properties registered for clean-up have been cleared, and we expect the clean-up will be complete by the end of the month. A process like this takes time, and I want to thank the community for its patience. Residents can now start to rebuild. The clean-up program has been remarkable. Despite the very challenging weather conditions and the complications of asbestos removal, contractors have worked tirelessly to ensure that the clean-up is completed as quickly as possible. The figures paint a telling story. More than 8 100 cubic metres of rubble and 108 tonnes of metal has been removed and recycled. More than 3 000 tonnes of general waste and 3 200 tonnes of asbestos waste, including soil, has been disposed of.

Highlighting the care that has been taken, a number of lost treasures have been recovered, including an engagement ring, war medals, china, a statue and a bayonet. Yesterday morning, I visited Gidgegannup with the member for Swan Hills to meet with local resident Cherry Alford, who shared with us some precious items that she has been reunited with during the clean-up. It was amazing to see, but what was even more amazing was her positive attitude and her determination to rebuild on the property she loves so much. She was extremely grateful for the help that she has received, both in the immediate aftermath of the fire through to today, which is a credit to all the agencies and contractors involved.

I would like to acknowledge the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring, which have worked alongside the state government throughout this process. This has all been made possible by the joint state–commonwealth disaster recovery funding arrangements worth \$18.1 million. I would also like to thank the State Recovery Controller, Dr Ron Edwards, who has lead the recovery efforts magnificently. It has been a tough time but we will continue to support the community to rebuild.

FIREFIGHTERS — CANADIAN DEPLOYMENT*Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.19 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of a task force of Western Australian firefighters who have been deployed to Canada to provide

much-needed assistance to the people of British Columbia and Ontario who have been battling horrendous wildfires. The task force is made up of eight volunteer firefighters, three Department of Fire and Emergency Services career officers and six Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions personnel.

On 26 July, I had the honour, with Minister Sanderson, of farewelling this group before these firefighters selflessly put their lives on hold to help our Canadian friends. The 17 men and women from as far away as the Kimberley and great southern regions joined 38 firefighters from New South Wales to travel to Canada as part of an Australian contingent to relieve their exhausted Canadian counterparts. The firefighters will be deployed for seven weeks, including two weeks in quarantine on their return to Australia. The firefighters will fight the fires on the front line and help with behind-the-scenes work in fire behaviour analysis, operations, planning and aerial firefighting supervision.

Canada is battling fires on both sides of the country. The fires are some of the worst that the country has faced in recent years, with a state of emergency being declared in British Columbia. Australia has been fortunate to have benefited from the generosity of Canadian firefighters during significant fires in recent years, including during the black summer bushfires. I am proud that Western Australia can help to return the favour in what has been a devastating wildfire season for Canada. I take this opportunity to encourage all members to promote the fire safety messages that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services will be sharing soon to ensure that all Western Australians stay safe this coming bushfire season.

In closing, I am sure that all members in this house will join me in acknowledging and thanking each and every one of our firefighters, who time and again put their lives on hold to help protect their local communities. I extend my sincere thanks to the task force and wish the firefighters all the best as they try to bring these Canadian fires under control, and urge them to stay safe.

PLANNING — MARINE PARADE, COTTESLOE

Grievance

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.22 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Planning, and I thank the minister for receiving it. On 29 July, Cottesloe town council was advised that the Western Australian Planning Commission would today consider an application for a seven-storey mixed-use development at 120 Marine Parade, Cottesloe. This is a revision of a previous eight-storey proposal that the Cottesloe council opposed. That proposal in turn was preceded by a nine-storey development proposal that was also rejected by the local community. The council was consulted on the first two proposals, both of which were opposed. This time there was no consultation with the council or the community about the new seven-storey proposal. The opposition to the two previous proposals was primarily due to the proposed height being deemed to be out of character with the suburb and the immediate beachfront area, and exceeding the local planning scheme height limit.

After a period of public debate about the appropriate development on the Cottesloe foreshore, the council and the community eventually agreed that there should be a five-storey, 21-metre limit for most of Marine Parade. Due to the topography of the area, it is possible to have slightly higher development at selected locations that would still be within the 21-metre height limit. The community was very involved in the formulation of the local structure plan, showing that the local community is not opposed to any development, but, rather, it wants suitable development that protects the character of Cottesloe beach.

The proponent for the 120 Marine Parade development indicated previously to the council that a five-storey proposal would be submitted to it. I understand that council officers indicated to the owners of the location that support would be forthcoming for such a development. The five-storey proposal appeared only as a concept plan, with a cafe and 10 apartments. However, this plan was not pursued by the proponent because of the government's new emergency planning law changes that shut the community out of development applications. It seems clear that the project proponent is using the changes made to the Planning and Development Act to bypass the local community and the local planning scheme and build an apartment block that exceeds the local planning scheme height limits.

A major factor driving concern about the proposed height is that the land at this location sits around four storeys higher than the beach; hence, at the beachside, the proposed development would appear as an 11-storey block of apartments overlooking the beach. The height of this proposed development means that the structure would overlook Cottesloe main beach and would be very visible to people using the beach. At present, the view from the beach is limited to glimpses of low-rise buildings, trees and the sky. High-rise apartments like this completely alter the amenity and will become the benchmark as the minimum height for any future developments. There is no significant benefit to the local or broader metropolitan community from allowing this development to exceed the local planning scheme height limit. The general public will have access only to the ground floor commercial space; hence, any height above five storeys will do nothing to further activate the area for the general public. The proposed building will house only 13 apartments, which means that a very small number of people will gain a beachside view, whilst diminishing the visual amenity for thousands of people who use the beach, as well as many more people who live nearby.

It should be noted that the proponent is asking for an extension from 12 months to 24 months for substantial commencement. This critically undermines the project's standing as a shovel-ready project and thus it should not

be dealt with under the special COVID emergency rules. The proponent's consultants have acknowledged that conditions concerning vehicle access to the rear remain unresolved, and are asking for the conditions to be removed. One of the neighbours has indicated that they will not allow that. It is of great concern that a critical issue such as vehicle access remains unresolved for a project seeking approval.

The seven-storey proposal has only two more apartments than the five-storey plan. That is a lot of community disruption for two extra apartments, and these will be very high value apartments not for general use. It is my understanding that the redevelopment was sufficiently profitable at a height limit of five storeys. The additional storeys will simply increase the profit for a few investors, again with a negative impact on thousands of beach users and a loss of amenity to the local community. Overriding the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the local community in this way for the benefit of a handful of potential occupants and increased profits for a very small number of investors would be an abuse of proper planning processes.

The Town of Cottesloe opposes the development for various reasons that were discussed at its special council meeting held on Tuesday night. The council's concerns include the following points. The development does not give due regard to the aims of the local planning scheme. It does not constitute proper and orderly planning that preserves the amenity of the area. It is an ad hoc development that undermines the council's ability to ensure that other developments are sympathetic to the beachfront character. Vehicle access will create problems for people, as well as disrupt the aim of making Cottesloe pedestrian and cycle friendly. It will set a precedent for high-rise developments on Cottesloe Beach. It will have an overbearing presence from the beach and it is on land that is four storeys higher than the beach. The value of the proposal is questionable—whether it has been inflated to meet the special planning threshold, because the stated costs will make these amongst the most expensive apartments on a square-metre basis. Cottesloe Beach has a special coastal character that would be destroyed by an array of high-rise developments fronting the beach. There is nothing unique or sculpturally elegant about the building design. Parking and waste collection plans remain unconvincing; in fact, they are not finalised and are unconvincing in terms of the impact on the neighbours. The council's view is that the state development assessment unit ought not to have recommended the proposal to the planning commission without consulting Cottesloe council. I reinforce that doubts over the cost estimates of the project are perceived to be extremely high and possibly inflated to meet the SDAU threshold.

I have heard many members of Parliament, including Labor members, speak repeatedly about the need for local community wishes to be respected in planning decisions. Local communities live with the legacy of planning decisions, not the developers or the decision-makers; therefore, we must put the local community back into local planning. As the planning commission is meeting today to consider this proposal, I wrote to the Minister for Planning yesterday. It was a plea to the minister to respect the wishes of the local community by directing the commission to return the matter to the local community or, at the very least, return it to the SDAU with instructions to take note of the local community's views in its considerations. I believe it would be entirely inappropriate for this development to proceed and entirely appropriate for the minister to intercede in this matter. If this matter is allowed to go ahead as intended, it will mean that any local planning scheme in any shire has effectively been ripped up. I sincerely ask the minister to intercede in this matter to ensure that the local planning scheme is respected.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Planning) [9.28 am]: I thank the member for Cottesloe for his grievance today. I want to note a couple of points. This is currently going through a decision-making process, so what the member wants me to do is politically interfere in an independent decision-making process, which is absolutely wrong. I will not be interfering in an independent decision-making process. A live decision is being made today.

Last week I delivered a speech at the turning of the sod ceremony for the Grove Residences development in Claremont, and who was sitting there in the second row? It was the member for Cottesloe, there for the opening of a new development in Claremont—a development that, had it followed the scheme, should have been only eight storeys, but the joint development assessment panel approved 16 storeys. Does the member support that development in Claremont?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So the member supports that project going to 16 storeys, even though the council recommended against that and two councillors sitting on the JDAP also recommended against that? I do not understand the member's logic and reasoning on these issues. He sat there in the second row, happy to drink the developer's champagne and eat their food —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He was happy to be there to support a new development that exceeded the height rules, because it is a good development. It went to 16 storeys instead of eight, but it provides public open space and a lot of other benefits. He was happy to sit there —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I did not interrupt the member.

He was happy to attend the turning of the sod ceremony for a Subiaco development that went to 24 storeys instead of the 16 storeys recommended under the local planning scheme. He was also happy to sit there for the opening of the Claremont development. The council recommended against that development, but the member for Cottesloe is happy to support it. Why?

Dr D.J. Honey: It's an appropriate development.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Oh, you are making that judgement? First the member tells me that we have to listen to the council at all times, but now, because he thinks it is an okay project, he is telling me something else. Does the member think the council should be the decision-maker or not?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Let us go through the facts. This is a live decision-making process, so I feel quite uncomfortable talking about it, but I have to respond to some of the claims the member made. The initial proposal was for nine storeys —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Have some respect!

It is now seven storeys. The height of the building at the front is 21.2 metres. Does the member know the local planning scheme's requirement for the maximum height at the front of a building? It is 21 metres, so this is 20 centimetres higher than was required by the local planning scheme. This is what the member is arguing about. There has been consultation and community input, and there is now a decision-making process to be gone through.

I do not know where the Liberal Party in WA is at. Who has the right to apply for a development on their property and go through a legal process? I think people have the right to do that. There are rules and legislation in place. There is legislation that was passed by the former Liberal–National government. That is legislation; people have the right to use that legislation and other paths, whether through JDAPs or local councils. They have a legal right to do that. The member is asking me to interfere with a legal right, and I have been asked to do that a number of times: “This project, go and interfere with that; that project, go and interfere with that.” I am not going to do that. People have rights. This is the party that talks about private property rights and the party that is meant to stand up for people protecting their private property rights. Now the member wants me to veto developments here and there across WA. I have been asked to veto this and veto that, including schemes and projects that were supported by previous governments. There are projects around the state that have environmental approvals, yet the member wants me to veto developments everywhere. I am not going to do that.

This project is going through a decision-making process, and I will let that run its course. The member's hypocrisy is such that less than a week ago he was sitting there, supporting a significant project in Claremont. He was loving it, lapping it up and talking to everyone about a 16-storey project that was opposed by the council and by individual councillors. The member is okay with that development because he likes it, but he does not like this one. That is the logic that the member is using.

With regard to the issues of the pandemic and economic recovery, remember when the Liberal Party used to be known for economic management in this state? It was a while ago when the Liberal Party used to be known as the party for protecting property rights and the party that talked about economic activity. The idea that economic recovery after the pandemic is over and we do not need to do anything else—everyone can go home, because economic recovery is over—is false. We want to create a pipeline of work for Western Australians, whether it be in civil construction, road, rail and transport or developments. We want a pipeline of work. The Liberal Party's idea is, “We've got enough work now. Let's all go home and not support any future development in WA.” That is not a policy that we adopt. We need a pipeline of work for the next five to 10 years to ensure that our economic recovery is sustained. That is what we will be doing.

ASHDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE — CLASSROOMS

Grievance

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [9.36 am]: My grievance is to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Education and Training. It relates to the pressing need for additional classroom space at Ashdale Secondary College in Darch. The surrounding suburbs are experiencing exponential growth and it is vital for timely measures to be taken to expand the college to cater for the inevitable demographic pressures. It is the same local population growth that led the Western Australian Electoral Commission to create the new electorate of Landsdale in the last redistribution.

I was delighted when the McGowan government announced its 2021 election commitment of \$1.5 million to expand STEM capacity at Ashdale Secondary College. However, this will not adequately address the future needs of the young people in my electorate who attend Ashdale. The college attracts a significant portion of local primary students. The cluster comprises Ashdale Primary School, with 130 year 6 students; Madeley Primary School, with 59 year 6 students; Landsdale Primary School, with 107 year 6 students; and Carnaby Rise Primary School, with 50 year 6 students. There is also another primary school in south Landsdale that will open in 2023. In addition, I am advised that 40 to 50 students from local private primary schools also enrol at the college annually.

Ashdale Secondary College has an overall enrolment of 1 780 students this year. The current permanent capacity of the school is 1 670 students. It is predicted that in 2022 the enrolment will be 1 843 students—which is a very precise figure—peaking at more than 2 200 by 2030. In practice, this has meant that a number of demountables have had to be deployed: one for home economics, another for science and a further one for design and technology/metalwork. It is anticipated that more such rooms will be needed for general learning areas in the not-too-distant future. Further, the use of demountables is impacting on the available open space for sporting activity and recreation within the school.

I should stress that, despite these challenges, Ashdale Secondary College provides an excellent academic and non-academic program for its large and diverse cohort of students. It has a strong focus on STEM and is consistently formally acknowledged for its efforts in this area, the most recent acknowledgement being receipt of the Governor’s STEM awards last November for inculcating a strong STEM culture amongst staff, students and leadership teams.

The college has close working relationships with the local cluster schools I referred to. This close interaction means a seamless transition for students from primary to high school. It also embeds a consistency of approach to amplify and maximise what is learnt. The college has a strong and sustained relationship with Edith Cowan University and with educational researchers at board and governance level, and provides placement for in excess of 50 pre-service teachers annually. It is also a teacher development school for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. Although the exceptional work in STEM should be enthusiastically praised, I should add that I have also had exposure to and thoroughly enjoyed the work of Ashdale students in both visual and performing arts. I even sat in on a forensically adept mock trial!

This brings me to the heart of the grievance. It is absolutely fundamental to the education philosophy of the McGowan government that our young people have equality of opportunity at school. That opportunity enables students to pursue the path that most interests them—a path that encourages them to excel. That opportunity may, however, be constrained by physical infrastructure. In schools like Ashdale Secondary College, limited space restricts flexibility. In turn, that may inhibit the choices available to students. Limited facilities, combined with growing and emerging needs, means that students seeking quality programs in STEM are currently overprescribed within the local community. These are the very areas where future job demand is predicted to exist.

In recent months, many in the local community have expressed concerns about the emerging lack of capacity at Ashdale Secondary College. In fact, when Minister Ellery and Premier McGowan announced the construction of the new primary school in South Landsdale in December last year, residents were delighted, but they followed up with the question, “That is terrific but will the high school be able to accommodate the additional intake?” It is a no-brainer that if favourable consideration could be given to the major expansion of Ashdale, it would receive wholehearted and enthusiastic community support. Having listened to the community, it is incumbent on the McGowan government to now act. I am also confident that the remarkable staff, headed by principal Kylie Bottcher, will embrace such an expansion and handle the attendant short-term inconvenience with their usual equanimity. They want to ensure that they can deliver to the best of their considerable abilities, not only now but also in the future.

I conclude by quoting an extract from a letter sent to me by the school’s board chair, Ian Brotherton. He states —

Growth has been significant over the life of the College since 2009 and more recently over the last five years from 1530 to 1780 students. This is not only reflective of the growth in Darch and the College’s local intake area but also the increasing retention rate, with 90% of the eligible students maintaining enrolment in the Ashdale Cluster of Schools ... The College hereby is achieving the vision of becoming the school of choice for our local community.

...

Continued expansion cannot be planned to be an ever increasing series of transportable classrooms that are not connected to the rest of the College and therefore not connected to the important culture of excellence that has been established.

Parliamentary secretary, I would appreciate it if you could convey to the minister in the most robust terms how important this issue is and how it requires her serious and immediate consideration.

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.43 am]: I am responding to this grievance today on behalf of the Minister for Education and Training. I thank the member for Landsdale, the local hero of her community, for this grievance and for her ongoing support of schools in her electorate, in particular, Ashdale Secondary College, which provides for families in Darch, Madeley, Landsdale, Wangara, Gngangara and Alexander Heights. I know that the member for Landsdale is very passionate about this matter and all matters that involve her local schools. I understand that she raised the matter with the minister earlier in the year and has received a briefing from the Department of Education on future plans for the college. I also understand that Minister Ellery visited the school with the member during the last parliamentary term, and she was very impressed with the school. The Minister for Education and Training recognises that there is significant growth in the local intake area of Ashdale Secondary College and that this has put enrolment pressure on the schools in that area and the existing facilities of the school.

The college was established in 2009, with permanent classroom accommodation for about 1 670 students, which was larger than the standard block size of schools during that time of 450 students. Building the school with additional

capacity at the time was an indication that the government knew it would be a very popular school and a growing area. Ashdale Secondary College offers an incredible program of courses, including an approved specialist program in information and communication technology, robotics and digital technology. The department also endorses a specialised autism learning program and a specialist soccer and netball facility. The member has spoken a great deal about the amazing STEM work that this school does. As a former careers teacher who used to run careers events, I love the fact that the school provides STEM Speedy Careers for year 9 and 10 students. That is brilliant. I commend the member for her advocacy in securing \$1.5 million at the recent election for STEM classrooms at this school. There is no doubt that this is a fantastic local public school that is a school of choice in the area.

The local intake area covers multiple suburbs, as the member has said. Large pockets of land around the school are growing. This is a growing area. The member for Landsdale has done her research and the statistics are correct. A total of 1 781 students are currently enrolled at the college, with enrolments projected to grow to 2 000 students by 2025 and 2 200 students by 2030. The Department of Education actively monitors enrolment growth and residential developments at schools around the state to determine when schools are coming under enrolment pressure and when relief measures will be required. Enrolment relief can be provided at schools in a number of ways, including by deploying transportable classrooms to accommodate fluctuations at schools, adjusting local intake areas, building additional classrooms and, of course, establishing a new school. As the member outlined, the department has already deployed a number of transportable classrooms at the college to accommodate enrolment growth. Six transportable classrooms are currently onsite, providing space for about 125 students. The school has applied for two additional transportable classrooms for 2022. That application is being assessed by the department.

It is acknowledged that deploying further transportable classrooms at this college will encroach on the recreational space and playing fields. Given that the school offers incredible programs in soccer and netball academies, restricting recreation space will impact the ability of these programs to be effectively delivered. There are more than 800 public schools in Western Australia, ranging in age from new to more than 100 years old. Priorities for school upgrades and expansion is given to projects that ease enrolment pressure in fast-growing suburbs and remediate facilities at the end of their life. Upgrades and expansions to schools will be considered against those other priorities across the state. As a result of the member's advocacy, the growth at Ashdale Secondary College is acknowledged. The minister has asked the Department of Education to look at options to manage this growth in the future.

I also take the opportunity to commend the principal of the college, Kylie Bottcher, who is the wife of a principal in my electorate, Paul Bottcher. They are a great family of educators and very hardworking. I want to thank the staff and the students at the school and all the families for all the work they do. The member mentioned the board chair, Ian Brotherton, and the work that he has done working with her.

Finally, on behalf of the member for Landsdale and Minister Ellery, I wish to inform members that there is a big performance at the college next week—the production *Back to the 80's...: The Totally Awesome Musical!* I am sure everyone in the chamber wishes them good luck with their performance.

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

Grievance

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [9.48 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Health. I thank him for taking on my concerns today. I would like to acknowledge Rachel and Michael Dark, and also Chas and Stephanie in the gallery today; thank you very much for coming to Parliament House. I will be presenting the minister with a petition of 9 515 signatures, which Rachel and Michael brought with them today, and also some comprehensive information on “Rosie’s Rule”.

Spinal muscular atrophy is a genetic condition that, if left untreated, will almost certainly lead to an early death for children under two. If there has been no in utero diagnosis, the delay in recognising a problem can be a number of weeks or months, depending on the type of SMA. SMA is a neuromuscular disorder, similar in its effect to motor neurone disease in adults, which results in the loss of motor neurons—the nerves in the brain stem and spinal cord that control muscle activity such as breathing, swallowing, speaking and movement. Any time delay in diagnosis will mean the difference between the baby living with severe disabilities, succumbing to an early death or leading a full and normal life. At the moment it is a lottery as to whether an affected spinal muscular atrophy child is born. It is the luck of the draw—a one in four chance from both parents carrying the SMN1 gene that the baby they have will be affected. Until a baby is affected, there is no way of knowing unless the mother has an amniocentesis test, which most mothers would not consider unless there were mitigating circumstances which required them to have this somewhat dangerous test. Parents think the Harmony test will find any hidden issues, but SMA does not appear in this test. Before the drug Spinraza, SMA was the number one genetic killer in babies under two. SMA affects approximately one in 10 000 births and is usually diagnosed before six months of age. In the most common form, the baby will die before their first birthday from a condition the parents probably did not know existed.

Rachel and Michael Dark, from my home town of Katanning, are these parents. They and their family are in the gallery watching this debate. I welcome them here, knowing that for them this is incredibly difficult, but if we can do anything for the family, their daughter and for future parents, we will have achieved something to acknowledge their little girl.

Completely unaware of the existence of SMA, Rachel and Michael welcomed Tom, who is healthy and now four years old. Rosie was born several months ago and has died from complications from SMA. They had her for five and a half short months. During that time, they watched as Rosie struggled to breathe, lost movement of all her limbs and struggled with the fundamental basics of feeding and swallowing. Ultimately, her muscles became so weak, they could no longer support her breathing needs and she succumbed to SMA. If Rosie had been tested for SMA in the first few days of her life, she would have received a life-saving drug, which would have given her a much better life. From her diagnosis at seven weeks, Rosie was later placed in palliative care as her condition had deteriorated severely. I am sure everyone in this place would wish it had been possible for Rosie to have been diagnosed earlier. For any parent to have to make the heartbreaking decision to put their baby into palliative care is unimaginable.

There are currently two pilot programs of SMA testing in the newborn bloodspot screening program. These are in the ACT and NSW. Individual states and territories currently oversee the NBS program—or better known as the heel prick test. There is currently no national consistency for newborn screening. Because the study is so broad, the proposal of this grievance is to add the SMA test to the NBS now rather than wait for the full study results and recommendations. Biogen Australia said in a recent letter to me —

“In 2017, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council ... endorsed the Newborn Bloodspot Screening National Policy Framework, to provide policy guidance and a transparent process for national decision making regarding the conditions screened as part of NBS. The framework also includes a process to add new conditions to the program, reviewed by the Standing Committee on Screening and is based on evidence and cost effectiveness. Recently, the Federal Government approved the inclusion of SMA on the national panel which now allows the states and territories to fund it in their own programs.” July 2021

The cost to the state including the SMA test in the NBS is approximately \$10 per child. The drugs to prevent the progression of SMA are currently available in the pharmaceutical benefits scheme.

In conclusion, I am incredibly thankful that Rachel and Michael have approached me to help in any way I can to publicise this matter. At the moment, parents are probably unaware that SMA exists. I certainly had no idea until Rachel and Michael had Rosie. It has caused immense pain for not only their families, but also our community.

As the opposition, we challenge the McGowan government almost on a daily basis to spend its royalties windfall wisely. I honestly cannot think of a more worthwhile commitment of around \$300 000 per annum for 30 000 families. Some have compared the \$10 heel prick test with the cost of a lifetime of medical needs for the affected child should they have other types of SMA that are not diagnosed until later in life. Although this comparison is perhaps valid, it does not make sense to me that something so utterly avoidable should be compared with an alternative that is unthinkable. The simple fact is that this may have been avoided for Rachel and Michael and the other families who have had to face this grief. I urge the Minister for Health to work on this proposal with his other state counterparts and the federal government, and give future parents the test so they do not have to suffer the pain that this family has had to endure.

I thank the minister for his consideration.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.55 am]: I would like to thank member for Roe for bringing this grievance to the chamber today. Can I also thank member for Roe for introducing me to Michael and Rachel—it was lovely to meet you. Thank you for your small gift of this small bouquet, which I am sure is in the memory of Rosie. I want to pass on our thoughts to you and your family.

For over fifty years the Western Australian newborn bloodspot screening program has been a very successful public health program, screening all babies in Western Australia for a range of serious genetic conditions, such as cystic fibrosis. Parents will be very familiar with the Guthrie test—or the heel prick test—which is taken from a blood sample from the baby’s heel on blotting paper and sent off for testing. It is a very important test—one that often destroys the ambience of a birthing suite as the child expresses its displeasure of having its heel pricked.

The Western Australian government is committed to providing safe and effective screening programs for the Western Australian population. Over recent years, WA has led the country in developing the NBS national policy framework and overseeing a robust process of assessing nominated conditions for inclusion into Australian NBS programs. Many members may not be aware that Western Australia is one of the leading jurisdictions when it comes to rare diseases.

Spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA, which impacted Rosie, is a devastating genetic condition, as the member said. In its most severe form, it can lead to death within the first year of life. Previously, there was no curative treatment for the condition. However, recently approved and experimental therapies can be administered early. They can provide dramatic improvements to the quality of life of babies with SMA. This makes SMA a highly suitable candidate for adding to the NBS. It is important to remember that the NBS is a screening tool, not a diagnostic tool. It is vital for detecting potential harms and benefits through the assessment of the screening process. This provides us with an opportunity to recognise some signs of a particular condition and then enables us to go on to deeper testing,

ensuring we can work out the full diagnosis and therefore what will warrant further investigation and testing. Currently, the NBS program in WA already assists in finding around 35 babies annually with rare conditions. Therefore, members can understand that this is a very important part of the process.

As the member for Roe mentioned, there is a pilot for SMA screening in NSW and the ACT, which is producing important information for Australian jurisdictions. The Western Australian Department of Health is actively reviewing that data. Over the coming months, the Western Australian Department of Health will thoroughly assess the potential benefits, harms and resourcing requirements of adding SMA to the Western Australian NBS program.

Following a thorough investigation and procurement of the required equipment, training of staff, development of the testing protocols and necessary clinical pathways, I am very pleased to announce that the Western Australian Department of Health will commence an implementation pilot program for screening of SMA in the WA NBS program. No doubt this comes down, in part, to the great advocacy of Rachel and Michael on behalf of Rosie, and we would like to congratulate you on this outcome. This will allow the Department of Health, under the guidance of the WA Chief Medical Officer, to collect the required evidence to inform the appropriateness of routinely including the test in the ongoing NBS program.

I would like to conclude by thanking the member for Roe for bringing this issue to the chamber today. I would like to thank Michael and Rachel for your support and advocacy. Member for Roe, we will keep our bouquet to remind ourselves that we need to stay on top of this issue over the coming months to make sure that we can monitor the pilot program and move forward with this important addition to the NBS test.

[Applause.]

ASCOT KILNS — RESTORATION

Grievance

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [10.00 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Heritage, and I thank the minister for taking this grievance this morning. As the minister is well aware, the Ascot kilns are an iconic feature of my electorate in Belmont. It is a feature that I am very passionate about. The minister has come out on a number of occasions to view the kilns. This historic structure is an absolutely beloved aspect of our local community and many of my constituents have expressed a deep connection with the heritage-listed site. The kilns are indeed a treasured part of Belmont's heritage. This has been reflected in the community campaign to preserve the site and restore the ageing kilns. The poor condition of the kilns has been a topic of discussion amongst Belmont residents for a very considerable time. The restoration of the kilns is a cause that I have been passionate about and advocating for even before becoming a member of Parliament, prior to the 2017 campaign. Over the past four years I have worked with local community members to advocate strongly, consistently and passionately for action on this important project and the restoration of these ageing kilns.

I would like to recognise the tireless efforts of the Ascot Kilns and Parry Field Action Group and particularly Sharren Holt and Andrew Gibb, who have been relentless in their pursuit of action on this very, very important issue. I would also like to recognise the advocacy of one of the local councillors in the City of Belmont, George Sekulla, who has also worked hard to bring much-needed attention to this cause.

Early last year, this campaign achieved an enormous victory, with the Ascot kilns being recognised as a state-heritage site. I want to thank and congratulate the Minister for Heritage for making this possible. It is a landmark result for our community, so thank you, Minister Templeman. This gave local residents a greater sense of security that the site would be maintained and protected by the state government and was a very important decision made by our government, so thank you.

However, the campaign did not stop there. Alongside the Ascot Kilns and Parry Field Action Group, I continued to advocate for urgent funding to be allocated for the restoration of the kilns, which had been left for many decades almost in a state of ruin. Late last year, I was absolutely delighted that this funding was announced as part of the state's COVID recovery plan. A commitment of \$6 million for the restoration package for the Ascot kilns was announced by Rita Saffioti. I am incredibly grateful for her support and that of Minister Templeman. That funding has made sure that the kilns will be preserved in perpetuity.

The restoration funding announcement was momentous for the Ascot kilns. However, the true benefit to the community will be the completion of the works. The completion of this project is highly anticipated amongst Ascot locals, especially the Ascot Kilns and Parry Field Action Group. It will mark a new beginning for the site and be a longstanding reminder of the power of local community advocacy. It will provide constituents with a strong connection to the site, and much joy and relief to know that the kilns will continue to be a feature of the local area for many years to come. It will provide Western Australians and tourists alike with a glimpse into the history of our area.

Finally, it will provide closure to Sharren, Andrew, Councillor Sekulla, all of the Ascot Kilns and Parry Field Action Group, many locals and me that the site will continue to be enjoyed by future generations. Given the importance of this project to my electorate of Belmont, I kindly ask the minister to provide an update regarding the progress of the restoration works.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [10.04 am]: I thank the member for Belmont for her grievance today and for her acknowledgement of the community of Belmont, particularly those who have been passionate about ensuring that the Ascot kilns will be protected for future generations. Many of us would know Ascot kilns, having driven past it on the way to Ascot Racecourse. People need to appreciate just how remarkable these kilns are and why the member for Belmont deserves acknowledgement for her strong advocacy for and work with the Ascot Kilns and Parry Field Action Group, which has been so passionate about protecting them, and the individuals the member mentioned in her grievance this morning.

As members would be aware, listing on the state register is reserved only for those heritage assets that are of state significance. That is why it was very important that we ensured that the Ascot kilns site was entered on the state register last May. We need to understand the significance of these kilns. The site comprises eight circular kilns and five iconic brick chimney stacks. It is one of the largest collections of its type still standing in Australia. In addition to the industrial and economic impacts that the former kiln operations had, the Ascot kilns produced clay pipes and terracotta tiles that characterised our community infrastructure and building infrastructure for more than 70 years. Throughout the Perth metropolitan area is the legacy of what was produced and created there. Of course, the kilns also pay homage to a lost art; that is, the art of beehive kiln construction. The beehive kilns are a unique kiln construction. We understand that there is no known living artist left in Australia who has experience in the construction of the beehive kilns, so we have now lost that craft in Australia. No living person is connected to that, underpinning importance of the protection of this site. That is why we invested \$6 million in it. It is because of the advocacy of the member for Belmont and those community members that \$6 million has been invested through the WA Recovery Plan. Those works are now underway, which is important.

I think this site will be a very special place for a whole range of reasons. It is of note to the house that previous budget proposals for an increase in spending on this project were not supported; therefore, achieving the \$6 million allocation was remarkable. A multidisciplinary team has been appointed for the job of the restoration and protection of this asset. That team includes qualified heritage architects and engineers, who only recently completed an assessment of the condition of the kilns and those important chimney stacks. The assessment will help inform the next stage, which will go to the design, plan and scope of conservation works to secure the structural integrity of the chimneys and the kilns and will assist also with the sourcing of authentic materials and inform the conservation approach in accordance with the borough charter. This project will be very much focused on high-quality protection and conservation works. It is a complex project, but it is a necessary one. It is estimated to be completed within the next two years. Importantly, the funding provides an opportunity for additional local jobs and, given the unique nature of the structure, is expected to increase the expertise of heritage builders within Western Australia. The full works package will involve the repair, replacement and upgrading of structures, the construction of a new roof canopy to ensure protection from the elements, and the installation of lighting to highlight the unique heritage features. I think this is going to be a great feature. At night, it will be lit up beautifully and will be a special place for people as they pass by, including pedestrians and cyclists.

We also know about the *Brick Man* statue that was anonymously gifted just prior to Christmas last year. This is an example of an urban guerilla art installation. The statue appeared mysteriously on the site on the night of 22 December 2020. The *Brick Man* statue is 10-foot tall. It captures the imagination of the local community for its acknowledgement of Sir Hugh Lancelot Brisbane, a former industrialist and philanthropist and an owner of the former Bristle clay company. The artwork is the result of considerable time and investment, and we are working with the artist to safely protect and relocate the statue while works are underway before returning it to pride of place at the Ascot kilns. This piece of urban art installation will be part of this precinct.

Mr D.J. Kelly: I thought it was you, minister!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It certainly has very chiselled looks—a very good likeness, I might say.

I thank the member for Belmont for bringing this grievance seeking an update on the works and acknowledging the importance of this project. I also thank her for her advocacy and also her acknowledgement of those community people who have advocated so long for the protection of these kilns. These kilns will now be protected, and they should be. That is occurring, with gratitude to you, member, and those community members. I look forward to the completion of the project.

ARTS AND CULTURE TRUST BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 4 August.

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.10 am]: It is a genuine pleasure this morning to speak to the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021. This is the first piece of legislation that I have had the privilege to ride shotgun on with the Minister for Culture and the Arts in my capacity as his parliamentary secretary. It was absolutely fascinating to go through the development of this legislation over the road at Dumas House and now to speak on it in the Parliament. It is a significant piece of legislation that reflects the importance of thinking outside the square in not only our economic development priorities but also the role that arts and culture has to make Western Australia a thriving, fascinating place to live, work and visit.

The Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 is a reform initiative to improve the governance of state-owned arts and cultural assets. It will create a contemporary statutory authority that will have much broader powers than the Perth Theatre Trust, which currently governs these assets. The trust is limited to managing performing arts theatres. I am sure everybody appreciates that performances can occur in all manner of spaces and that many opportunities present themselves in the commercial sphere for the arts sector that the trust needs more scope and capacity to pursue.

The Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2020 was passed in this place in the fortieth Parliament and was read into the Legislative Council, but like so many other pieces of legislation it languished there because of the inability of some members in the other place to get on and do their job and pass some fabulous legislation. So the bill has come back to us. It is probably fortunate that was the case with this legislation, because during the course of the election a \$100 million commitment was made to a screen production facility. On review by the State Solicitor's Office, it was found that although the 2020 bill could have been interpreted broadly enough so that the trust could develop the screen production facility, the legislation could be improved. This bill will put that in no doubt and enable the trust to get on and develop what I have no doubt will be a fabulous facility and a genuine enabling facility.

This current iteration of the Arts and Culture Trust Bill was introduced into our Parliament on 23 June. Following the passage of this bill, the new Arts and Culture Trust will have the power to manage all kinds of arts and culture venues, including outdoor spaces such as the Perth Cultural Centre. I have a particular vested interest in the Perth Cultural Centre, being the chair of the task force that is developing the future plan for that precinct. But I am not the first chair, so I acknowledge the excellent work and driving force behind the reinvigoration of the Perth Cultural Centre, the member for Perth, now the Minister for Housing. He put an extraordinary effort into that. I acknowledge his leadership. I feel a bit like Steven Bradbury, skating through at the end and bringing home a project that was led magnificently by the member for Perth. Indeed, the task force acknowledged his contribution to this project at our most recent meeting, and I look forward today to cutting some ribbons with him. He will make a fine ribbon cutter at the Perth Cultural Centre.

This Arts and Culture Trust will hold state-owned assets that are assigned to it and, potentially, any privately owned assets from partnerships that it enters into. The bill creates scope for better and more partnerships between public and private sector entities. I am a strong believer in those partnerships. These partnerships will bring capital that the state may not necessarily have had access to and will enable both entities to learn from one another. State-owned entities will have a window into commerciality and the drivers that the private sector perceive as necessary to bring assets into being. Private sector entities will understand the drivers that public entities have in deepening the cultural tapestry around the state and delivering public value. These sorts of partnerships can be remarkably effective. Far more scope exists for these partnerships across a range of sectors, and I am very interested to see how this bill will assist those sorts of market innovations to be brought to bear.

The existing institutions under the auspices of the Perth Theatre Trust, such as the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and the State Library of Western Australia, and the buildings and collections that they care for will be linked to a purpose-designed contemporary statutory authority that has specific focus on arts and culture assets. The bill makes a whole heap of improvements to governance, particularly the composition of the board. At the moment, the Perth Theatre Trust board must have three of its eight members coming from the City of Perth. The trust owns a series of assets all around Western Australia, so it is more appropriate that the board is modernised and it is more broadly constituted and reflective of the jurisdictions in which it could potentially own assets—as I will talk about shortly—or at least temporarily manage them.

As I was saying before, the trust will have increased power to participate in commercial activities and business arrangements. The bill will allow the trust to optimise those commercial opportunities and the business potential of the assets. The trust will have the ability to operate under different trading names and to have much broader employment powers, so it can be far more nimble than it has been. The government will also be able to declare a state-funded arts organisation to be a resident company in these assets. A really interesting part of this is that the trust will be able to hold short-term events or take up opportunities that often arise in the culture and the arts sector. With the agreement of all parties, events will be able to be held anywhere and the minister can declare that venues for these types of events fall under the purview of the Arts and Culture Trust, and a place can be designated for any duration that the minister thinks appropriate. That will mean that all sorts of events can happen in all sorts of spaces such as parks and heritage assets. We can start thinking outside the square about the sorts of performances and experiences that will enrich our communities.

There are requirements now around the possession of certain skills and the experience of board members, and I think that is important. Boards themselves need subject matter experts and no doubt people who understand culture and the arts, but they also need skills around financial management, corporate governance and strategic planning. The broad array of skills and the composition of boards will be integral to leading our cultural and arts institutions forward and, indeed, developing the sector as a whole. If we want a flourishing culture and arts ecosystem, we need diverse boards with membership, as much as possible, drawn from all around the state and with a range of skills and experience to help develop that ecosystem.

As I was saying before, that was pretty much the intent of the original iteration of the Arts and Culture Trust Bill. The government made an election commitment to develop the film studio, which I want to speak to briefly, because this legislation will enable that facility to come under the Arts and Culture Trust. The \$100 million commitment is for a state-of-the-art film studio, which will be a really amazing critical piece of infrastructure to help our film industry nudge up to the next level. It is accompanied by a \$20 million commitment for a screen production attraction fund that will help us get our hands on some federal money. This sort of world-class facility will generate I think not only around 580 jobs in construction, but also another 2 800 film production and precinct hospitality jobs each year over the longer term. It is not just about the jobs at that facility. In my new role, I have been speaking to a heap of stakeholders in the sector. The idea is really quite appealing for a hub to emerge in Fremantle where companies that have a much broader interest than just using the film production facility would co-locate, so the production companies, sound engineers and all sorts of businesses could spring up around the production facility itself. At the moment, a lot of those businesses are dispersed throughout the Perth metropolitan region. They would love a hub. We know what happens: we bump into someone in a cafe or as we are walking down the street or sitting down having lunch in a nearby park and we just start chatting. That can spawn some fabulous ideas. Innovation hubs are integral to promoting and helping an industry to develop. I am really excited to continue to observe the development of that project and the characteristics of the screen production attraction fund. We already have funding to encourage film production in the regions, but to see something developed and delivered also for the metropolitan area will be fantastic.

One of the things that I was most excited about when I was given the great privilege to serve in the government as a parliamentary secretary was the portfolios I have been assigned—culture and the arts, tourism and heritage. I am a bit of a one-trick pony sometimes and I have spent the last 15 years of my career focused on energy. Everyone knows that and I can become a bore, frankly, so I will not speak on it today, but I am a bit of a one-trick pony on energy! It is funny when we are asked to think outside our comfort area how we realise that there are significant opportunities in other aspects of government. It is a deep privilege to do this job. I am all about energy because I see the genuine potential to unlock the economic potential of the state. It is a driver. Cheap energy means we have competitive manufacturing, which drives exports and a series of different processing industries and, indeed, it eases the burden on our households. Energy is a great enabler. However, coming into a new set of portfolios, one of the things I have come to very deeply appreciate is that, as a state, we are quite rightly typically rather focused on resources, energy and mining—fabulous. But we need to think outside the square and genuinely think about what else we can do to diversify our economy. Where else are our core strengths and what can we do for our economic development objectives?

I think there is a fabulous set of opportunities in tourism and culture and the arts. It is a great privilege to, firstly, speak to this legislation, which I think will unlock a heap of that economic potential in culture and the arts and cultural industries. But we need also to think more broadly: if we have a thriving arts centre, it will make Perth and Western Australia not only a fabulous place to live but also a great place to visit. If we think more broadly outside tourism and start thinking about a visitor economy and consider all the film production entities that come into the state, we realise that there will be people coming in from outside and other people will be accompanying them. That itself will drive forward a tourism or visitor economy. This will be a fabulous piece of infrastructure for those who are into the arts and love hearing Western Australian stories and want to see more of those stories told about us as a society. However, it will also be a significant economic enabler and because it will tell people stories about Western Australians, it will pique their interest to come and see us, and that is what we want.

I remember being in Singapore—I cannot remember when, it was so long ago—wandering around the streets. I did not realise that in Singapore nothing happens until about lunchtime, but I was ready for a good hardcore shop from nine o'clock in the morning! I wondered why all the shops were closed and thought: what is this place? However, on the steps of the Singapore library, I happened to stumble across a Bollywood film being shot. It was absolutely unbelievable. There were incredibly bright colours, expansive crews and lots of dancing going on. It was mesmerising; it was a genuine Indian cultural experience in Singapore and it was one of the highlights of my trip there. Would it not be wonderful if we could see things like that pop up around the Perth metropolitan area?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member, I have an idea of having a Bollywood movie set in Rottneest with the quokkas! I think that would be priceless.

Ms J.J. SHAW: That would be fabulous; it would be great. There are possibilities and potential. It is not about just film. The screen production facility will prompt a lot of innovation with virtual reality. I do not know; to be honest, I can be a bit of a Luddite sometimes, but some really smart people are doing cool things with video games, and a lot of them are in my electorate. This will certainly be something in the augmented reality space that, again, we could promote.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: I have spoken this morning on the economic development objectives and the great potential for the state with the establishment of the Arts and Culture Trust. However, I want to speak about the more specific and highly localised benefits that a facility like this can deliver. As I have said, this legislation will enable the

identification, operation and holding of events at sites right around the state. I want to highlight how important that will be to bringing the arts to the outer metropolitan region, which is an often overlooked aspect. I represent probably one of the outer-most metropolitan seats—Swan Hills.

Ms C.M. Rowe: Peri-urban.

Ms J.J. SHAW: It is peri-urban, thank you, member for Belmont. I represent Ellenbrook and an area all the way up into the Perth hills. We have a thriving and diverse arts community out there and I want to see more outer metropolitan arts events. I particularly want to highlight and encourage these outer metropolitan communities to celebrate their diversity and creativity. I think this trust will be a vehicle for that. Beyond the economic development imperatives, there is so much to say about enriching our cultural tapestry and deepening our community links around the arts. These are important points to highlight.

I want to speak about some arts events that have been held recently in my community, which demonstrate the depth of talent we have, the interest in arts participation in our communities and the prospect for hosting arts events in the outer metropolitan area. In Ellenbrook, we have the Ellenbrook Cultural Foundation, and on 16 July it held its Ellenbrook Open Art Award. That has been going for seven years. I have been sponsoring those awards for five of those seven years and at the very least I always sponsor the youth prize and some other awards as we go through. I want to congratulate the executive director of Ellenbrook Arts, Gemma Ben-Ary. She is amazing. I think she has been with Ellenbrook Arts now for three years. She does a great job. I also acknowledge the chair of Ellenbrook Arts, Danny Murphy, who really has made such an astonishing contribution to the development of Ellenbrook, and shepherds the Ellenbrook Cultural Foundation very aptly. The Ellenbrook Open Art Award is an open award. It is a non-acquisitive prize open to all Western Australian artists, but we have a particular focus on Ellenbrook and our surrounding areas. The aim of the award is to promote, nurture and cultivate excellence in the visual arts for the Ellenbrook community and allow members of Ellenbrook Arts to participate and become involved in various ways. We have a beautiful and really iconic building in the centre of Ellenbrook. It has beautiful light. The exhibitions that are hosted there, and particularly the Ellenbrook arts awards, are just fantastic. We have travelling exhibitions in there and the studios themselves are well attended. A lot of people in Ellenbrook pop in. It is across the road from a coffee shop. It really is a fabulous facility that is very well utilised and could be a fabulous performance space. It is associated with surrounding parks as well.

I want to acknowledge the three judges of the Ellenbrook Open Art Award, Polla Posavec, Stuart Elliott and Danielle Fusco. They gave me these expansive descriptions of the winning artworks that were genuinely tongue-tying, so I stumbled over that bit during my speech! I will quickly run through the winners. The winner for sculpture in 3D was Bianca Butler for *Forage*, for painting it was Kat Ferguson for *I Love Me*, and for works on paper it was Amy Marshall for *Thunderstruck*. That was an amazing picture. It was a picture in pencil of this little kid and he had this AC/DC T-shirt and he was giving little hand gestures. It was such an expressive picture. I absolutely loved it. The mixed media prize was awarded to Josephine Duval for *Cottesloe Colours*. The photography prize went to Dan Robinson for *Café Break*. It was a really interesting photograph. It is just of a gentleman sitting in a cafe drinking his coffee while reading the paper, but the surrounding setting and the way that the light came into the windows made it a really fabulous photograph. The prize for printmaking went to the work *Three for Tea in Colour*. That was a lino printing of three teacups that had been water coloured in, and that was really beautiful. The Wulff glass award went to Philip Maher for *Static Falls*. The

youth award went to Ellie Sutherland for *Willows*. That was a really cool picture. It was almost like anime, with really dark colours and really chiselled features. It was a really beautiful work of art. In fact, Ellie won the youth award prize last year too. A few years ago the art prize was won by a young woman called Sahara du Pont and she did this incredible picture of this island with storm clouds coming over it and this ship in the distance. It was really atmospheric. I actually bought it and it hangs in my office, if anyone wants to pop in and see it. It always gets comments. People either love it or hate it, but it always gets comments. The City of Swan award went to John B. Whitehead for *Memories*. The highly commended award went to Norma Schwind for *The Waiting Room*. The overall winner award went to Eve Wolf for *Pilings*. This is a really amazing piece of art. It is like these pylons, if you like, on a jetty above a body of water opposite the old Fremantle power station. Rather than it being a painting as such, it is like these giant pixels of colour, and you really have to step back and see the power station reflected in the body of water itself. It is a really interesting piece. I want to make special mention of a piece by Corrine Rapley called *Moon Clouds over the Estuary*. I mention it for two reasons. Firstly, I fell in love with it and I bought it. I thought it was the most remarkable piece of art. The Minister for Culture and the Arts may be interested to know that I got in touch with Corrine Rapley, who is a constituent of his, and I understand she has painted a portrait of him.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Yes, of course, I did sit for her.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, is it sitting in an attic looking older as the days go by?

Ms J.J. SHAW: If the minister keeps up his singing, he may end up tattooed on someone's calf! It was quite interesting. She said she had painted David Templeman, so there we go. I meant to mention it to the minister the other day, but I overlooked it, so I thought I would just throw it in then!

The Ellenbrook art awards were absolutely fabulous. On Friday just gone, I went back to the studio—I try to get along there quite frequently—because we launched the opening of the Ellenbrook–Swan Open Studios. There are all these little ecosystems of artists all through the Ellenbrook–Swan Valley region and they had an open studios event. Twenty-one local artists opened their homes and studios. People could call in on the artists and see them at work, have a chat to them about their process and what inspires them, and they could buy some of their artwork. So many of them are in these little houses in Ellenbrook, and it brings home just how many people are in the arts and the reasons that so many people participate. A lot of people got into the arts because they were feeling stressed or anxious, particularly during a COVID lockdown, and they find it a really great way to relax, improve mindfulness and express creativity. When I visit artists in their studios, I find they seem very comfortable to speak about their process and their work. The passion is palpable. It is a genuine pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to our artists. I know the Margaret River Region Open Studios event is coming up shortly. That was the inspiration for the Ellenbrook–Swan Valley Open Studios. It had to be cancelled last year because of COVID, so this is the third year. We just skipped a year for COVID. I really hope this event continues to come along. It reminds us again of just what a fabulous, vibrant arts community we have.

There are also many artists peppered throughout the hills region of my electorate, but I am sure all of us have our stories about our vibrant arts communities. All of us will be able to talk to the talent, diversity, depth, excitement and energy we have. I think we need to celebrate the arts for our children in particular, because there is a lot put into kids in sport. I love kids in sport; it is great. It is a healthy way of being, but not every kid is a sporting superstar. I certainly was not. I wear bulletproof glasses! I got smacked in the face by my fair share of basketballs and God knows what! I am not particularly talented either, I might add. Letting children feel that they can be included, they are talented and that we appreciate the effort that goes in piques interest in the arts at a young age. Interests in the arts at a young age will just foster a lifetime of love and learning about the arts and participation in the arts. It will help children find their tribe, when sometimes in a bit of a sport-obsessed culture it may be difficult for them to do so. I am very excited about the passage of this bill.

There is one last thing I will mention while I have the opportunity and the floor. Ellenbrook Arts does much more, and this is a very important point. It is not just about displaying works; it is about bringing people together. Ellenbrook Cultural Foundation, Ellenbrook Arts, is working with the Ellenbrook Multicultural Community, which is a little community group that I have helped a number of people to come together and establish. We want to celebrate the diversity in Ellenbrook. Ellenbrook Arts is working with us to develop a spring festival. We had our first event in March last year—I mean this year in March, not last year in March; nobody was doing anything then. We had the Ellenbrook Mile Harmony Walk. We all walked together. We did this walk and all different communities came together. We had a little celebration in the park at the end of it, with dance and art from all our different communities. We want to make it even bigger this year.

I want to congratulate the chair of the Ellenbrook Multicultural Community, Prabhjot Singh, from Bennett Springs—what an upstanding and remarkable young man Prabhjot is—and also Robyn Pickrell from the Ellenbrook Mile. The two of them put so much energy and effort into both the Ellenbrook Mile and the Ellenbrook Multicultural Community.

The other members of the committee for this multicultural event are Irene Chong from the Ellenbrook Mile; John Aciek from the South Sudanese society; Helen Pickett-Gale from the City of Swan; Glynn Davies and David Karr from the Ellenbrook and Districts Residents and Ratepayers Association; Chai Chua from the Ellenbrook Asian community; Rod Simeons, the principal of Anne Hamersley Primary School, which is probably the most diverse primary school in my electorate; Aniwa Graham-Siliva from the Cook Island community; Gemma Ben-Ary from Ellenbrook Arts; and Susan Ketchi, who has an amazing passion for African dance and drama. She is infectious. I want to thank as well Vaughn McGuire for bringing sensitivity to and grounding our events with such a sense of history and place, and for recognising and forcing us all to reflect on the importance of our Aboriginal community, particularly in our part of the Swan River, the Derbarl Yerrigan, which has such an important and significant Aboriginal cultural history. Our spring event will hopefully be a real celebration of art, diversity and the richness of our community. It will bring us all together—the arts do that. This Arts and Culture Trust Bill will enhance our capacity to continue to do so.

Congratulations, minister, on bringing this bill forward; I am really looking forward to working with you to implement it. Thank you to all the public service officers who also put so much into developing this bill for us now to debate.

MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough) [10.41 am]: I rise to speak on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 and to show my support for the vision of this McGowan government for a vibrant and strong culture and arts sector in Western Australia. By transforming the Perth Theatre Trust into the Arts and Culture Trust, the new trust will be given greater responsibilities, broader powers, and greater flexibility to carry out its duties. It will ensure the vision of the McGowan government to have a trust that can manage cultural assets extending past theatres, and ensure that the arts and culture sector in Western Australia is supported to grow and compete on both the national and the world stage. This is one of several reforms by the McGowan government to ensure that our public sector is a highly capable and modern service able to deliver high-quality services to the Western Australian public.

By allowing the wonderful and talented Minister for Culture and the Arts to declare state-funded arts organisations to be resident companies, this reform will recognise the importance of these organisations to the cultural and artistic fabric of Western Australia by requiring the new trust to consider their activities when conducting programming of trust venues and other similar activities. It will also provide the trust with flexibility to support and create events not just in theatres, but also in venues around the state and in our local communities.

I am proud to say that my local Scarborough community is home to a strong arts and cultural scene. One of our longest serving clubs is Trigg Art Club, which was formed in 1969 and has grown from 10 members to around 100 members since that time. Trigg Art Club is based out of Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club. The main objective of Trigg Art Club over its 50 years of operation has been to raise money for the Trigg Island surf club by exhibiting local art within its premises and selling it to the local community. The club raised over \$9 000 at a recent exhibit, which will go directly to the surf club to assist in saving lives on our local beaches, a matter close to my heart. I currently have a beautiful piece of art painted by the wonderful Sandra Menegola above my desk in my office in Parliament.

I would also like to thank Ann Dunstan, the president of Trigg Art Club, for welcoming me to one of its community art sessions. I must admit that my talent for art is not the best. I can say that I will not be putting any of my artwork above anyone's desk in this Parliament, but I will say that I was wonderfully welcomed and very much enjoyed the opportunity to have a crack at painting, even though it is not my best talent. I would also like to thank Hon Graham Edwards, a former upper house member of this Parliament for the Labor Party, for his ongoing support as patron of Trigg Art Club.

In Scarborough, we have not only Trigg Art Club, but also local town teams that put art and culture at the top of what they are doing to try to increase the vibrancy of our local community. Bend in the Road is a community group that is located in Doubleview in the Scarborough electorate. It consists of local residents and business owners who are passionate about activities and aesthetics along the stretch of Scarborough Beach Road known as "the bend in the road", as well as the vibrancy of the community that feeds into and out of this local business precinct. It is doing this by supporting local artists and the community to brighten our community with beautiful murals on local businesses, such as the mural recently painted on local cafe Dunn and Walton in Doubleview, and also through its community art trail, which features artworks by local community members, artists and creatives that celebrate our diverse neighbourhood. It also does this by hosting events such as Jazz in the Park to provide local residents an opportunity to get out and enjoy some of our local artists in the Scarborough community.

As well as this group, we have Art Space Collective. I had the pleasure of attending a recent event by Art Space Collective exhibiting local art and live music by local artists. Art Space Collective is an inspired and innovative community hub, which, in the words of Leon Pericles, aims to "inject art into the non-believers". I cannot say I am a non-believer, but it definitely did inject some good art into me. It is run by a team of skilled, dedicated, humorous and elegant volunteers. Art Space Collective is housed in what was Scarborough's first gallery, alongside an area of artisan workshops in which creatives and the local community can come together to connect with art and ideas, and each other.

For other local artists and photographers who want to display their works, there is no better place than the bustling Livid Skate Cafe. Owner Oska Tallis is passionate about supporting local artists and creating a vibrant and cosy venue for people to enjoy local art and coffee. Livid is also well known for its street parties, regularly providing opportunities for local talent to entertain Scarborough residents, including me, through live music in the confines of its activated alleyway. Livid is one of the eight businesses across the Scarborough Beach precinct that host Jazz by the Beach. This is an annual initiative run by the Scarborough Beach Association. It is a cultural and lively experience running over two days. It will be held this weekend, on 14 and 15 August. I encourage all members of this house in the area to attend and enjoy the weekend. It is an exciting program that activates the Scarborough Beach precinct with some of Perth's best performers.

Scarborough is continuing to grow and reach its potential, not just as a world-class beach precinct, but also as a cultural and arts hub. I look forward to seeing the support of the Arts and Culture Trust for the local talent of the Scarborough arts and culture community.

I also look forward to seeing both young and old members of the Scarborough and Western Australian community achieve their dreams on the big screen here in Western Australia with the Arts and Culture Trust's responsibility for delivering on the McGowan government's commitment to the proposed \$100 million state-of-the-art screen production facility in Fremantle. The studios will support the creation of feature, factual and animation productions for television and cinema, as well as commercial streaming and gaming. The government's commitment to this facility will fill this gap, which has been a major disadvantage in being able to attract international productions to Western Australia. It will assist in helping to share our state's unique and diverse natural and pristine beauty, stunning light and vast open blue skies, our local talent, and our Western Australian stories, culture and landscapes, and showcase our state to the world, providing a boost for tourism.

This is a clear example of how the McGowan government is fulfilling its vision for a brighter and more vibrant future for the arts and culture industry in Western Australia. I commend this bill to the house.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [10.48 am]: I also rise to speak in support of the Arts and Culture Bill 2021. I want to begin by congratulating the Minister for Culture and the Arts for introducing this important bill to the house. I also want to commend all the speakers who have spoken before me on this bill.

I have to say that I have been impressed to learn much about the hidden talents of my colleagues in this place. Although the minister's skills in cabaret and singing are legendary, I have also enjoyed learning about the karaoke talent of the member for Kingsley and the film interests of the member for Belmont, and the talents of many other members as well. What I take away from the many reflections of other members during this debate is how important the arts and culture is to our lives and how essential the arts and culture is to all of us. We all have a story to tell about how arts and culture has shaped us and impacted our lives. We can all remember a performance or a show that has stirred strong emotions or perhaps given us a new insight. It is arts and culture that gives our lives much colour and meaning. Arts and culture helps us tell our story to each other and to the world. It helps us to understand not only our human experiences that we share, but also our unique journeys, and it helps us to understand who we are.

It was just this week that many of us in this chamber witnessed the excellent performance of *Edith*. The story of Edith Cowan, the first woman elected to the Western Australian Parliament, might be a story that we are in fact very familiar with. But the performance earlier this week really brought her story and her experience to life for me. I thought that that performance brilliantly captured the very lonely but resolute figure she must have been as she walked through these corridors and stood to make her maiden speech, as it was known at the time. This was brilliantly contrasted with the Aboriginal woman who represented our current generation, looking back at that historical moment and making sense of all that has happened since Edith Cowan was elected, and also with the ghost of Sir John Forrest who disbelieved that a woman could be elected into the WA Parliament. That very simple performance actually gave us a better, deeper and more profound understanding of our history, our Parliament and the story of women's journey into this place from not only Edith Cowan's election 100 years ago, but also our collective journey since that time. That is a perfect illustration of why arts and culture is so valuable to our society. It helps us to understand our place in history and the world and it helps to reimagine who we are.

As there has been much disclosure of artistic talents during the comments on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill, I want to share that it is a little-known fact that I have some limited artistic talent myself. I use the word "limited" with purpose. My debut performance was playing the recorder—not very well, I add—as a grade 3 student at the Wagin music festival. I am sorry that the member for Roe is not here to hear that that was my debut performance and to hear me reflect on the Wagin music festival because I am sure that he probably remembers it fondly. It is true that my dreams of becoming a musical prodigy ended early with that debut performance being my only performance before I retired from playing the recorder forever. No doubt my parents were thrilled with that decision. I was, however, part of the Broomehill Primary School choir that went on to win the choir section of that same festival the following year. It was possibly the best result ever achieved by Broomehill Primary School at that festival despite the fact that we travelled to Wagin every year to participate. I would like to think that perhaps my choir contribution helped to secure that outstanding performance in that one year.

The place my artistic talents really came to the fore was in high school drama productions. I have to say that probably very few of my former school colleagues have been surprised to discover my current occupation. I was a keen participant in drama productions throughout my high school years, performing with very little public acclaim, but with a great deal of enthusiasm on my part. I think it is safe to say that all of my stage exploits from that time have disappeared without a trace into history to be very happily forgotten. But the point of this is really to reflect how my experience as a student and as a young person is one that is common for many young people. Despite there being no prospect that I would make a career from my artistic pursuits, I was encouraged to participate and I got a great deal of joy and happiness from doing so. Perhaps it is true to say that my passion for drama and an understanding of voice projection may have assisted in my eventual career choices—who can say?

We continue to encourage our students and our young people to participate in the arts, in drama and in cultural pursuits because it helps them to build confidence and self-esteem as well as learn about our history and the world around them. It also helps our young people learn new skills. It gives kids who are less academically talented an opportunity to shine and it provides a creative outlet that can be a welcome relief from the demands of schooling and the curriculum.

It is impossible to imagine our young children participating in kindy or pre-primary without also recognising the dazzling array of craft and paintings and buildings made from cardboard boxes that they bring home from kindergarten and pre-primary. I can attest to a great many objects that are still in my home, lovingly made by my two boys many, many years ago. Art, performance and creativity are essential parts of early childhood development and engagement. This is true for not just our generation; throughout all of human history we have expressed ourselves through dance, performance, drawings and sculpture.

With the current focus on our young people acquiring skills in science, technology, engineering and maths, it is important to remember the important role that the arts play in this as well. Many people advocate for not just the concept of STEM, but STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—recognising that arts and

creativity need to be central to our creative pursuits and that we cannot be at the forefront of technology and innovation unless we also creatively and artistically develop our minds. It is through the meeting of the technical and creative skills that we are able to imagine great innovations and take those significant steps forward. It remains essential that we continue to support and foster the arts, particularly in our young people.

I am particularly pleased that the McGowan government has committed \$4 million to build a performing arts centre at Balga Senior High School in my electorate of Mirrabooka. This is an example of some of the great work being done by the McGowan government to support the arts and our young people's education. Students at Balga Senior High School and, indeed, at all schools need a range of pathways and learning opportunities to ensure that they not only remain engaged with the education system, but also have access to a wide range of career paths and opportunities. I want to congratulate the principal at Balga Senior High School, Mark Carton, and also the board and staff for their hard work to ensure that students at Balga Senior High School always have access to a wide range of pathways and who help their students to find their feet and career paths that are they are passionate about. The new performing arts centre will provide excellent facilities for our students. It will enhance their career opportunities and I hope that it will nurture great local talent to high levels of success. I am very excited about this project and what it will contribute to not only our local students, but also the whole Balga community, because community groups also use the high school campus for a range of after-hours activities.

Members will know that Mirrabooka is a vibrant and multicultural part of our metropolitan area. A great many vibrant cultural performances and activities occur every weekend in my electorate. They showcase culture, dance and music from around the world, and whilst international travel remains difficult for the majority of us, I encourage all members to experience the cultural pursuits that they can readily pursue in the electorate of Mirrabooka. It is a way of travelling the world without leaving the metropolitan area.

The bill before us not only will replace the Perth Theatre Trust with the Arts and Culture Trust, but contains amendments to provide the legislative authority for Western Australia's proposed new screen facility. Many members before me have spoken on this. The amendments will enable the state government to establish, own and operate the screen production facility business, and enter into a management agreement. I want to add my voice to the speakers before me to say how excited I am about the government's commitment to building a \$100 million studio in Fremantle. Although Fremantle is some distance from Mirrabooka, I think we can all agree that it is an exciting proposal for the whole state. It is a project that will benefit us all. It will provide jobs and opportunities in both its construction stage and when it becomes operational. In building such a facility, we create jobs along with opportunities for the future. Bringing the film industry to Western Australia is also an excellent way of creating ongoing employment and skilled jobs—not only in the arts but also in other areas. Not only artists will benefit from access to the film studio; people in other occupations will also benefit, including those in catering, lighting, other technical roles and a wide range of ancillary services. I think we can all recognise that building this world-class facility in Fremantle will bring fabulous opportunities to showcase our state and hopefully bring tourists to Western Australia. I am excited about the government's commitment to building this studio because of what it will provide, not only for those whose pursuits are artistic, but also for those who want to see our economy further diversified through the jobs that it will create and the opportunities it will create for our young people.

I am equally excited about the election commitment of funds towards an Aboriginal cultural centre on the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan. The government made a \$50 million election commitment towards work on this proposal. I think we all agree that highlighting and celebrating the culture and history of our First Nations people is a good thing to do and the right thing to do; we should do it. But it is also much more than that. It is, again, an important contribution towards a world-class tourism facility. When our international borders reopen, I think it will bring many visitors to our state and encourage a deeper understanding of the First Nations people's connection to land and culture. The government is making many investments in arts and culture to recognise that our cultural heritage is an important part of who we are. Investing in the arts and culture is not just a frivolous pursuit; it is an opportunity and an important strategy to diversify our economy and create a range of job opportunities for the state today and into the future.

Given that the arts and culture is so central to our social and economic wellbeing—many members have spoken about that—I want to reflect on the fact that the arts sector has been badly neglected by the federal Liberal government during the COVID period we have just experienced. I particularly note that many performers I have spoken to and am aware of have suffered during this time due to the inherently insecure nature of their work. Because of this, they were unable to access the federal government's JobKeeper payments over the last year. Despite many representations and calls for the federal government to address this, it has declined to provide support to workers in the arts sector. It has been a very difficult 18 months or so for those who work in the performing arts.

Although today we are quite rightly celebrating our artists and performers, we need to remain vigilant to ensure that artists are able to make a living from their artistic endeavours. Because of the lack of shows and artists' inability to access financial support through JobKeeper, many performing artists have found the last 18 months incredibly difficult. I want to put on the record today my appreciation of them and my hope that the federal government's decision has not left a lasting legacy of devastation of our arts sector.

I am very heartened by the debate we have had on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021; it reconfirms the centrality of the arts to our identity. However, those sentiments are meaningless if we are to throw our artists and creative workers under the bus. They do not enjoy the same employment benefits that many others in our economy enjoy because of the inherently insecure nature of their work.

The arts in WA have evolved substantially since the Perth Theatre Trust was first established in 1978. We now enjoy many vibrant arts festivals, like the Fringe World Festival and the Perth International Arts Festival. We recognise that many of these performances are held in a wide variety of spaces and different places. That is, indeed, part of the attraction of many of those events. It is no longer the case that attending an arts performance requires attendance at a well-known bricks-and-mortar theatre. For example, it is a wonderful experience to see a performance in the Spiegeltent at the Fringe World Festival; the venue itself is a work of art before any performances take place. We can also all recognise the opportunities that the wonderful WA Museum Boola Bardip at the Perth Cultural Centre provides to ensure we can properly activate a space that is already dedicated to the arts but now also includes a wide number of truly excellent buildings and spaces that can be activated for the purposes of artistic pursuits.

These are all fantastic developments. Our climate and our magnificent landscape mean we are well placed to deliver arts and culture in a wide variety of places, both permanent and temporary. As speakers before me have noted, we are blessed in Western Australia with a landscape of great beauty and magnificence. Does it not then make sense that we should celebrate the unique cultural beauty of our landscape by including it where possible in a wide range of outdoor venues?

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: These kinds of developments are envisaged by this bill, which gives the trust powers to manage all kinds of arts and cultural venues, including outdoor spaces such as the Perth Cultural Centre. Regional members of Parliament will be very heartened by the potential this has for bringing performances to their regions and delivering them in spaces that might not necessarily have traditionally been used for artistic pursuits.

I think one of the great things about this debate is the opportunity for members of Parliament to reflect on how much the arts enrich our lives and enhance our society. It is also a wonderful thing to have the opportunity to speak about the arts and what they mean to us. We have collectively reflected on many great memories of the performances we have seen—or, indeed, the less great performances we may have given! For me, that really underlines the fact that we all have a connection to the arts. Arts and culture is important to us all. They are important to our society and are an important part of our economic diversity. Arts is a part of all of our journeys, whether we are talking about simple paintings in preschool or less than impressive dramatic performances in high school, or about those who go forth and make a career from the arts or are actively watching and viewing arts. It is right for the arts to be supported in our state, and it is right for the arts to be supported throughout our lifetime. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the house.

MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood) [11.07 am]: I live in an electorate, Warren–Blackwood, that is rich in culture and swollen—as Minister Templeman would say—in the arts. It is something we celebrate, and something we celebrate loudly, proudly and often. We are home to some of the state's most beautiful and iconic venues and events, and we love festivals. To name a few, we have the Bridgetown Blues Festival, the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival, the Nannup Music Festival, the Denmark Festival of Voice, the Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival and the Bridgetown–Greenbushes Fridgetown Festival.

Warren–Blackwood is an electorate that sweeps from the Porongurup Range to Margaret River, up to Balingup and across to Boyup Brook. It is an electorate that is full of opportunity and it is bursting with talent. It is a region that is proud to be part of the rich tapestry that binds culture and the arts together across our state. I am proud to stand here today to commend the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021, which will modernise the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979.

Let us think about that for a moment. In 1979, I was 13. The Perth Entertainment Centre opened five years earlier, in 1974. I remember the Perth Entertainment Centre well. A year after it opened, I queued up with my mum and my sister and slept out to get tickets to see my favourite band at the time, Kiss. As the years marched on, during my teens I remember seeing Skyhooks, the Angels, Adam and the Ants, Billy Joel and Cliff Richard—I know!—at the centre.

Ms J.J. Shaw: Oh, you were the one!

Ms E.J. KELSBIE: It was just me there, with my parents! I am pretty sure this whetted my appetite for live music and celebrating arts and culture throughout my career.

For many decades, the Perth Theatre Trust has served its role in accordance with the powers granted to it under the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979. But it is time to move forward to 2021 and away from a metro-centric trust. The McGowan government reforms aim to ensure that the Western Australian public sector is modern, high performing and capable of delivering future services to our fabulously diverse and culturally rich communities across the state. Currently, the trust can manage theatres, but the McGowan government's vision is far broader and bigger, and will enable the activation of cultural assets entrusted to its care, as well as enabling the Minister for Culture and the Arts to declare any part of our state a venue.

Imagine The Waifs, who are from Albany, supported by Dulcie, a four-girl indie-pop band, with two members from my hometown of Denmark, wooing audiences at sunset at William Bay. Imagine feeling the vibrations of any one of your local choirs, performing among the beauty of the south west forests. Imagine being part of a mixed art performance of poetry, dance and storytelling in an art gallery situated anywhere in WA. This vision cannot be achieved with the Perth Theatre Trust in its current form.

The establishment of the Arts and Culture Trust will help ensure that all kinds of art and cultural venues will be activated into performing spaces, not just limited to theatres. The Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 will enable the minister to declare spaces and places to be venues if they are to be used for cultural or artistic purposes. These can be temporary and only have effect for a defined period. The bill will provide broader powers and stronger governance, strengthening and modernising the 1979 act to become a contemporary bill for 2021 and the years ahead. This bill is close to my heart, and I endorse it as it removes boundaries and enables innovation.

I spent many years working in the arts and culture sector in London. I started out with a music management company for bands like Marillion, Poison and Status Quo.

Several members interjected.

Ms E.J. KELSBIE: I did!

I then worked as the arts and entertainment editor for *TNT Magazine*. It was a great job in an exciting industry, back in the day. I interviewed artists like Doug Anthony All Stars, Jimmy Barnes and Dannii Minogue. I wrote theatre, arts and restaurant reviews. Along the way I was trained on the job and learnt skills that enabled me to go on to work in publishing, production and talent management across platforms.

This bill will also ensure that the board will have access to possess the skills and experience that directly relates to the Arts and Culture Trust's operations. There will no longer be a need for representational members from the City of Perth, as the current Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979 dictates. This will open opportunities for broader regional representation. Excitingly, the trust will own and operate a \$100 million state-of-the-art screen production facility—a key McGowan government election commitment—in Fremantle.

I worked for eight years in media production at the BBC in the UK in interactive media and in talent management. I worked with production crews from across the globe. The idea of Western Australians being provided real opportunities to work in that space at our own production facility in Fremantle is incredibly exciting. It is a real pathway for the talent in our own state. My last role at the BBC was as a head of production talent for BBC Multiplatform Productions—a department that delivered innovation, creativity and multi-platform solutions across linear programming, interactive media and mobile services. I was lucky enough to work with some of the most creative people in the industry and with iconic brands such as *Top Gear*, *Big Cat Diary*, *Eurovision*, *The Graham Norton Show*, *EastEnders*, *The One Show* and *Antiques Roadshow*. I have also been a senior producer of interactive games for young people, which included *Snowboarding Cows* and *A Flea Circus*, and I was part of artificial intelligence innovation over 10 years ago. This experience related to science and education for young people.

I am incredibly excited that we will have a purpose-built facility in WA that will enable us to create and play on the world stage. As my esteemed colleague the member for Swan Hills, Jess Shaw, indicated, the purpose-built screen production facility will not only enable our creativity to shine, but also create more than 580 jobs and approximately 2 800 film production and precinct hospitality jobs. In my role at the BBC, I led a research program that looked at how to make traditional linear television teams more innovative across platforms. The outcomes of that project changed the way we delivered our training at the BBC. We led the way, delivering the findings to other media agencies such as Sky and ITV. This experience helps me understand why it is very important to have modern, contemporary and enabling legislation. We are cutting edge in WA, and the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 will enable the McGowan government to support the growth of these industries, with the studios enabling the creation of feature, faction and animation productions for a range of platforms.

We live in an amazing place. We have abundant talent to grow and opportunities to share. We have incredible stories to tell and cultures to celebrate. We have landscapes that take your breath away. It is our time to shine and show the world what we are made of when it comes to our arts and our culture. It is time to modernise the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979 and bring it up to speed with the current times. I commend the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [11.16 am]: I rise to commend the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 to this house. Recently, after being elected, I went through a self-assessment activity with the help of a professional. I ticked all the boxes, in flourishing colours. But he said that I utterly failed when it came to hobbies. He described what a hobby means: converting one shape to another shape, or one form to another form. That is exactly what art and culture does. He said that I utterly failed in it. That made me very inquisitive about knowing more about it, and I started doing a bit more research. It is very important for everybody to have their mind switch off and rest so it can be more productive and effective. Art and culture play such a vital role in our daily lives to create balance. It brings together families, communities and friends. It creates an opportunity to build relationships, to spend time together, and that should not be underestimated.

The Perth Theatre Trust is very old. We are trying to be modern. Successive governments have acknowledged that change is needed to make it modern. The main aim of the McGowan government, which has a vision for the future, is to create an opportunity for the young talents and the older talents as well, like our Leader of the House who performs often. I cannot wait for the first Christmas to come so I can listen to his singing. That vision has been transformed into the bill before the house. What is the transformation? The transformation improves the governance structure of the trust, bringing in a modern way of running it rather than the old way, which was stuck with managing the theatre but not other venues.

There are opportunities in every community in every electorate. In my electorate, submissions are open to enter the Canning Arts Awards 2021, the exhibition for which will be held between 21 and 28 August. If anyone has the time and opportunity, please visit to see our talented artists in the electorate exhibit their arts in Riverton Library between 21 and 28 August.

This particular bill extends the responsibility to all kinds of arts and culture venues rather than restricting it just to the theatre. Other members very clearly stated that modernising the governance structure of the Perth Theatre Trust will allow commercial partnerships. It was stated very clearly that commercial partnerships will bring about capital investment, new opportunities, modernisation, technology exchange and international opportunities. The current Board of Trustees on the Perth Theatre Trust comprises eight members. How is a majority defined with eight members? This bill recommends that the number of members be increased to nine and not just restricted to members from metropolitan Perth. The electorate of Warren–Blackwood has more artists than a suburb of Perth.

The bill also recommends using trading names, because branding and marketing is important. The PTT cannot be stuck with being permitted to use only one name and not being able to transform according to modern-day practices to market an event more successfully. The bill also recommends that the board members should have the appropriate skills and experience so that they can contribute towards the betterment of the trust rather than anyone and everyone sitting on the board and not being useful in the development of the arts and culture sector.

Under the bill, the Minister for Culture and the Arts will have the authority to declare a place a venue. Other members have spoken about how important that is. At short notice, for a short time, multiple places can be designated as venues to promote great events. That will create opportunities for local people to exhibit the talent that they have brewed for many years. The creation of that vehicle and the opportunity is essential for them to progress to the next level rather than being stuck where they are.

More importantly, there is scepticism about how the new trust will take over from the old trust. This bill has clearly covered the transitional arrangements for how it will transform from old to new. Those arrangements have been very clearly explained in the bill. I am sure that those transitional arrangements will make the transition smooth and efficient in getting the modern trust up and running.

I really appreciate the McGowan government's contribution towards a new Fremantle film studio and screen production facility. I cannot wait for Perth-based artists, actors, production people and technology people to be hands-on in the brand new facility and produce world-class films here in Perth that we can all be proud of. I commend the bill to the house and thank the Acting Speaker for the opportunity to speak.

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [11.23 am]: I rise to talk on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021. Arts and culture is important to all communities in Western Australia, and my electorate of Kalgoorlie is no different. Unfortunately, I have no specific skills in this area. Many people expect me to be able to sing, being Welsh, but I will leave that to Tom Jones! This does not stop me from appreciating and enjoying arts and culture in all its different forms.

Until elected in March 2021, I was an active board member of Artgold, which has been promoting arts and culture in the goldfields since 2008. Artgold supports local artists and art groups, craftsmen and artisans and helps showcase their talent to the wider community. I was also a member of the Museum of the Goldfields Advisory Committee. The museum is responsible for showcasing the rich history of the eastern goldfields and Kalgoorlie's mining heritage. Step into this museum and members will discover the unique role Kalgoorlie–Boulder has played in Western Australia's development, both as a centre of mining and its place on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain. Visitors can explore the largest display of the state's collection of gold bars and nuggets, as well as see how prospectors search for this precious metal, and learn about life and the hardships faced by mining families during the early 1900s. If members have not been there, I courage them to go. It is well worth a visit.

Such is my interest in arts and culture, I spent many months talking to different groups in my electorate to discuss what projects would make a difference in their communities. I came up with a collective list of commitments that I would like to share with the house. The Golden Mile Art Exhibition Group—GMAEG—has received \$15 000 to fund an external wet area enclosure adjacent to the existing Art House. This wet area enclosure will be used for ceramics and fabric-dyeing workshops. Over the past year alone, almost 50 exhibitions, workshops and events have been held at Art House, which has attracted over 2 000 Kalgoorlie–Boulder community members. GMAEG is well known in the goldfields through its important work supporting as many local artists as possible, as well as helping to get their artworks exhibited and sold. This grassroots organisation has, for over 40 years, allowed many artists to pursue their passion for creative art and, importantly, many young local artists have had the opportunity to exhibit their work and grow as artists.

I also committed \$5 000 to the Inland Art Prize in Leonora. The art prize attracts around 250 artworks, and this funding will encourage more local artists to enter and promote their work in the region. I will continue with Leonora, which most members will know solely as an important mining town in the northern goldfields, but I am sure most people do not know that it is also home to Barnes Federal Theatre, which was once considered to be the best hall outside of Perth and saw many balls, dances and concerts take place. In fact, Slim Dusty once played there! That is a little-known fact. Opened in 1901, the theatre has unfortunately been closed for many years, due to internal and external damage. I have committed \$100 000 towards the overall renovations, in collaboration with the Shire of Leonora. Barnes Federal Theatre can now be restored to its former glory and will provide a unique and historic building to host myriad shows, concerts, exhibitions and conferences.

I will move now to the Shire of Coolgardie. I have provided \$5 280 to the Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group for much-needed air conditioning for its art gallery and \$5 000 to CAPS Kurrawang Primary School to create a cultural garden that will provide Aboriginal students with a sense of culture and belonging. It will include a yarnning circle, native plants, dot painting using mosaic tiles, animal cut-outs, animal footprints, and paving and pebbles. That will all add to this unique place.

I turn now to Norseman. I have provided \$20 000 to deliver a public art project. As demonstrated in Kalgoorlie–Boulder with the Heartwalk project, high-quality public art can be a hugely effective means of adding appeal to a town centre. This project will engage local artists, in a collaborative process, and I cannot wait to see the collection of murals.

Acknowledging and celebrating cultural diversity is paramount worldwide, and Kalgoorlie–Boulder and the goldfields is no different. We are lucky to have an active Indian community of around 600 members. The Indian Association of Goldfields WA Inc regularly runs celebrations, festivals and community events, but it requires much-needed funding to buy music, lighting and cooking equipment to facilitate those events. I am pleased to be able to provide \$7 000 to this important group that is part of the multicultural fabric in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

I have left an important piece of news until last. Every year Kalgoorlie–Boulder hosts the Golden Mile Art Prize. This was held last Friday in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. This year's overall prize winner for 2021 was Shayna Moses-Taurima. Shayna's winning art piece was an extraordinary 3D construction made out of Lego. Shayna used hundreds of individual Lego-like blocks to depict—wait for it!—our Premier, Mark McGowan, in a work called *Our Fearless Leader*. I hope all members can see this picture. She said that a lot of artists were using the Premier as inspiration because of his remarkable popularity. Politics has found a way to be woven into our arts and culture. People are showing in all different aspects of their life how the McGowan state government is influencing them. Everywhere I go in my electorate—I am sure my colleagues hear the same stories—people tell me, “Make sure you tell Mark thank you for keeping us safe.” I am proud to be part of the McGowan state government, which is not only keeping us safe but also contributing so heavily to arts and culture. I commend this bill to the house.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [11.31 am]: I am not nearly as well prepared to speak on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 as the preceding speakers were, so I apologise in advance for what will be a succession of random thoughts and a stream of consciousness.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms K.E. Giddens): Very artistic!

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Before I go on to the issues that I want to talk about specifically, which is the hardship that the arts sector has had to endure through the pandemic, and to flog a horse that I constantly raise in this house, which is the timing of arts events for seniors in our community, I will make a few other observations. The first of which concerns the member for Mirrabooka, who regaled us with stories of her artistic performances. The high point of my performing career was that I was privileged to act in a school play with Academy Award nominee Judy Davis.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: I am giving away my age! The play was *The Pied Piper*. As members would expect, Judy played the lead role. Unfortunately, I was a Beethoven-esque composer, and with a very bad German accent my key line was, “Ze rats! Ze rats have eaten my symphony!”

At the outset, I acknowledge the nexus between tourism and our arts industry and how important that is. A friend of mine sold Aboriginal art in Paris for a number of years. She said that people from the European market did not want to visit Perth. They got to Perth Airport and wanted to get straight on a plane to go to the outback, the bush. It is very important that we tie in those desires and wishes and make that travel available. In that context, I note that the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards are being held in Darwin this weekend. I was privileged to attend some years ago. That is a hub for art dealers from Australia and internationally, with a lot of satellite events around it. I was so inspired after that visit that I convinced the then arts minister, Sheila McHale, and Premier Alan Carpenter that we should have a similar Indigenous arts award here, which we did for a couple of years. Obviously, it was not on the scale of the Darwin awards, but we were getting there. Then, unfortunately, we lost government. The Liberal government held it for a further year and then disbanded it altogether.

Arts has the capacity to inspire us and to tell our stories, and our stories are unique to Western Australia. Finally by way of preamble, I acknowledge my good friends Marian and Alun Bartsch from Mago Films. They are a classic example of telling our own stories. I recall the member for Belmont talking about various films that have been

produced here. Their films are less well known because they are effectively non-fictional, but Marian and Alun have produced a film called *Hoover's Gold*, which is about Herbert Hoover, later an American president, working for Sons of Gwalia in Kalgoorlie. When I visited the United States, I gave a number of congressmen copies of that film. They were fascinated by it, because they had not realised that Hoover had spent time in Australia. Mago Films also produced *Surfing the Menu*, so a claim to fame is that they promoted Curtis Stone's early career, although apparently he does not remember that that well. Another film of theirs that I highly recommend, which some members may have seen, is *The Waler*, which is about horses in war. They are great productions, and they tell our stories that people are interested in.

I was in Canada some years ago and I was visiting a prison and the prison guard said he had just been to the Montreal Film Festival and had seen an Australian film. I said that was terrific and asked which one it was. Unfortunately, it was *Kenny*, so I had to apologise for that!

With that preamble, I want to talk now about pursuing a career in the arts. It is precarious at the best of times and it is economically uncertain, but more so in the last year or so under the yoke of the pandemic. I acknowledge everyone in the arts industry who has had to soldier on throughout that. I also commend the many people in the arts sector who were able to devise new and interesting ways to continue to inspire and uplift the community, but, as the member for Mirrabooka has said, without a lot of encouragement or timely assistance from the federal government. I will read from an article in *The Guardian* from March this year. It is by Esther Anatolitis with the lead-in, "It's been a year since lockdown devastated the arts. Here's what the industry needs now". The author makes this observation —

And so 2020 rapidly became a time of great focus. Artists and companies were seeing their entire year's work vanish—and it would take the government some time to catch on to what this meant for all Australians, as well as for the economy. A modest industry package was made available at the end of the year, and with jobkeeper due to end in just weeks from now, industry leaders still have grave concerns.

The federal government failed to acknowledge two things. The first of those was the economic contribution that arts makes to our economy and that it needs to be preserved and made resilient for the future. The effects of the pandemic on the arts industry will be long term, so the inadequate measures from the federal government will continue to cause problems in the future. The author goes on to say —

... the Australian government has preferred to be a follower rather than a leader. No vision has been articulated for a stronger, more resilient future, guided by the "creative imagination" ...

The first observation I need to make is that at the best of times, those in the arts sector have precarious career paths and their fallback career is often in the hospitality industry, which was also decimated, so a lot of people in the arts sector suffered substantially. The author also says —

Policy responses need to look forward to an unknown future in ways that give us confidence. Just as the homebuilder scheme was offered without a funding cap, so too do we need a more responsive approach to the industries that inspire us most, while also supporting our tourism and hospitality sectors.

That point is well made. The second point that I raised was that despite this, there were some fantastically creative responses to the challenge. Although social distancing protocols prohibited physical gatherings, for example, some novel responses used digital or other modes of performance using radio, phone or Zoom. I think that has subverted how we think about theatre in a positive way, so we now think performances can be delivered differently. Performance spaces might be other than what is traditional theatre. The positive is that it means that access to the arts is much more broadly embraced, which is terrific.

In July last year on *The Conversation*, Kelsey Jacobson quoted some research from England as follows —

Digital analytics by the company OneFurther about online viewing of *One Man Two Guvnors* by Richard Bean, based on the 18th-century *Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni, count a staggering 2.6 million viewers over the course of one week. Of course, such viewing numbers are far beyond the seating capacity of any theatre. That is a bit of a snapshot of the potential to be able to deliver the arts more broadly.

She went on to say —

This increased access is especially important in light of growing awareness of inaccessibility in theatre more broadly. Some progress has been made to better welcome audience members with certain disabilities, especially in the advent of relaxed performances, which seeks to "relax" or loosen audience conventions in order to create more accessible theatre. But systemic issues of racism, classism and ableism continue to exclude many potential spectators.

Again, that is a positive collateral outcome that arose out of necessity.

The other thing I found is that the streaming of performances appears to attract younger, less wealthy and more ethnically diverse members of the population. That, too, is a positive. Of course, there is the age-old chestnut of audience etiquette in traditional theatre settings; for example, people not loudly chewing mints, blowing their nose or coughing. It is no longer a problem if we are watching shows online, so audience expectations can be slightly

altered given there is no need to sit there quietly. We can eat, drink, talk and be on the phone. Some of these streaming performances also enabled audience members to communicate amongst themselves on Twitter. It is a different experience. I am not saying whether it is better or worse, but anything that increases audiences or interest in the arts is to be encouraged, and I commend the arts community throughout the world for coming up with these innovative solutions. The ways in which audience members can connect with each other in the absence of a shared physical space has been very much explored over the last year.

I want to briefly mention some of the innovations that the Australian government could have explored in the context of support for the arts over the last year. For example, in Egypt, the Supreme Council of Culture shares a daily 10-minute reading by a writer of their own work. The Egyptian Ministry of Culture also supports a YouTube cultural content channel, which received 25 million visits in 60 days. The Indonesian cultural directorate pays artists and artisans to offer online masterclasses in dancing, painting, music, film production and storytelling. In Uruguay, the government has partnered with an online program called My Song, My Stage, which supports musicians to perform a song and talk about its creation. The department is also inviting young people to participate in a program of watching and discussing works online. Quebec uses cartoons and videos to communicate COVID-19 messages to young people, which is an extremely good idea and should have been adopted in parts of Australia, I suspect. The other thing that is happening is the use of hashtags. For example, Creative New Zealand uses #TFA—Thankful for Art. In Indonesia, a hashtag, roughly translated as meaning “Fun to be at home” or “Happy at home”, is used in the context of arts material. In Cuba, the hashtag means “We are together”, or “Music for Cuba”. In Canada, under #CanadaPerforms, artists’ performances are livestreamed in partnership between Canada’s National Arts Centre and Facebook Canada. These streams generated 1.3 million views in the first 10 days. All these examples come from an article on the ArtsHub website, called “The best COVID-19 support for the arts around the world” by Jackie Bailey. It is also worth reading about alternatives to unemployment benefits and subsidies for artists.

The other issue is about finding new market audiences for arts. For example, among some of the initiatives overseas, a Danish senior citizens initiative makes sure that older Danes can have interaction with the arts and culture in nursing homes and other COVID-safe environments. The Japanese government has announced funding for children’s art and cultural experiences. The New Zealand government is boosting the creative learning program for kids in schools, providing jobs for 300 artists.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: In Uruguay, the Ministry of Education and Culture is providing funding for productions that will be later presented in educational institutions. Governments also are buying art and so on, so there are some more imaginative ways for governments to support the arts than is currently happening at a federal level. Why do we need to do this? As I said, it is part of who we are—our identity—and is a huge generator for the economy. It is not a well-known fact that more Australians visit museums and art galleries than go to the football. It is incorrect to think that the arts is a minor offshoot of activity in our daily lives.

The other collateral that has happened from the pandemic is the use of streaming services such as Netflix. Streaming services such as Netflix have made significant profit out of the last year and I think it is time they give back by co-funding or investing in local productions of material. That is something I will suggest. Of course, we also need to look at redesigning some of our venues, so if anything similar happens in the future, it can maybe mitigate the impact.

There is a final thing I want to talk about, and I seek the forgiveness of those who have heard me ramble on about this issue before, but I think this is a very important point. Our performing arts have been supported over the years by our seniors. For example, they would have got their children interested and involved in the arts and paid for them to attend performances, so they are the future consumers, but our seniors may not want to go out at night. At the Perth Festival, for example, out of hundreds of performances there might be one or two matinees or five o’clock sessions. Seniors are less likely to want to go out at night, but they still want to consume the arts.

Mrs L.A. Munday: Young mums, too.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: There are also young mums; that is right. There might be shiftworkers and all sorts of people. There is really a dearth of opportunities for those people. I have had this discussion with the minister before and he said that some performers do not like, for example, having a two o’clock matinee and then a performance at eight o’clock in the evening. There is usually quite a short run on these things, so I do not think that is much of an excuse because the week after, performers can catch up on sleep. Also, they would get a larger audience if they included seniors. A lot of these productions are in one way or another subsidised or funded by the state government, be it a subsidy for the Perth Festival or a particular group such as the Black Swan Theatre Company of WA or whatever. I think that subsidy should be conditional upon a certain number of performances being accessible at certain times—namely, that matinees could be held so our seniors population can continue to enjoy the arts. I went to a three o’clock production of the Sydney Theatre Company on a Sunday afternoon. It was jam-packed with people of my vintage and older; it was a good time. People went to that performance and then went to a restaurant or something in Northbridge. We need to be more flexible with accessibility, not only in the physical layout of our theatres, but also when we hold these performances.

I currently have two bookings that have both been cancelled or postponed. One was for Billy Bragg on 21 January this year and it has been postponed until 21 January next year. I hope we are out of difficulties by then. *Star Navigator* (*Ihitai 'Avei'a*) is a WA Opera production written by Tim Finn that was due to be performed next week, but because there were performers travelling from New South Wales, it has been cancelled. The last point I want to make is that I commend those involved in arts management for having to cope with these last-minute contingencies, and I encourage people to continue to support local artists, put their money where their mouth is and attend performances and exhibitions.

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [11.53 am]: It is a great pleasure to speak on the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021. I want to put some context to what this represents to jobs in the future of Western Australia. Some members have rightly dwelt upon the creative aspects of the arts, but I want to talk about them as part of an industry sector called the creative industries. They are an essential component of a diversified economy in Western Australia and dovetail precisely with nearly all the markets we participate in now, of which nine out of 10 are in Asia and very much part of where we need to see our future. This bill, and the Arts and Culture Trust itself, is the enabling infrastructure that will provide the circumstances by which we can attract direct foreign investment and grow a local industry, talent pool and capacity and attract overseas talent. For example, two of my own sisters are in the film production industry, one in New York and one in Sydney, and they have been for their entire careers. They have extremely portable skills. Unfortunately, as much as they would like to be here in Western Australia for many, many reasons, not least of which is that their best brother is here, they simply cannot get work at the level they are at, as they are quite senior in their relevant parts of the industry. They are just examples of the many Australians working in creative industries across the globe who would dearly love to have a homegrown capability at a scale that is relevant and matches the global demand for some of the products they produce. This bill the minister has brought before the house has created the circumstances in which we can bring all the assets into one government structure, and in so doing focus attention on how the industry sector can be grown. This is a vital part of it.

The creative industries across their many forms find most of their potential to our economy in the film industry. When I say “film industry”, I am not just talking about feature films, which we would all associate it with. So much of what is done in the film industry now overlaps with the digital world, particularly gaming and a large amount of the content required by both TV and streaming, as the member for Landsdale identified. Corporate video work is also a significant contributor to the global filmmaking economy and very much a part of what would underpin what we can do here in our time zone. This bill provides the capacity to build a film studio in Fremantle, with a \$100 million commitment by the McGowan Labor government. It is very important that that industry has an address. The address for our maritime capability is in the industrial hub of Kwinana. The address for our medical science industry is the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, the Australian National Phenome Centre and those sorts of places. The address for creative industries in Western Australia is not just the cultural precincts of Perth that we all know such as the museums and art galleries. For film production, it will be in Fremantle. It will be a great contribution to that town, which has a long and rich history in creative culture. It will also give Fremantle the sense of purpose that it enjoys and has had for a long time with various industries.

As I said in my opening comments, the film industry’s relationship with our traditional trading partners is ever more relevant, and no less so than with China. We often only talk about our connection to China in the context of our minerals, principally iron ore, and, of course, some of the challenges at a geopolitical level, but China represents some of the greatest global demand for consumption of film products. By 2030, it will be the largest film consumption market in the world, surpassing Europe and the United States. More importantly, China is growing its middle class, and 70 per cent of its population will be middle class by 2030. Although there are some demographic roadblocks and we know that China may well get old before it gets rich, we will deal with those issues as they come along. Along the way, there is a unique opportunity to once again use our connection to and relationship with China to grow a diversified economy. Two-way trade with China is roughly projected at \$150 billion by 2030. Much of that will obviously be taken up by the resources sector, but we need to shift as much of that as we can to alternative industries in order to diversify the economy. When we talk about China in the context of its consumptive capacity, its film market and film consumption is really breathtaking. Funnily enough, many things in China are in large numbers. For example, China currently has over 60 000 cinema screens. Between 2004 and 2014, China has had an 886 per cent growth rate in the number of cinema screens. This underscores the demand that is there for the consumption of not just its own homegrown films, but also films from the rest of the world. In fact, in China, around 27 cinema screens a day are being added to that number. I am told that by the end of 2023, or thereabouts, China will have 80 000 cinema screens, although I am sure that some of the construction in China is being delayed by COVID, as is the case anywhere else in the world.

One thing that is important for us to understand about where the creative industries can lead us is that it is not just in jobs, but also in the clustering of second and third-order supporting industries. If we can imagine a film studio in Fremantle, it will be not just the creative aspects of the writers and producers, and all the technical components that make up a modern-day film, but also the clustering of the small businesses that will reside in Fremantle to support the industry, such as accounting firms, legal practices, and copyright lawyers. Those sorts of things are very much part of this industry, and they will add to not only the locality of Fremantle, but also Western Australia as this state takes up its rightful position as one of the best trading states in this nation with China. Those sorts of jobs

are fundamentally where this state needs to go. That is particularly important, because as the resource sector may in the future wane in its contribution to our economy, we will need to transition to a diversified economy. That should not be seen as just a revenue line. We need to look at a diversified economy on the basis of the jobs that it will create. Those jobs will help sustain the quality of life that people in Western Australia have become used to. Our responsibility as a Parliament and as a government is to maintain, if not grow, the standard of living of all Western Australians. The dividend from the creative industries that we are talking about in relation to this bill will be fundamentally important to the future of Western Australia. This bill will be an outstanding piece of architecture, if you like, that will help create the flashpoint or channel by which we can grow the game.

I want to give members one final anecdote before I take my seat. It is about a little Western Australian company known as Legend Media Group, which highlighted for me the value of the film industry. Legend Media came to me when I was Minister for Asian Engagement because it was trying to get some traction from government for a visiting delegation of Chinese film producers, financiers and screen owners. Unfortunately, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation at the time was going through a bit of a transition as a machinery-of-government agency and was finding it difficult to be a single entity. We are pretty good in Western Australia. If people want to dig a hole, we have got them covered. We are the best jurisdiction in the world for that. However, when we are trying to attract foreign investment, we need to do things differently.

I was asked by Darren Cooper, the director, and Bronwyn Barnes, the chair, of Legend Media whether the government could provide some support for its inbound delegation of 15 people. I was very happy to do that. The Governor of Western Australia, Hon Kim Beazley, was happy to hold a sundowner for the delegation. Hon David Templeman, the Minister for Culture and the Arts, was there also, and we hosted those 15 people from China. We later found out that those 15 people represented about 20 000 cinema screens in China. In April the following year, at the Beijing Film Festival, a heads of agreement was signed between Legend Media and a couple of joint venture partners for the production of five feature films based in Western Australia, and an eight-part series, whether for television or not I am not sure. As Legend Media said to us straight up, because of the way the government of Western Australia had shown that the delegation was welcome to come here to undertake that joint venture with Legend Media, that did the deal. That shows what is possible if we, firstly, say we are open for business, and, secondly, prove it when people turn up.

This bill will create the underpinning architecture from which things like film studios and other creative industries can grow and blossom into part of a diversified economy that will enable our kids and future kids to enjoy the life that we have all become used to.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.J. Kelly (Minister for Water)**.

CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 4 August.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [12.04 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021. I want to begin by congratulating the Minister for Child Protection for getting this bill back on the notice paper so quickly. This bill was passed in the lower house during the previous Parliament, but it did not, unfortunately, get through the upper house. I am very pleased that the minister has managed to get this bill back before the new Parliament.

This bill is part of this government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I am proud to be part of a government that is doing that. This bill has a number of features. The one that I want to particularly address is the extension of the mandatory reporting obligations to ministers of religion. The reason I want to do that is that I certainly believe that churches, and the Catholic Church in particular, are still not facing up to their responsibilities to deal with this issue, both historically and going into the future; therefore, any measures that can drive home the responsibilities that these organisations have is welcome.

To illustrate the fact that these organisations have not fully, even today, owned up to their responsibilities, I want to talk a bit about my experience, having been taught by the Christian Brothers at Christian Brothers College in Fremantle, in dealing with instances of sexual abuse of children at that school. As the story will go on, I have since become aware of what has happened at other Christian Brothers schools in Western Australia. I was a student at CBC Fremantle in the 1970s. A teacher at that school, Brother Daniel McMahon, was my religion teacher in grade 4. At the time, he was also the principal of the primary school. Even as a grade 4 student at that school, it became completely obvious to me that Daniel McMahon was not a fit person to be anywhere near students, much less young students. He was a bully of a man. An adequate description of what he looked like would be Ernest Borgnine—he was a short, stocky character. He was very violent to the students. Corporal punishment was what he was expert at. But he also had a charming side. He could sing. That was sort of his party trick. I was not aware at the time that he was a paedophile. However, it was obvious to me as a grade 4 student that the guy should not be in charge of students, but there he was as the principal of the school.

I was at that school for nine years. I watched this guy's career. After I had graduated and left CBC Fremantle, he went on to be the vocations officer for the Christian Brothers. That meant that he was responsible for identifying students who might be eligible or be candidates to join the Christian Brothers. At the time, I thought that was a really strange choice, but that is the choice the Christian Brothers made. I did not think too much more about it until 2013. I was aware of the emerging issue of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and the royal commission and the like, but, as I said, I did not think too much more about him in particular until 2013.

In February 2013, I was a candidate to become a member of Parliament. I opened *The West Australian* of 16 February and there was a double-page spread about Brother Daniel McMahon revealing that he was a paedophile. Obviously, I was a little bit shocked, but in some ways not surprised. The story in *The West* outlined that up until 1990, he had abused children at, I think, Aquinas College and St Mark's College, Bedford in Western Australia. He then moved to Tasmania and became a parish priest until his death in 2012. He had recently died and *The West* did an exposé on him; there he was, in all this glory, revealed as a paedophile in *The West Australian*. I was in the middle of an election campaign and wondered what I should do with this new-found knowledge.

After the election, I decided to write to the school. In July 2013, I wrote to the Christian Brothers College Fremantle and its principal Shaun Kenny. I said to him that I had a copy of the newspaper article and that he would now be aware that this former teacher at the school was a paedophile. We all know that one reason people do not come forward is that they often wonder whether they will be believed. My letter said to him that now he knew this guy was a paedophile, the decent thing to do would be for the school to contact former students who may have come in contact with him, make them aware that the school now knows that this guy was a paedophile and that if they have any issues, they should feel free to come forward. The reply I got back from principal Shaun Kenny in July 2013 was underwhelming. It was a one-paragraph response that made reference to the existence of a royal commission and a rather incomprehensible sentence saying that my letter had been referred to the Christian Brothers professional standards committee. It sort of implied that further action would be taken. I never heard anything more from the school or the Christian Brothers on the issue. The school had been presented with the information, which I am pretty much sure it would have known already, that one of its former principals had been a paedophile and it should do something about it. Clearly, the response I got was that there was not much interest in doing anything.

I sat on that information for a while and wondered what I should do with it next. Quite out of the blue, I got an email from Brother Tony Shanahan, who at that stage had been posted to Africa. He had taught me in year 12 at CBC Fremantle. He emailed me to say that he wanted to apologise for an incident at the school that he had been worrying about since 1979. He was the last Christian Brother to actually hit me. He had slapped me across the face and he wanted to apologise for that incident. I sent him an email back saying, "Tony, you don't really need to worry about it. It's not something that I've dwelled on. I've referred to it at dinner parties as the slap, and you shouldn't carry that burden." But I was aware that he had risen in the ranks of the Christian Brothers to be the head of the Christian Brothers in Western Australia, so I said to him, "What you really should be worried about is your response to allegations of child sexual abuse in your school." He wrote back to me and said that he was not really in a position to do much about that, but that he could arrange a meeting with Brother Clinch, the head of Christian Brothers in Australia, if I wanted to take these matters further. I said that that would be a good idea.

In May 2015, I, along with member for Morley, met with Brother Clinch and one of his offsiders in Parliament. I went through this story and basically said how disappointed I was at the lack of response from the school. Brother Clinch's response was, again, underwhelming. I said to him that he had a responsibility to outreach to former students to make them aware that the organisation now knows that Brother McMahon was a paedophile and that he should do something about it. I should also tell members that one of the things Brother Shanahan informed me about was that they were aware that Brother McMahon was a paedophile as far back as the late 1990s, which was after he had gone to Tasmania as a priest. He claimed that they had informed the authorities in Tasmania that Brother McMahon had been abusing children. Brother Clinch gave no commitments about any outreach to students. His first response was, "How would we do that anyway?" I said that the organisation has an old boys network and it regularly sends out newsletters and the like so it could use that forum. After that meeting, the Christian Brothers never got back to me. They undertook to consider what I had said and I never heard from them again. That was in 2015. Again, I wondered what I should do with that information. I bundled up that information, the acknowledgements from Brother Shanahan that they knew about Brother McMahon back in the 1990s, and I put that into a submission and sent it to the royal commission. I thought that I had done what I was going to do and it would now be up to the royal commission.

Last year, during the pandemic, there was some further publicity, I think, around George Pell and those issues started me thinking about these things again. The Perth Archbishop Costelloe made a statement assuring parishioners in Western Australia that there would be no cover-ups around these issues in the Perth archdiocese. Having known what had gone on with Brother McMahon, that did rankle. I contacted Gareth Parker on 6PR and did an interview in which I went through the story that I have retold members today. I was always very impressed by and admired the bravery of the victims. I thought that in my position, the more I talked about this stuff, the more I would shine a light on what has gone on and the more things might change.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.J. KELLY: I gave the interview with Gareth Parker and I thanked him for the interest that he had shown in allowing me to tell this story. After the interview, I was contacted by at least a dozen former students of a variety of Christian Brothers schools, some who had had contact with Brother McMahon and some who had stories to tell about other brothers. What struck me is that I had never met anyone who had been abused by Brother McMahon at my school, CBC Fremantle. The article in *The West Australian* had talked about other schools. I was contacted by a number of former students—I will not say how many or who they were, because I understand that a number of them are now pursuing compensation—of CBC Fremantle who were abused by Brother McMahon. It was very confronting and one of those sliding doors moments. I was at that school. He taught me. While I was there, he was abusing students. It really is quite confronting when you realise it gets as close as that. The stories were absolutely horrific. He was a brute of a man and he used that strength not only on the football field and in the playground and when he administered corporal punishment, but also when he abused students while he was at the school.

I gave that interview and a number of ex-students contacted me. Since then, I have had a number of meetings with those ex-students. My understanding is that as a result, a number of them are now pursuing compensation. In one sense that is pleasing, but I also discovered that there are other ex-students who, independent of me, have been talking to other schools, trying to get them to do what I asked CBC Fremantle to do, which is to use their old boy networks to go out there and say, “Look, we know we had paedophiles teaching at our schools. This is who they were and this is when they were at your school. If you want to come forward, you should do so in the confidence that we acknowledge what went on.” Those other ex-students have, similarly, hit a brick wall. Schools like Trinity College and Aquinas College have not come forward and done the outreach they could do if they took this issue seriously.

One of the things about the royal commission in Western Australia is that it dealt with institutions like the former Castledare Boys’ Home and Clontarf School—institutions that no longer exist. The Catholic Church likes to portray this as a historical issue that was relevant to organisations and institutions that no longer exist. That is not the case. The abuse that I am aware of took place at schools like CBC Fremantle; CBC Highgate, which is now Chisholm Catholic College; CBC Leederville, which is now Aranmore Catholic College; Aquinas College; and Trinity College. Those schools very much still exist and in my view they have an obligation to reach out to former students and acknowledge what happened. What do they know? I am sure it was not only Brother Danny McMahon; I am aware, for example, that Brother Best, who was also principal at CBC Fremantle, is now in jail in South Australia. He has been convicted. The royal commission estimated that possibly 20 per cent of Christian Brothers were abusers, and those schools know who those Christian Brothers are and where they taught. Those schools could be reaching out to former students to make that information available and allow them to come forward in the confidence that they will be believed.

The interview I gave on 6PR resulted in a number of students at my old school coming forward. People who were abused think that they are alone and that their stories are shameful. Just the fact that there is an environment in which they will be believed would encourage them to come forward. These are people whose lives have been irreversibly altered and impacted upon. They can now come forward and seek some justice.

After that interview I was contacted by Wayne Tinsey, the executive director of Edmund Rice Education Australia, the body that runs the schools I have mentioned. My initial conversation with him was quite positive. He led me to believe that CBC Fremantle was going to do some outreach to students on this issue, and I thought that was pretty positive. He said they would send some stuff out to students and I said, “If you want me to be involved, I can have a look at what you’re going to send out.” The response back was, “No, we’ve got it covered. We’re going to deal with it.” I was a bit disappointed by that. He said that there would be information about it in the next school magazine that was sent out, and that I should watch out for it.

I did that, and I have to say I was really disappointed. Later in 2020 I got the latest edition of *Touchstone*, which is the CBC Fremantle old boys’ magazine. I am still on its mailing list. I went through that edition and could not see anything. I thought, “What was that conversation with the CEO about?” There was nothing in that magazine. A couple of weeks later I had a look at it again and on page 18 there was an article titled “Art from the Heart”. I read it and in it there was a reference to a sculpture that had been erected at the school that included an apology to kids who had been abused at Christian Brothers schools. There was nothing specific about Brother McMahon or anyone else, just a general apology, which I initially missed. If that was the school’s effort to reach out to students, I am very disappointed.

As I said, I have been in contact with a number of ex-students who have been talking to Trinity and Aquinas about getting them to do outreach. Those guys put in a considerable number of hours trying to get those schools across the line, to zero response. One of the ex-students had contact with David McFadden, the current principal of Aquinas. I quote from an email he sent on 15 May 2020. It was a conversation about the interview I gave on 6PR. These guys have been trying to get Aquinas to do some outreach for some time. David McFadden, the principal of Aquinas College, said in the email —

The owners of Aquinas College, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) have adopted the position that it does not support the sending of blanket letters to all former students of its schools.

This was after I had conversations with Wayne Tinsey from EREA, in which he was very positive. Aquinas College is one of the foremost Catholic colleges in Western Australia, and for its principal to say that EREA had actually adopted a policy position that it does not support sending material out to former students is quite disgraceful. It has considered the issue and decided that it is not going to do anything about it.

I ask both the Catholic Church and those schools to reconsider their position. Brother McMahon, as an example, taught at Aquinas College, CBC Highgate, CBC Fremantle, St Patrick's College Geraldton and Trinity College. He also taught in New South Wales and South Australia, and then went to Tasmania to become a priest. Those schools know what he did. They have access to old boys' networks and they could write to those former students and say, "We now know what he did. You should have the confidence to come forward, knowing that you can do so in an environment where you will be believed and get the justice that you deserve." They have not done any of that. What they did in 2012, when McMahon died, was allow Brother McAppion—who taught me in year 9 at CBC Fremantle and who is still alive, to the best of my knowledge—to fly to Tasmania to deliver the eulogy for Brother Danny McMahon. He posted it online, and it outlines what a wonderful man he was. I do not know whether Brother McAppion knew Danny McMahon's history, but he should have known. Because the Christian Brothers and the Catholic Church hide these stories, it resulted in Brother McAppion flying to Tasmania to deliver McMahon's eulogy. McMahon had access to children as a priest in Tasmania for 20 years. If those organisations were up-front and fessed up to what they knew about the paedophiles in their ranks, the Catholic Church would be in a much better position.

I tell that story today because I have so much admiration for the victims who have come forward. Their bravery is immense. As a former student, this is a sliding door moment for me; I could have been one of those students, but thankfully I was not. I feel it is incumbent on this Parliament to do everything that it can to right the wrongs of the past. That is why I am very pleased that the minister brought this legislation to the house. Removing the statute of limitations on bringing forward compensation claims is one of the things that we did in the first term. That allowed John Lawrence and Paul Bradshaw, two former students of Congregation of Christian Brothers, to get compensation. That is great; may there be more of them who come forward. I congratulate the minister for bringing this legislation forward as one more step in allowing victims of child sexual abuse to get justice from religious organisations such as the Catholic Church and the Christian Brothers.

MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman) [12.30 pm]: With the Acting Speaker's indulgence, I will rely on my notes a little bit more today than I would ordinarily because the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021 covers such an important topic and one in which I really want to be clear in my words.

In 2013, I moved with my husband and family to Wyndham, a small town in the East Kimberley. As we were driving into town on that very first day, having spent several days travelling from Perth, we passed a funeral procession. It was the funeral of a 12-year-old girl who had died by suicide. At the time, it was not in the media. I could not believe the death of a child by suicide was not in the national news. Later, the media would start to report these deaths, and the child to whom I refer was the subject of a coronial inquest into the deaths of 13 children and young persons in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It was in Wyndham that I decided to become a teacher, and this really accelerated my own journey of witnessing the devastating and lifelong impacts of child abuse and neglect on our children.

I was somewhat reluctant to start my contribution to this debate today with the story I just shared, as I do not want to contribute to stereotypes or ideas that child abuse and harm is a unique characteristic of remote or Aboriginal communities. It is not. I went on to teach in a range of schools across different demographic and geographic locations, and, sadly, child abuse exists in all communities. However, my experience in Wyndham, and later in Kalgoorlie, gave me a deeper understanding of the importance of embedding cultural understandings into government responses to child protection.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle and cultural support planning is a really important aspect of this amendment bill. It amends section 12 of the act and will set out an order of priority for placing an Aboriginal child in a care or placement arrangement. The first priority is placement with a member of the child's family. The second priority is placement with an Aboriginal person in the child's community in accordance with local customary practice. The third priority is placement with an Aboriginal person, who may be anywhere in Western Australia; and, finally, the fourth priority is placement with a non-Aboriginal person, who also may be anywhere in Western Australia.

This amendment is critical to minimise the additional trauma of dislocation from family, culture and country, and will result in meaningful improvements for the outcomes for Aboriginal children in the care system. The amendment will also have practical outcomes. A report dated this year and titled *Children and youth reported missing from out-of-home care in Australia: A review of the literature and analysis of Australian Police data* was prepared for the Australian Federal Police missing persons coordination centre. The report provided the following insights: children who went missing 10 times or more, were over nine times more likely to be in care compared with children who went missing once, and, nationally, just 37 per cent of non-care youth were repeat missing persons. The report found evidence that young people often went missing in order to return to their home or their friends or partners. Separation from siblings was shown to cause great distress, and the loss of, or infrequent contact with, one's siblings was a reason that young people in care ran away. We can see how prioritising the placement of Aboriginal children in the care system within their family networks is so important.

Humans are social beings and we are hardwired for connection to those who are closest to us. This amendment recognises this fact, and it is my hope that it will significantly reduce the associated trauma of dislocation from extended family, culture and community for Aboriginal children.

I would also like to add my contribution today to another aspect of the bill—that of mandatory reporting. Again, I would like to talk to my personal experience as a teacher to demonstrate how critical mandatory reporting is for the protection of children and young people. Unfortunately, in my role as a teacher, I made many reports of suspected child abuse, child sex abuse and severe neglect under the mandatory reporting framework. Although I never hesitated to make those calls, the mandatory reporting legislation removes any doubt or personal judgement about what teachers, in my case, should do if they suspect a child is being harmed. It may seem obvious that reporting child abuse should not be hard. As I said, for me, I never hesitated. But from living in a small or close-knit community, I can understand the circumstances in which a teacher, for example, might consider the impacts of their decision to report and hesitate to do so. Mandatory reporting removes all doubt. I commend this part of this bill, which brings into the mandatory reporting requirements additional workers such as early childhood workers, ministers of religion, out-of-home care workers, school counsellors, registered psychologists and youth justice workers.

Of this group of professionals, the most attention has been paid to ministers of religion, with an argument mounted by some against their inclusion on the grounds of protecting the sanctity of the confession and the protection of freedom of religion. We proudly live in a society in which we uphold and protect certain freedoms, but I do not know any example for which a particular freedom is not balanced or constrained by responsibilities or a hierarchy of other rights or freedoms. It is, in my opinion, both a moral and intellectual failure to argue against the inclusion of ministers of religion on this basis. We do not accept, for example, underage marriage on the basis of religious practice. We outlaw other religious practices because they cause harm, nor should we ever accept there is a valid reason for protecting and harbouring known child abusers.

Tackling child abuse, child sex abuse and harm is an all-of-community effort, and we each carry an obligation to do what we can. Only 38 per cent of child victims disclose their abuse. Here is another disturbing fact that I uncovered: 70 per cent of child sex offenders have between one and nine victims, and 20 per cent have 10 to 40 victims. It beggars belief to me, having worked with children and young people, that someone, somewhere, did not have a suspicion, belief or even confirmed knowledge of such abuse. The onus is on those of us in positions of authority, by virtue of our profession, to provide the voice and power to those who do not. The best words that I can use in support of the expansion of mandatory reporting are those of a survivor of child abuse, who in a Message to Australia as part of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse said —

Child sexual abuse is not just a crime against the person, but is also a crime that attacks the social fabric of the nation. Too often those entrusted with the care of children have covered up these crimes through secrecy and intimidation, to protect institutional reputation. Such practices are abhorrent to any who value dignity and compassion.

I would like to talk briefly on the gendered nature of child abuse and child sex abuse. Females are five times more likely to be abused than males. However, eight per cent of child sex abuse victims are males. Our society has an increasing recognition of, and support for, victims of child sex abuse, which is fantastic and well overdue. I cannot speak, of course, to the experience of being male, but through the shared experiences of male friends and colleagues of mine and people whom I have known in different places who have shared with me their experience of child sex abuse or the experiences of people they have known, I think there is still a way to go to better support the experiences of male victims of child sex abuse. I think there are still some cultural issues and a lot of shame around male victims of child sexual abuse, and we have a way to go to address that. We heard from the Minister for Water about his experience in tackling this institutional silence and of the need to give a voice to those boys at boys' schools, in his examples, who may have experienced child sexual abuse, and the kinds of barriers that he came up against in that effort. There is a way to go yet and I look forward to supporting and working with those who want to give further voice to those experiences.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to the survivors of child sexual abuse, harm and neglect. I carry with me the experiences of those I have known personally, of my students, friends and family. I acknowledge their courage and the courage of all victims and survivors. There is no easy or single fix to this wicked problem, but this bill, and the amendments within it, will help contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people, and I am proud to support it. Thank you.

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park) [12.41 pm]: Before I begin my contribution to the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021, I would like to thank the member for Bassendean for his powerful contribution, which I wholeheartedly support.

Home is where we find safety and security and, in the best-case scenario, empowerment. We want nothing more than for our children to be raised in a community that cares. The intention of this bill is to implement the recommendations of the 2017 statutory review of the Children and Community Services Act, including to introduce mandatory sexual and other abuse reporting for a wider range of occupations involved in the care of our children, and the strengthening of cultural and family requirements and consultation for the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care.

On mandatory reporting, the bill will amend the range of occupations that are required to report to the CEO of a department of the public service if they believe that a child has experienced sexual abuse in the past or currently. That is sexual abuse in relation to a child, including sexual behaviour in circumstances in which the child is the subject of bribery or coercion; there is a threat of exploitation or violence; the child has less power than another person involved in the behaviour; or there is a significant disparity in the developmental function or maturity of the child and other person involved in the behaviour. Mandatory reporting of child sexual assault is currently limited to teachers, boarding supervisors, police officers, doctors, nurses and midwives. This bill seeks to amend this list to include school counsellors, registered psychologists, early childhood workers, out-of-home care workers, youth justice workers and ministers of religion. I know many women whose lives would be different today if this legislation had been in place 30 years ago.

Under this bill, a minister of religion will not be excused from criminal responsibility for information disclosed during a faith-based activity, including religious confession. Failure of religious ministers to report the knowledge of child sexual abuse will not be excused based on their responsibility to hold confession in confidentiality or if their own beliefs are contrary to this knowledge of abuse. As a Catholic, I understand the sanctity of the confessional. I have an understanding of the theological arguments enshrined in canon law. However, if, like me, members have had exposure to canon law, they will also know how confusing and contrary it can be. In addition, as the member for Cockburn stated yesterday when speaking on this bill, in our society no religious law does or should trump secular law. As a Catholic who has always ascribed to the values of social justice and the rigorous and public pursuit of such, any arguments for the sanctity of the confessional, in my view, pale in comparison to our collective responsibility to ensure the safety of our children. It is crucial that all areas of society that are responsible for the care and wellbeing of a child are held accountable for reporting damaging or distressing situations that affect the safety and protection of our children. There should be no reason why any of these occupations cannot report these abuses if they are aware of them.

Working in any capacity with children should offer them a structure of support, care and trust. To learn that a facet of a child's web of support is responsible for a break in that implicit trust requires all those in that child's support structure to ensure that abuse is reported and the child is supported. That is our social responsibility as communal protectors of children—to prioritise their needs and welfare above all else—and I cannot accept any argument other than that.

On the updated principle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement, this bill rightly recognises the priority of placement arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. This amendment will prioritise a connection to family, culture and country by preferencing placements that are closer to the child's community. The current order of placement is: placement with a member of the child's family; placement with an Aboriginal person in the child's community, in accordance with customary practice; placement with an Aboriginal person, who may be anywhere in WA; and then placement with a non-Aboriginal person, who also maybe anywhere in WA. The intent of the current legislation is quite clear: that there is the capacity, which I am informed by my community and local legal services has happened, whereby workarounds have been found in order to place children in the least prioritised category rather than the relevant decision-makers embracing the intent of the law. My hope is that the tightening of the legislation through the amendments to the act will provide a stronger compulsion for decision-makers to prioritise family, community and on-country placement, and that the importance of maintaining these connections is given even greater weight when making life-determining decisions on behalf of a child.

For many, connection to family is the foundation from which we gain our emotional and psychological support. This is especially true of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, with family standing as a form of spiritual, cultural and emotional guidance through life. When it relates to out-of-home care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be over-represented in our country, with one in six children coming into contact with child protection services. Of those, one in 18 were in out-of-home care, as of mid-2020. That is more than 3 000 Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, which is 11 times the rate for non-Indigenous children. Research shows that maintaining a connection to family and culture for these Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children results in more favourable lifelong health outcomes, less interaction with the justice system, and prolonged life span compared with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed in out-of-home care when connection to family and culture is severed.

The bill amends the placement priority to preference not only family, but also close proximity to the child's community. Subject to the best interests of the child, the new order of priority of placement is: a member of the child's family; an Aboriginal person in the child's community, in accordance with local customary practice; an Aboriginal person in close proximity to the child's community, which is a new priority; either an Aboriginal person who may reside anywhere in WA or a non-Aboriginal person in close proximity to the child's community, which is also a new priority; and, finally, now down the longer list, with a non-Aboriginal person who may reside anywhere in WA.

Importantly, the replacement of section 81 of the act will extend the consultation process prior to a child being placed in care. Before making a placement arrangement of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child, the CEO must in future consult with an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander who is a member of the child's family; an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander representative organisation; and an officer who is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander who, in the opinion of the CEO, has relevant knowledge of the child, the child's family or the

child's community. In this bill, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, "family" is defined as a person regarded as such under customary law or tradition at the child's community. This is placed as an equivalent of western definitions of family, such as parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins and the like.

An elective Aboriginal representative organisation must also participate in the development of an Aboriginal child's cultural support plan. It goes without saying that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children benefit greatly in their development and overall sense of identity and wellbeing from being in proximity to their community and country. Every child deserves to maintain their cultural identity. Aboriginal children deserve to remain connected to the community that raised them and the country where they were born, and to learn all there is to know about their family, community, country and culture. This is where the cultural support plan matters most. The cultural support plan for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child ensures the retention of that child's connection to family, community and culture, regardless of their placement. An Aboriginal child being asked by friends, "Who is your mob? Where are you from?", should have a response that reflects their continuous connection to the root of their story. It is fair to say that this connection is most likely to be enhanced when a child is within or near the community where they were born and raised. It is important that the amendments to section 9 of the Children and Community Services Act as proposed by this bill are implemented, and I summarise: it is imperative that every child be treated as a valued member of our society in a manner that respects the child's dignity.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 2469.]

MERREDIN COLLEGE

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [12.51 pm]: During the winter recess I visited Merredin College to meet with students, teachers and support staff. Thank you principal Jarrad Ritchie and deputy principal Matt Baltovich for hosting me while I was at the school. Thank you also to the students who prepared lunch, those who performed their dance production for upcoming NAIDOC celebrations and those who shared their art with me during the visit.

In June, I received a letter from Arabella Sutherland, one of the students in the year 8 humanities and social science class. Her class was doing a school project on the quality of education in rural areas like Merredin and surrounding towns. To quote Arabella, "Our group believes that everybody, no matter where they live, deserve a quality education." She went on to explain very eloquently that investing more money in rural schools would give students in rural areas a better education and therefore attract and retain more students, which would then provide a greater choice of subjects and teachers qualified to teach in their fields of expertise.

I congratulate all the students for their questions and willingness to engage in how they can influence and drive change for their community, our state and our nation.

Arabella, your letter was outstanding, and I commend you for your passion to improve education in regional communities.

I committed to Arabella and her class that I would continue to advocate for better funding and support for education in rural and regional Western Australia, and I look forward to working with them to make that case to the Minister for Education and Training and the state government.

CASTLEREAGH SCHOOL

Statement by Member for Riverton

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [12.53 pm]: I rise to speak about my recent visit to a great school in my electorate of Riverton, Castlereagh School. It is a purpose-built education support school. I was pleased to see that it maintained a very good student-staff ratio to provide the highest quality of education. It is not easy for the staff and the principal leading the team to engage with students who have complex communication and learning needs. The enthusiasm, passion and care provided by the team, and the systems they have established in the school to engage and encourage those students with complex communication needs to participate in relevant activities, are amazing. I thank them, on behalf of the community, for their enthusiastic efforts day in, day out to provide care to students with complex needs. It is not easy to motivate yourself to keep doing that, so I thank the team that is providing this service to kids with complex needs. I am very proud that we have a school like that in my electorate of Riverton.

SHOWGROUNDS COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.54 pm]: Last week I had the pleasure of attending a Devonshire morning tea at the Claremont Showgrounds Men's Shed to help celebrate World Friendship Day. Celebrating World Friendship Day in a men's shed was actually very fitting, given that these sheds focus on men regaining a sense of purpose in life, enhancing their self-esteem, decreasing their social isolation, and increasing friendships. The men's shed movement has really been a wonderful catalyst for building friendships and providing companionship for thousands of men around Australia.

It is widely accepted that Australian men suffer poorer health outcomes on most measures of health status compared with those for women. Health and mental health services not being offered in male-specific or male-friendly environments acts as a barrier to engagement with these men. Community men's sheds cater for these men and offer social, emotional and other benefits to the men who participate in them. In fact, the sheds have been so successful that I understand there are now over 1 000 men's sheds spread across Australia and that the movement is even spreading quite rapidly across the globe, with 2 000 sheds around the world. This particular event was sponsored by Friends for Good and was extremely well attended, with over 75 people visiting the Claremont Showgrounds Men's Shed on the day. A special shout-out to shed president, Mike Wiggin, and Royal Agricultural Society president, David Thomas, who led the proceedings, and to all the volunteers who make these events happen. I look forward to more events at the Showgrounds Men's Shed over the coming years.

CORONAVIRUS — DAHANU, INDIA

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.56 pm]: It is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to those I have lost recently to COVID-19, including family members, schoolmates and community leaders in my hometown of Dahanu in Maharashtra, India: Rajubhai Parekh, Marazban and Zenobia Irani, Santosh Shetty, Manijeh Irani—Mani Aunty, Dr Behramshah Mazda, Aspi Hormuz Mubarakai, Shankar Bari, Jayshree Shah, Shailesh Champaneri, Mrs Mecwan, Mahesh Patil, Kurush Mubarakai, Kursheed Ragaby, Milind Parekh, Dinesh Solanki, Leena Varma, Harshraj Sachdeva, Nilufer Saudagar, Shashikant Bari, Kishor Patel and former MLAs Shankar Nam and Chintaman Vanga.

This virus does not discriminate and my uncle and good friend Dr Behramshah Mazda passed away recently after battling COVID. He was a good human who lived a full life, and was famous across the region as Dahanu's flying doctor. He was the go-to doctor, trusted by all. He treated hundreds of thousands of people during his career, no matter their status or circumstance. His mantra was "service before self". Losing a loved one to COVID is devastating.

I would like to commend the McGowan government for keeping WA safe during the pandemic and for supporting the Indian COVID crisis relief fund. We know how important vaccination is and I encourage all my constituents and Western Australians to get on board the expanded Roll Up for WA vaccination campaign. As we have learnt, this virus does not discriminate.

TOODYAY LOCALS CARE — ROZ DAVIDSON

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.57 pm]: I rise today to highlight the important and tireless work of Toodyay Locals Care. Roz Davidson officially established Toodyay Locals Care three years ago to help local people in need. For decades beforehand, she had offered a helping hand wherever she could. As Roz says, group members do what they can to meet any request. They offer food, warm clothes, bedding, help with shopping, the use of a washing machine, gardening services, and transport to attend local and metropolitan medical appointments. With 30 helpers, Toodyay Locals Care operates without grants, keeping administration to a minimum. It fundraises and relies on donations. Previously it provided 30 meals a week to locals, but financial pressures resulting from COVID-19 means that that figure has now doubled to 60 meals a week. Toodyay's IGA is a generous and regular donor of food, and locals willingly donate spare produce from their gardens.

Roz has a strong sense of community and is particularly mindful of the needs of the elderly. Ever thoughtful, she has sometimes given away a microwave as well as delivery of locally cooked frozen meals, and stopped by to offer elderly residents a lesson in how to use the microwave. Each year, Toodyay Locals Care provides a festive long-table lunch ensuring no-one is forgotten on Christmas Day. More than 200 Christmas meals are prepared, with meals delivered to those unable to attend in person. Roz believes the elderly deserve greater recognition, adding "never underestimate the value of older people in the community". So on behalf of the community of Toodyay, I say thank you, Roz, and thank you Toodyay Locals Care.

ENVIRONMENT — VOLUNTEERS — DARLING RANGE

Statement by Member for Darling Range

MR H.T. JONES (Darling Range) [12.59 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge some of the many environmental groups that are active in Darling Range. Francis Smit, Kristy Gregory, Sue Ford and Reece Jerrett of Landcare SJ work tirelessly to conserve and restore habitat for native flora and fauna. Last Sunday, I joined 80 volunteers to put in 2 000 plants to restore former farmland as part of National Tree Day. I am proud to support Landcare SJ and have delivered a branded marquee that came in very handy during the torrential rain and hail on Sunday. I also want to acknowledge the longstanding commitment of Karl Titelius and Eileen Davis to the Friends of Brickwood Reserve in Byford. I was honoured to accompany the Premier to Brickwood Reserve in February this year to announce a commitment to fence the area. A tear or two was shed by Eileen, demonstrating her emotional investment. Byford legend Colleen Rankin, OAM, and the Byford Progress Association are also involved in revegetation activities, and I am happy to support their efforts of weed control and signage to beautify Soldiers Road.

The Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, comprising Narelle Mewburn; Ross Wylie, who just welcomed his first child, Esmee Wylie; Shane Hunter; Jen Francis; and Alysia Duggan also do invaluable work to implement restoration and revegetation projects. Merise Blackburn, Justine Mingo and Tony Mingo spearhead the Friends of Banyowla Regional Park, coordinating planting and rubbish clean-ups, and I am happy to have delivered new fencing along Turner Road in Clifton Hills, which will help protect the areas under rehabilitation. Tim Lardner leads Roleybushcare, which is a group of outstanding local volunteers focused on maintaining and protecting jarrah bushland. I must also mention Roleystone stalwart Pat Hart, who has been leading environmental efforts in the area, in particular for the health of our waterways. I want to thank all residents of Darling Range who volunteer to care for our environment and urge others to consider lending a hand.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

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

I refer to the Minister for Health's media announcement on 25 May, which stated that it will take 10 weeks for the inquiry to report back on the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath. Given the shocking report in today's *The West Australian* that nothing has changed in the Perth Children's Hospital's emergency department and given that it has been 10 weeks since the minister's announcement, when will we see the report of the inquiry into the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am advised that the inquiry is in part inhibited by border arrangements between us and particularly New South Wales, but that the estimated time of the completion of the inquiry is about mid-September. That is, of course, if all things go well and the inquiry has had time to consider all the matters.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

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

I have a supplementary question. How can the public have any confidence in the minister fixing the crisis in the emergency department of the Perth Children's Hospital given that the crisis still exists, despite the profound and tragic wake-up call from Aishwarya's death?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I reject the premise of the question. The member for Cottesloe is the last person I would take advice from on the health and wellbeing of Western Australians. In fact, he is the last person I would take any advice from on any sort of health matter. The last few days have been fairly informative. We have heard from the member for Cottesloe on a number of issues in relation to health. All I can say is that for the benefit of democracy we will welcome back as soon as possible the member for Vasse. So far, the member for Cottesloe has suggested that it will cost \$93 million to bring staff back into the public sector at Fiona Stanley Hospital—false. Yesterday, he said —

... that this state government has failed to provide adequate mental health services in this state. As I will point out, this state is the worst performing state in Australia in the provision of mental health hospital services.

However, as we all know, the average per capita spend on health in Australia is \$256 versus \$325 in WA. We cannot trust this man. He will come into this place and speak untruths and he will come into this place and misrepresent the actual situation.

Dr D.J. Honey: Worst bed rate in Australia—deny that!

Mr R.H. COOK: Madam Speaker, this is what he was like in grievances this morning as he sought to bully the Minister for Planning on an issue that came up. The Minister for Planning turned you inside out, sunshine, as she pointed out the hypocrisy of your position! She pointed out that the member for Cottesloe would, on the one hand, praise a particular development because he liked it, but would want the Minister for Planning to ignore rules on other planning decisions that he does not like.

Dr D.J. Honey: So you can't answer the question.

Mr R.H. COOK: Once again, we can see that this gentleman is quite frankly, despite the fact that he rules a party of only two members in this place, inadequate and incapable of doing even that.

The SPEAKER: Just before I take the next question, I might offer a little guidance here. A supplementary question is supposed to be just that—it should be brief and to the point and ask something that specifically pertains to the original question. If you ask a very broad, open-ended supplementary question, you effectively are inviting quite a broad answer from the minister. That needs to be taken into account. I would really caution people to ask a more specific question as a supplementary and then I will be more than willing to ask ministers to give more specific answers. But your question was quite open ended and effectively opened up a whole new line of questioning.

Visitors — Brunswick Junction Primary School and Melville Senior High School

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the member for Balcatta, there are some important people I would like to acknowledge. Firstly, on behalf of the member for Murray–Wellington I welcome to the Parliament today principal Claire Nicol and the year 6 students from Brunswick Junction Primary School. Also, on behalf of the member for Bicton, I welcome to the Legislative Assembly the year 11 and 12 economics students at Melville Senior High School.

SKILLS SUMMIT

347. Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Premier:

In that vein, Madam Speaker, before I ask my question, I also welcome, on behalf of the member for Southern River, students from Caladenia Primary School; and, on behalf of the member for Kingsley, year 11 politics students from Woodvale Secondary College.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to address the workforce challenges that have emerged due to Western Australia's strong nation-leading economic performance.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on how this government is responding to ideas that were identified by industry at last Friday's skills summit?
- (2) Can the Premier outline how this response will help to attract and retain skilled workers in WA?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. As a consequence of our extraordinarily strong economy and economic management, we now have a skills shortage. Therefore, we convened the skills summit last Friday, which brought together over 130 industry and other attendees to Kings Park to discuss matters. It was a great forum and lots of good ideas were put forward. I want to quote one person who was there—that is, the president of the Western Australian Farmers Grains Council, Mic Fels. He told *ABC Country Hour* on Monday —

Due credit to the WA State Government, it was very clear at this summit on Friday that from the Premier down that they understand the gravity of this situation and they ... are committed to coming up with solutions ...

Mr Fels is right. We are committed to coming up with solutions to the difficult circumstances that both the country and the world are in at the moment. Today, we announced some interim measures in response to the skills summit that are designed to put in place things that will help provide skilled and unskilled labour for Western Australia. I want to outline some of the things that we announced this morning. Firstly, we are going to expand the adult apprentice employer incentive, which is about encouraging businesses to employ mature age apprentices. Eligible employers will now be able to receive up to \$26 800 when they hire a mature age apprentice. There will be an initial 100 places as part of this. Secondly, we announced the expansion of the state nominated migration program. We have allocated an additional 5 000 places for this program for onshore visa holders to fill skilled jobs in Western Australia and we expect high demand for that program. We have announced a targeted marketing campaign to attract skilled workers from other parts of Australia—in particular, other states and territories—but also New Zealand and recent retirees from Western Australia. What I find is often attractive to people in other states is the fact that the median price of a house in Western Australia is about half that of Sydney or Melbourne. Quite often I think, frankly, how do people on ordinary incomes live in cities such as Melbourne or Sydney? The price of a house here is roughly half, on average. That means that people can come here and get a great job and afford housing.

The government is also addressing issues to do with people who are more disadvantaged in two ways. Firstly, we will put in place a \$5 million program—it has been talked about forever—to assist people in getting a driver's licence. Many people in regional and Aboriginal communities cannot get into the workforce because they do not have a licence. I am going through the program currently—supervising 50 hours of a young person's driving. It is hard to get there. Trust me, it is hard to get there! And it is demanding! Getting a licence is a difficult thing for many people to do, so the government will put in place a program to assist disadvantaged people, particularly Aboriginal people, to do that. Once a person gets a driver's licence, it is so much easier to get into the workforce.

Secondly, the government will have a partnership with the Wirrpanda Foundation to provide Aboriginal jobseekers aged 15 to 24 with targeted assistance to address specific barriers to employment and a range of regional skills summits as well to hear the thoughts from people in the regions.

The skills summit was a great event. The good thing is we have already put in place six or so of those initiatives as a consequence of the ideas generated there. I would like to thank everyone, especially the cabinet, for their involvement in this important initiative.

HEALTH — ASSISTANT-IN-NURSING STAFF

348. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the escalating staffing crisis across the Western Australian health service.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the WA government is using assistant-in-nursing staff to give vaccinations in state government hubs?
- (2) Is it true that the government has plans to fill midwife vacancies at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women with assistant-in-nursing staff?
- (3) Are there plans to replace nurses or midwives in other public hospitals with assistant-in-nursing staff?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1) I thank the member for the question. It gives me an opportunity to put on record what is the situation. Yes, some assistants-in-nursing will be deployed to our vaccination clinics. Each time anyone with a clinical background goes into our vax clinics, they are given a course prior to that to make sure they understand the requirements with vaccinations. That is part of the program to try to boost the number of non-frontline nurses in our vaccination clinics. As I announced earlier this week, we are also utilising a number of school-based nurses and redeploying them to our vaccination clinics, which again allows us the opportunity to get more senior staff back into the hospitals working on the front line.
- (2) In relation to the second point, which is around the idea of using assistants-in-nursing as replacement midwives, no, that is not the case. I understand that claim was put out earlier this week but it is not accurate. Assistants-in-nursing have always been used in the context of assistants to midwives, but they do not replace midwives. That is obviously part and parcel of what we are doing at the moment in a significant recruitment campaign to get more midwives working in the system. I met with St John of God Health Care people recently who expressed their difficulty in attracting midwives into the service as well.
- (3) No, it is not the case. Assistants-in-nursing play a very important role in doing just that—assisting other nursing staff undertake activities or duties in a hospital—but we will not put them in a situation in which they are working beyond their scope.

HEALTH — ASSISTANT-IN-NURSING STAFF

349. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Just so I can be absolutely clear, can the minister categorically rule out that assistant-in-nursing staff will not be undertaking nursing duties because they are not qualified or paid to do that, and that the Department of Health guidelines specifically state that they are a complementary workforce and not to be substituted for the number of nurses or midwives employed under current workplace arrangements?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Yes.

METRONET PROJECTS

350. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Transport:

I, too, would like to acknowledge the students from Brunswick Junction Primary School. It is always a pleasure having students here from my electorate.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in job-creating transport projects across Western Australia, including the new Metronet Lakelands train station.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the work underway to deliver this project?
- (2) What will it mean for our growing suburbs in the south?
- (3) Can the minister outline to the house how this project will support local jobs, local businesses and the local economy?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for the question. The latest Metronet project to get underway is the new Lakelands train station. This train station will support the community around Mandurah and Lakelands and even through Pinjarra in the electorate of the member for Murray–Wellington. We have to do a lot to try to support commuters in the Mandurah area. There is a gap of about 23 kilometres between Mandurah and Warnbro. This new train station in the north Mandurah area will support the community that lives around the Lakelands district. Work is underway.

The train station will include 400 parking bays. It will include a new bus interchange, new storage for bikes and also a pedestrian overpass. That project, together with the multistorey car park in Mandurah, is all about making it easier to catch public transport through the entire area. Early next year, the government

will also introduce the new two-zone cap in that area. That two-zone cap will see thousands of dollars of savings for people who live in the electorate of the member for Dawesville. These are all projects that support people catching public transport and they support jobs.

As the Premier outlined, we have a challenge when it comes to skills, but we are working with industry to support a pipeline of work, not just for today, but for the next five to 10 years. It is a program of works. Whether it be civil infrastructure or facilitating new developments, it is about supporting a pipeline of work, giving industry the confidence to train people, to employ Western Australians, to buy that equipment, and to make sure we can continue our economic recovery. The economic recovery has not stopped, and it is not going to stop. It is a long-term project to make sure we can continue to drive jobs. The Liberal Party believes the economic recovery is over, that we should stop projects and scrap the significant development pathway. That is the Liberal Party's policy. In today's grievance we heard the member for Cottesloe say that we should not support new developments because economic recovery is over. That is what Liberal Party members believe. No wonder no-one trusts them to be in government. They cannot be trusted.

Dr A.D. Buti: They can't be trusted to be in opposition!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Armadale is right, actually—do not trust them at all! That is a good point.

Opposition members think the economic recovery is over. However, the government is working with industry to sustain job creation, to ensure we have a pipeline of work and ensure we create new projects directly and facilitate new developments to create long-term jobs for all Western Australians.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PROJECTS — BINDOON BYPASS

351. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to media reports that the minister is considering delaying projects that have not yet started and information conveyed by Main Roads Western Australia officials to a public meeting in the Shire of Chittering on Tuesday night.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Bindoon bypass has been put on ice for at least two years?
- (2) What other Western Australian projects on Infrastructure Australia's 2020–21 list of priority projects will be delayed?
- (3) Will the minister release a full list of projects that she will delay, or even scrap, under her government's so-called smoothing of the projects pipeline?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(3) We are not scrapping any projects, members. As I have outlined today, in many speeches and in a lot of communication, and as the Premier has outlined, we have seen an economic recovery beyond expectations. I think it was the Leader of the Opposition who said that we will not have enough jobs for Western Australians. We have a lot of jobs and we are trying to manage the economic impact of what is a boom in economic activity around Western Australia. It is a unique situation. As I have said and continue to say, we are working with industry to create a pipeline of work over the next five to seven years. That means working with industry and making sure that we have a continuum of work around Western Australia—in regional Western Australia and in metropolitan Western Australia. Those negotiations are ongoing. As the Premier outlined, it was raised at the skills summit on Friday. We will continue to work with industry and we will outline our pipeline of work nearer to the budget.

I am very proud that we have so many Western Australians working today. I am very proud that we are getting more programs, such as encouraging Western Australians living in remote and regional Western Australia to get drivers' licences, and the Infrastructure Ready course and the heavy vehicle training course that we have introduced. All these programs will get as many people working as possible.

We will outline all those policies later. We are working with industry. We are not scrapping any projects. We are very proud of the program of works that we are delivering, and will continue to deliver over a longer time, to make sure that all Western Australians get the benefit of this economic recovery.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PROJECTS — BINDOON BYPASS

352. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. I refer the minister to the question that I asked and the fact that Main Roads officials have publicly announced that the Bindoon bypass has been delayed for two years. I ask again: can she confirm that that is the case; and, if so, why has she singled out that project when it has the highest cost–benefit ratio of any on the Infrastructure Australia priority list?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

We have not made any final decisions on this. As I said, we had a skills summit on Friday.

Mr R.S. Love: Main Roads is saying that you have.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: And I am saying that we have not. As I recall, as the Minister for Transport, we are the ultimate decision-makers.

As the Premier just outlined, we are spending a record amount in regional WA—hundreds and millions of dollars on regional road safety packages and key road projects around Western Australia. We are very proud of the amount of money we are spending in regional Western Australia. It is unprecedented. It was the member for Moore's former leader who said that roads should not be a priority for royalties for regions spending. It was a disgrace that they did not believe that royalties for regions —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was a disgrace that they did not believe that royalties for regions should be spent on roads. We are out there upgrading South Western Highway and building the Albany ring-road and Bunbury Outer Ring Road. We are doing work throughout the Kimberley and Pilbara and around the goldfields. Everywhere we go, there is record regional spending. We want to work with industry to make sure that we can continue to deliver that benefit not just today or next year, but for years to come, and that is what we will do. It makes good sense for the community and for the economy, and it also means that financially everyone gets to benefit for a longer period of time. Of course our priority, as the member has seen, is record regional road safety spending.

STATE ECONOMY — INVESTMENT

353. **Mr M. HUGHES to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to diversifying the Western Australian economy.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government is promoting Western Australia to overseas markets and ensuring that our state remains the preferred jurisdiction for both domestic and international investment?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this is supporting local businesses and local jobs?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I would like to thank the member for the question; it is an important one and he knows how important diversifying our economy is to the people of Western Australia. As we know, Western Australia is a great place to live, work and raise a family. It is also a great place to do business, and more and more investors and companies across the country, as well as internationally, are coming to realise this important fact. As the global pandemic continues, it is clear that the government's efforts to keep the state safe and strong are being rewarded with further investment interest in this safe haven of Western Australia. To appropriately manage this demand, Invest and Trade Western Australia was established in 2019 as a division of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, delivering on a key election commitment by the McGowan government, to establish a refreshed and comprehensive approach to attracting investment, growth and trade to our state, which helps to diversify the economy and create jobs. Investment and Trade WA provides a front door to investors from both overseas and interstate that are interested in doing business in WA. It provides a range of information and support services to small and medium Western Australian enterprises that want assistance to reach their export potential. It includes the development of a dedicated website to showcase Western Australia's unique attributes and emerging opportunities.

Despite the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Western Australia has experienced strong business investment since 2019. In 2020, the value of Western Australia's business investment rose by 8.3 per cent to \$39.6 billion. This was spearheaded by the resources sector, including Covalent Lithium's \$1 million Mt Holland lithium project and new gas developments by Mitsui-Beach and Strike Energy. There are other measures, too. For example, the WA recovery plan provided funding of up to \$14.9 million to support investment in call centres and back-of-office processing services in WA, incentivising business and creating local jobs. As a result of that program, the government has successfully attracted investment from New Zealand's Datacom, as well as Oracle CMS and WA's TSA Group relocating some of the Victorian staff back to Perth.

The economic successes will not come without challenges. Of course, as the Premier has mentioned, all cabinet ministers attended the skills summit last Friday. It was a tremendous success and demonstrated that this government is prepared to work with industry and business to make sure that we realise our collective potential. The Premier has already outlined a range of incentives, opportunities and programs to try to create the workforce that our businesses will need to drive the economy further. Not only are we proud of our health response to COVID-19, but also our economic response to COVID-19 will create great opportunities for WA businesses going forward.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

354. **Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I refer to growing concerns from Western Australians seeking to return home and a refusal by the WA Minister for Police to disclose any detail relating to the operations or uptake of the G2G PASS system.

- (1) Will the Premier commit to a greater level of accountability and transparency in the G2G PASS system so that Western Australians can be confident that the system is working properly?
- (2) Will he undertake to provide this information to Parliament on a regular basis?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I do not know what the member is referring to. The G2G PASS system has worked effectively over the course of the last 16 months or so since we brought it in. It has been a very good system and it has kept Western Australia safe. The reality is that at times we have to cancel people's G2G passes, which is perhaps what the member is referring to. Is that what he is referring to?

Ms M.J. Davies: No.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is not what he is referring to? Okay. I will answer as best I can because I do not know what the member is talking about. We sometimes have to cancel G2G passes because we basically close down access to a state. Rather than leaving thousands of people with a pass to get in, we have to close down access to a state, which, as we now know, is probably very wise.

I note that just now the Victorian Premier has sent Victoria into lockdown again. Our border with Victoria helps keep us safe. I note that today Queensland had 16 cases in the community. Our border with Queensland keeps us safe. I note that today New South Wales had over 260 cases, and they are spreading out to regional New South Wales because the New South Wales government has not done what was required, as it was advised time and again to do. The virus has spread from New South Wales to Queensland to Victoria to South Australia and to here as a consequence. All I would say is that the opposition can continue to criticise and undermine. We will continue to keep Western Australia safe.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

355. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the Minister for Police has refused to provide this information to the Parliament, will the Premier commit to a greater level of accountability and transparency and undertake to provide detail relating to the operation and uptake of the system?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I have here a question that was tabled in the upper house and an answer that advises that the number of G2G passes requested since 1 January 2021 is 1 050 884 and the number of G2G passes approved since 1 January 2021 is 891 616. Is that what the member is after?

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is that what the member is after? I am asking the member who asked the question: is that what you want?

Mr P.J. Rundle: I'm asking about the inconsistencies.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I love your questions. I love the member for Roe's questions because he does not know what he is asking. He never does. It is kind of cruel to get him to ask questions, to be honest. But they are the figures.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am accusing you of being cruel to your own MP. That is the answer. Over one million G2G passes have been requested and over 891 000 granted. As I said before, sometimes they are cancelled because we close down access to a state, which I think is very understandable. The G2G PASS system was created here in Western Australia as a means of managing these things. The SafeWA app was created here in Western Australia as a means of managing contact tracing. Both of them work. We have been unafraid to do the tough things that were required. That is what the situation has required—governments prepared to do tough and difficult things. All I have got from the opposition for the last 18 months is undermining and criticism. Every time we do something difficult, you undermine and criticise. I think the people spoke on that. That is why I am looking at four of you.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS — ABORIGINAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

356. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's landmark Aboriginal procurement policy that provides greater opportunities for Aboriginal businesses in securing government contracts—something that was never implemented by the Liberal and National Parties.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this policy is delivering unprecedented support for Aboriginal businesses and helping drive greater economic benefits to the Aboriginal community?
- (2) Can the minister advise whether he is aware of anyone who has questioned the importance of this policy?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Landsdale for this question and also for her interest and expertise in this area. It is certainly a landmark policy. Before I go on to the policy, a newly minted Liberal member in the upper house, Hon Neil Thomson, made some very narrow-minded comments about this policy during the winter break. He called it window-dressing and said that targets were really a moot point when it comes to government contracts with Aboriginal business operators. It is perplexing to have a member of the Liberal Party question a landmark policy that seeks to enhance business opportunities.

Let me remind the house of the success of this policy. It has been going for two years. In the first two years, the McGowan government awarded 413 contracts to Aboriginal business operators at a value of more than \$350 million. In 2019–20, 234 contracts were awarded to Aboriginal businesses. That is about 5.5 per cent of government contracts for the year. What happened under the previous Liberal–National government? I know the member for Landsdale is asking me whether that was the Barnett–Grylls government or the Barnett–Redman government. Well, nothing happened. We do not know what happened because it did not keep track of the contracts made with Aboriginal business operators. It did not encourage contracts with Aboriginal business operators and it did not keep any figures on Aboriginal business operators. So, it is a bit rich for a member of the opposition to say that our landmark policy is basically window-dressing.

Hon Neil Thomson indicated that he believes that our policy is basically, in his words, a “welfare measure”. It is not a welfare measure; it actually seeks to create a sustainable environment for Aboriginal business operators to grow. He claims that it has had minimal impact on the Indigenous employment situation. That is just farcical. As we know, Aboriginal business operators are more inclined to employ Aboriginal workers.

I was recently down in the beautiful town of Albany. Minister for Health, I visited the Albany radiation oncology project—a fantastic project. As part of that project, a local Indigenous company called Impact Services had been engaged to provide and support Indigenous trainees to work on the project. That is what this policy aims to do. The Minister for Transport has secured record funding for one of the biggest improvements to regional roads in the state’s history. I am sure that Nationals WA members will congratulate the Minister for Transport for that work. These projects have an increased proportion of Aboriginal business operators and they are not only employing Aboriginal workers, but also providing career pathways and long-term opportunities. The member for Kimberley will be aware that \$330 million worth of road projects are underway in the Kimberley, some of which have set targets of 30 per cent Aboriginal employment. Hon Neil Thomson should ask one of the 142 Aboriginal business operators that we have contracted whether this is window-dressing.

In conclusion, member for Landsdale, I would like Hon Neil Thomson to look at his inaugural speech in the upper house when he said he received some family advice, which was “be honest and don’t exaggerate”.

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — POLICE

357. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the Commissioner of Police’s requirement for WA police officers and staff to be vaccinated or wear a mask.

- (1) Under what powers can the WA police commissioner mandate that Western Australia Police Force employees are required to wear a face mask if they are not fully vaccinated?
- (2) Does the Premier and his government support mandatory vaccination for the WA Police Force?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, I require only the Premier to answer the question—no-one else, thanks.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) Chris Dawson is an outstanding Western Australian police commissioner. He is highly respected across the community. Over the last 18 months, the Minister for Health and I have basically met and worked with him on a daily basis. One of his roles is State Emergency Coordinator, which means that he has authority under the Emergency Management Act to exercise powers to do and require certain things across the community. He is also the employer of police, police auxiliary staff and civilian staff in various roles. He advised us, maybe last week, in his range of roles, that if staff in those positions get sick and the facility or the activity ceases operating, it will be catastrophic for the state. I will give the Leader of the Opposition one example. The emergency call line 000 is staffed 24 hours a day. If staff members who are trained in dealing with these things get COVID and get sick, the emergency call line stops operating, or the 131 444 line stops operating. He said, “I cannot allow those people to all go out sick.” He has put in place a requirement for those people, initially, to be vaccinated. There are various other functions within the police that are of similar importance in keeping the community safe and, frankly, society operating and functioning. He said, “Look, there’s a requirement for them to get vaccinated or wear a mask. That’s the requirement I’m going to put in place.” I agree with him. It might sound harsh, it might sound difficult,

but this is a time for doing difficult and tough things. He has powers under the emergency management laws and he has powers as an employer, particularly in relation to uniformed officers. There might be some complaint—I saw an article in the paper with some complaints today—but, frankly, I am on the police commissioner’s side.

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — POLICE

358. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Does this government have any plans to expand mandatory vaccination to other sectors of the workforce, and has the Premier sought advice from the Chief Health Officer on the application of this to other sectors of the workforce, for example, the WA Health sector?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The national cabinet has agreed to put in place public health laws across Australia in each of the jurisdictions for people who work in aged care. Aged-care residents are very vulnerable. Obviously, if an aged-care resident is vaccinated, it helps to protect them. If people in the workforce are also vaccinated, their transmissibility or capacity to transmit the virus reduces; therefore, the workforce getting vaccinated is incredibly important, so we have agreed across Australia that we will put in place by 15 September a requirement for the workforce to get vaccinated. That is a national agreement, so that is one workforce.

We are looking at other workforces such as the health workforce; we are looking at the workforce in ports; national cabinet has discussed it in relation to other workforces that are highly—how do I put it?—exposed and have the capacity to spread it. For instance, think about the people who work for airlines and all the people who fly between the states. All those issues are currently under consideration, but the one that has been decided is the aged-care workforce at this point in time, because people in aged care can die in large numbers. We saw that in Victoria. We have seen that overseas.

These are tough things and difficult things, but what I have found over the last 18 months is that doing tough and difficult things saves your state. It saves your state. If you are not prepared to do tough and difficult things, you should not be in these roles. We recently saw in another state that people were not prepared to lockdown when they should have, and we now see the consequence. People criticise me and criticise this government for taking action early and somewhat extreme measures, but extreme and tough measures work and we make no apology for that.

HOMELESSNESS — BOORLOO BIDEE MIA SERVICE

359. Dr K. STRATTON to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government’s unprecedented investment in services and support for those experiencing homelessness. Can the minister outline to the house how the new 100-bed homelessness service in Perth will ensure that there is a culturally appropriate response to those who are rough sleeping in the CBD, and can the minister advise the house how this service will complement this government’s other investments in breaking the cycle of homelessness?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am very pleased to speak during Homelessness Week about another of our announcements in order to address the difficult issue of homelessness in our community. As the member said, we were very pleased today to open Boorloo Bidee Mia in Wellington Street. In Whadjuk, that means “Perth pathway to housing”, and that is exactly what this facility is designed to do. It will not just be for Aboriginal people, but it will be run by Aboriginal-controlled organisations and has been designed for Aboriginal people, who are over-represented in our homeless community. We do not have dedicated homeless facilities at the moment for Aboriginal people. It will be designed to be inviting for them and be an opportunity for them to come in from the streets, get a roof over their head, get stable and, importantly, engage with services to get their lives back on track. I think Daniel Morrison, who is the CEO of Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, put it best this morning when he said that Boorloo Bidee Mia is more than a shelter. He said that it will be a community. It will be a community of service providers, people with lived experience and dedicated workers who will work with those clients to meet their needs, and meet them where they are. It might be getting their identification organised, getting their Centrelink payments on track, getting them medical appointments and getting them some diagnosis or treatment plans organised so that they can then move on to the next stage and into more stable housing. Perhaps it will be for them to move to other places such as a regional area where they have family and community, back to their remote communities—whatever is required. It is a fantastic announcement, and I would really like to thank not only Wungening Aboriginal Corporation and Noongar Mia Mia as the other Aboriginal-controlled organisation that has partnered with the Department of Communities to get this facility opened, but also all those bodies that have been there working very hard to make sure that the facility was opened during Homelessness Week. It is very fitting.

In fact, listening to the Minister for Finance’s answer to a previous question about our government’s commitment to ensure that there is a pipeline of work given to Aboriginal-controlled organisations and Aboriginal businesses so that they are well placed to be able to competitively bid for not only government contracts, but any contracts, it was good

to see that Kardan Construction, which is an Aboriginal-controlled building company, was one of the organisations that was doing work to get this facility ready. It was a very positive environment at the opening today, but we might have all been upstaged by a small girl, Jasmine, who had put on make-up especially for the facility, and she helped with the welcome to country there today.

I was a bit perplexed to see some critics—I think some of them might be over at Solidarity Park today, Jesse Noakes and the like—criticising the opening of Boorloo Bidee Mia. It is staggering to think that anyone would criticise the opening of a dedicated facility, which has a low-barrier entry. Anyone from the streets can go in and seek refuge at this place. It is designed and controlled by Aboriginal organisations. How anyone could think that was a bad thing is beyond me. I do not understand that. I think this is a good thing and I am very proud to be part of a government that has delivered it.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party with the last question.

CORINTHIAN PARK TENNIS CLUB — ELECTION COMMITMENT

360. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Local Government:**

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I refer to the front page of the *Canning Gazette*, which highlights that the Corinthian Park Tennis Club in Shelley is left in limbo because it has not received the \$160 000 election commitment from WA Labor.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

Dr D.J. HONEY: Is it the role of local government to use ratepayers' money —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I would like to hear the question in silence, please. You can start again or continue from where you are, member.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Is it the role of the local government to use ratepayers' money to provide bridging finance to clubs that have not received WA Labor's election commitments, as bizarrely requested by the member for Riverton at a recent council meeting?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for the question. I do not know the history of this issue. Obviously, as a government, we made a large number of local election commitments that we are seeking to deliver across Western Australia as speedily as possible. But in relation to the specific dynamics of any particular project, I would be happy to follow that up after question time.

CORINTHIAN PARK TENNIS CLUB — ELECTION COMMITMENT

361. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Local Government:**

I have a supplementary question. Just to reinforce that, is the minister happy to —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Can we hear the question before people start trying to adjudicate on it.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Exactly. Will the minister undertake to approach the Treasurer to resolve the issue of funding for that club so that it can secure premises for its members?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: No opinions, thank you. Minister for Local Government.

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I want to be very clear that in relation to delivery of local election commitments, there is always a prudent and measured approach. As a consequence, this is not simply handing funds over to any local government organisation or community group. There have to be checks and balances in place. That is what agencies do: they reach out, including my department, to liaise with the organisation that the grant will be delivered to. Again, I do not know the specifics of the negotiations between the agency and the local government, but I am sure that I will be happy to follow it up afterwards.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Receipt

Bill received from the Council.

CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park) [2.50 pm]: I rise to conclude my remarks on the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021. My second summary point is that the core of the bill is to achieve continuity and stability in a child's living arrangements and preserve and enhance a child's relationships with family and other people who are significant in their life so long as the child's safety and wellbeing remains the focus. If anyone needs convincing about the superiority of family, community and on-country placement, I urge them to read or watch this year's Curtin University Rob Riley memorial lecture, which was given by Professor Megan Davis, pro vice-chancellor Indigenous at the University of New South Wales. It was a privilege to attend this lecture in person in my electorate in June. I challenge any naysayer to listen to it and not have their dials moved.

The majority of amendments in the bill were passed in the Legislative Assembly as part of the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2019, but they did not pass the other place. My thanks to the Minister for Child Protection for prioritising the reading and presentation of this bill and giving it the importance it deserves. The bill paves the way to provide essential physical, emotional and spiritual care for some of our most vulnerable and dependent people—our children. I look forward to seeing it progress through this Parliament for the protection and empowerment of our children. It will allow each of us to do what is necessary to give them the opportunity to be safe, to attempt to recover, to maintain essential emotional connections and, hopefully, to thrive. I commend the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021 to the house.

MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville) [2.52 pm]: I rise today in support of the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill 2021. I, too, thank Minister McGurk, the Minister for Child Protection, and her staff for all their hard work in seeing this bill debated again.

I would like to share my experiences as a registered paramedic as they relate to the different areas of this bill. In my job, I witnessed the raw scenes of children who had been sexually and/or physically assaulted. After being called to a home, I would find myself sitting with my young patient on their bed or the floor. Over my 20 years in my job, I recall three situations that I attended that involved alleged sexual assaults, during which I was one of the crew in whom the child confided.

When ambulances get calls to attend these jobs, sometimes they are not always what they seem. A fall, abdominal pain or a headache sometimes turns out to be far more than we bargained for. As we ask questions and look around the house, a child's answers prick our ears and activate our spider senses. Sometimes the hardest part of the job is getting to the truth of the situation; sometimes the truth is hard to find, especially when the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are there minimising the complaints and comments of the child. Paramedics are very adept at redirecting adults out of the room and out of the earshot of a young patient with the idea of asking more direct questions about what was really going on. When the young children in these three memorable cases spoke up, it became my responsibility to support and reassure them that we would take care of them. I told them how strong and courageous they were in sharing their story, especially when it involved family. I would sit with them while they spoke to the police at their house or a triage nurse at hospital. Part of me felt a sense of pride that they felt safe enough to share their story with me and for their courage to speak out against adults who were meant to be their protectors—the people who were meant to be their safe people but who failed them. They trusted me, a stranger, albeit a person in uniform. They took a chance on me to help make their nightmares stop.

One thing I remember from those three cases was how the children were worried about what their parents, grandparents and everyone else would think. They were worried about everyone else's reaction and they put themselves and their needs last. I was always devastated that a child had been put in that situation—that they had been let down by the adults who were meant to protect them. Part of me was selfishly pleased that, as a paramedic, I got to hand everything over. I would stay with the child until they were safe with their family or the police or safe at hospital and then I got to leave. I would complete my paperwork, hand the events of the night over to the police and move on to the next job. I learnt early in my career that it was best to not follow up on jobs because sometimes I would not get the results that I had hoped for. The way I dealt with not knowing the results of these jobs was the same way that I dealt with not knowing about every hard job I had to live with over the years. I would write my own happy ending in which everyone got better and lived happily ever after. Do I live in a fantasy land? I probably do, but it got me through 20 years of gut-wrenching jobs. As a side note, I was with the member for Burns Beach for the launch of the PTSD Research Foundation Western Australia. I thank him for his efforts in looking into the treatment and prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder and, more importantly, for launching the WA research platform for PTSD, because prior to that, there was not one in WA.

I welcome the broadening of the mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse following recommendation 7.3 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Although anyone can and should notify the department if they have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, I also believe that the more occupations listed as mandatory reporters, the better. I welcome any opportunity that compels a person to report the suspected sexual

abuse of a child. Possibly the occupation of paramedic could go on this list in the future. In addition to doctors, nurses, midwives, police officers, teachers and boarding supervisors, out-of-home care workers, youth justice workers, early childhood workers, registered psychologists, school counsellors and ministers of religion will be added to the list. Like every member who has spoken before me has said, child safety is, first and foremost, everyone's responsibility. Minister McGurk stated in her second reading address that the government remains resolute in its commitment that children's right to safety and protection from harm is absolutely paramount.

Another important amendment to the Children and Community Services Act 2004 is royal commission recommendation 12.20—that there be consultation between Aboriginal families and an Aboriginal representative within a child's home community about the best interests of the child. Further, if an Aboriginal child cannot be placed safely with their family or an Aboriginal person in their home community, subject to the child's best interests, a non-Aboriginal person within the same community will be held in high regard. This is very important, because the family of a child who may not be able to provide full-time care for the child could still potentially be involved in the child's life, thereby growing family relationships and promoting language and other culturally significant events to help the child maintain their identity and connection to kin. The opportunity for a child to stay in their community, even when it is with a non-Aboriginal family, will create self-esteem, emotional strength and resilience in that child.

We know that Aboriginal children are over-represented in our foster care system, so it is inevitable that non-Aboriginal foster carers will be utilised to care for these kids. By and large, irrespective of race, marital status and religious affiliation, foster carers have the best interests of their foster child at heart. They are a special group who do extraordinary work. In my electorate in the Peel region, we have a significant number of foster carers who, on average, have five foster children per family household. This does not include those carers who have their own biological children. I know of some families who take care of eight kids because they see the importance of trying to keep siblings together. As those family members enter care, carers find themselves opening their homes and hearts to one more child because they are committed to the idea that family and kinship are everything.

One amazing group of foster carers in my electorate are non-Aboriginal carers who care for Aboriginal children. Mandy and Bill Bishop, Karen Kujawski and Leanne O'Brien came together to build a not-for-profit business called the Foster Share Shed. I went to meet them as a member of Parliament. They support 200 carers within and outside the region, as far away as Geraldton. They switch clothes, toys, furniture and ideas, and due to their many years of experience with fostering children, they give good advice and offer an ear and a shoulder to laugh or cry on when days get tough. Because they are looking after children in care, it is highly likely that the children come from a trauma-based situation, whether that is sexual or physical trauma, or they just cannot be with their family due to drug use. But being removed from their family, these foster children need extra support.

I have met with Karen on a number of occasions. She is a non-Aboriginal carer with six children, two of her own, and four foster children. Three of these four kids are Aboriginal and one is Caucasian. She supports all her children by organising meetings with families and works towards the reunification of the child with the family. Karen also works hard to promote cultural heritage and connection to family and, when possible, nurtures family outings that these three Indigenous children have with extended family. She is the epitome of a success story—which the amendment as a result of recommendation 12.20 from the royal commission is created for—that Aboriginal children living with non-Aboriginal parents works.

The members for Mandurah, Murray–Wellington and I made small commitments of \$23 450 to the Foster Share Shed to help with extensions and a coffee machine so that families in the Peel region and surrounds will benefit from the group's hard work and generosity. This group has now gone on to open an op shop called Promises, where it sells donations of clothes, toys and furniture. It is 100 per cent volunteer operated and I know from word on the street that these four people are worth their weight in gold. I acknowledge in the chamber today all their hard work and the work of their volunteers.

In closing, it has been an honour on my part as a newly elected member of Parliament to highlight the importance of these amendments in the Children and Community Services Bill 2021. Firstly, the increase in the number of occupations that will need to mandatorily report and, secondly, that non-Indigenous foster carers such as Karen, Mandy, Bill and Leanne are held to the same high standard as Aboriginal families when considering what is best for the individual needs of an Aboriginal child. To echo the words of the member for Riverton, those young people are the future of our society and we absolutely have to do everything we can to protect them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

TRANSFER OF LAND AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 26 May.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.02 pm]: I look forward to making a reasonably brief contribution here today to the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2021. Firstly, I would like to point out that the opposition will support this bill. As members well know, the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2018 was brought on a year or two back, and once

again I would like to point out that this was another bill that came through stacked up with about 16 or 17 other bills and it could not quite see the light of day. As always, we do not mind mentioning that we are disappointed with the way that this and a number of other bills were handled in the other house and the way they were held back, as far as I am concerned, from the opportunity for the previous Parliament to progress them.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It would not have been a problem, but the government could not seem to manage the agenda. Regardless of that, I am certainly supportive of this bill, but I have a few questions that I would like the minister to answer for me on the way through in his response.

I remember last year when I was the Nationals WA spokesperson on the Attorney General's portfolio, I said that of course, I am not really a lawyer and the member for Armadale said, "You're a good bush lawyer." That gave me some confidence, I suppose I could say, but I would like to tell the minister that I was also a bush conveyancer at one stage, as in, I did quite a few settlements when relatives, friends and other people bought and sold houses. I was taught by someone how to do it. I did successfully transact quite a few settlements, as it turned out. It was quite interesting.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Most of them currently subject to court orders!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: If the minister has a house that he would like me to sort out for him, I am more than happy to.

It taught me about the complexities of trying to adjust the Water Corporation bill, the shire rates and all those things that go into the settlement statement, but it really taught me the difficulty that we have relying on the likes of Australia Post to get those documents through. I still remember one time—I think I was at 150 St Georges Terrace—when I turned up with the mortgage and the title, did everything right and someone rang up and said, "Sorry, the other document didn't arrive in the mail." It was quite frustrating, because I had just driven 250 kilometres from Katanning to arrange the settlement and there you go! This, I guess, is part of the reason why this bill is coming through. Of course, at that time, I do not think we had emails or the like. It was some time ago now. Certainly, in this day and age with electronic communications, we are way better off. I thought I would give that little bit of background.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Did you call yourself something like "Rundle Conveyancing Services"?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No, there was nothing like "Rundle Settlements" or anything like that.

Mr D.A. Templeman: If I do a Google search will I find something dodgy?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No. As I said, it was interesting because it gave me the opportunity to understand how a settlement works. I think a lot of people handball it off to the settlement agent and say, "I will pay you \$750 and you can sort that out."

Mr D.A. Templeman: I was going to say no wonder you have such a huge property portfolio!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No, it is very limited, but I did help out some relatives at times, minister.

As I pointed out, the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2021 has been drafted to improve and streamline conveyancing, and will further enable electronic operations of the state's land titles register. These amendments are part of the move towards national electronic conveyancing and permit the Western Australian land titles register to operate in an electronic environment. As the minister pointed out in his second reading speech, the bill amends three key areas of the Transfer of Land Act 1893. It modifies the definition of "counterpart documents" to improve the processing of mortgages electronically; it enables notices served under the Transfer of Land Act to be done electronically; and it removes duplicate certificates of title from the conveyancing process, resulting in a greater ability to conduct land transactions in a fully electronic environment. Some consequential amendments will be made to different acts to facilitate these changes, including the Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000, the Escheat (Procedure) Act 1940, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Local Government Act 1995 and the Strata Titles Act 1985, which, of course, we have seen quite a few changes to in the last year or two with the Strata Titles Amendment Act 2018.

The first part of that is the counterpart documents. The current definition of "counterpart", in relation to mortgage documents under the existing legislation, is an impediment to signing mortgages in an electronic format. That is exactly what I was just talking about. In that scenario they will not have to get everyone together in one place. It will create the opportunity for greater certainty around the enforceability of mortgages lodged electronically, which financial institutions have requested. Currently under the Transfer of Land Act, there are legislative impediments to signing mortgages via an electronic lodgement network. It will be interesting to hear the minister explain that to me. From my perspective, it is a security thing about the electronic lodgement network, the electronic lodgement of mortgages and electronic signatures. I think we might all remember a case a couple of years ago in which someone from Africa managed somehow to sell someone's property from underneath them or something along those lines. I think it might have been in Doubleview.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Who was the conveyancer?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: They would not have had a top-quality conveyancer like myself, minister!

Dr A.D. Buti: Will you take an interjection?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, I will.

Dr A.D. Buti: I was a member of the house then and your good friend Brendon Grylls was the Minister for Lands at the time, and he brought in some amendments to ensure that we could provide greater security. In respect to what you're saying, that goes to the security of the electronic system. I can assure you that Landgate has a very, very secure system.

Mr P.C. Tinley: It's never been hacked.

Dr A.D. Buti: There you go; it's never been hacked. Thank you very much, member. I don't believe so—I've never believed it. I don't think it has ever.

Mr P.C. Tinley: If it has, we don't know about it.

Dr A.D. Buti: We don't know about it; therefore, it hasn't been. You raise an interesting point. Obviously, it's probably more secure this way than it is in just paper form.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I certainly would like to think that Landgate has procedures in place, too. We see instances of this hacking going on. I know this is slightly off the track, but the other week a meat processing company in the eastern states was hacked and had to pay \$14 million—it was in bitcoin so it could not be traced—to get its system back up and running so it could process through its three or four different abattoirs. That is a consequence of hacking. Obviously, that is just one example, but it needs to be focused on in this electronic environment. We do not want people thinking that they are selling their house and then finding that it has already been sold for them.

Dr A.D. Buti: I understand that, member for Roe. As you said, Landgate is a very secure system, but it goes with anything; doesn't it? We do our banking electronically et cetera, so we've got to rely on the systems. I'm confident in the Landgate system, but obviously with anything you can't give a 150 per cent guarantee.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Absolutely. I am sure the minister's guarantee will be right behind it.

As I said, this uncertainty is, I guess, an unintended consequence of drafting. It has the potential to undermine industry uptake of e-conveyancing, but when I looked into the e-conveyancing guidelines and some of the industry's conferences, I noted that as of January 2019, 74.25 per cent of eligible transactions were conducted electronically.

Dr A.D. Buti: It's 92 per cent now.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is 92 per cent. That just demonstrates the industry uptake. The settlement agents who I have spoken to are generally in favour of this legislation. They are in favour of those electronic scenarios that help their businesses run. In a previous day and age, a lot of the time, it took an absolute minimum of 30 days for a settlement to happen, but nowadays, it probably can be done in 14 or 15. However, quite often, due to the mortgage process requiring the production of the original title or a duplicate title, the process is really stretched out. Of course, with Australia Post, something can be posted in a place like Esperance, in my constituency, and it can take 10 days to get to Perth and about six days to get to someone else in Esperance. That is the sort of scenario that we are concerned about.

Dr A.D. Buti: Member for Roe, because of your advocacy, I was thinking of your constituents when we decided to reintroduce this bill to the house.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Very good!

Without any doubt, the conveyancing industry is well and truly in favour of the legislation. As I said, certainly the people in that field who I have spoken to are pretty comfortable with it. As far as I am concerned, the security scenario is the one that probably concerns me the most.

The bill proposes to modify the description of counterpart documents to reference the document being substantially the same, in line with other participating jurisdictions. The proposed amendments on counterpart documents will better account for differences in documents created in both a paper and a digital version. As far as the electronic service of notice, this bill will provide for electronic notice to issue in the majority of circumstances, which will streamline informal and formal notices served under the TLA. Notices issued by the Commissioner and Registrar of Titles may be served on registered owners or persons lodging land transactions at Landgate. A reduction in paper-based mail as a method of service means current notice provisions of the TLA do not provide enough flexibility for the administration of a modern land registry. That concerns us because it can result in an inability to serve notices and a lack of clarity on when a notice has been delivered. Without these changes, claims against the Registrar of Titles could occur as well as some extended delays in the processing of documents.

I would also like to point out that duplicate certificates of title are hardcopy documents, which currently significantly limits the ability to conduct land transactions in a fully electronic environment. A lot of the processes have become automated, and the higher cost of handling paper documents has become an issue for participants in the land registration process. Financial institutions now actively discourage the issue of duplicate certificates of title as security

against a mortgage. I will refer to a couple of statistics. Sixty-seven per cent of Australians now have a mortgage and banks are very supportive of the conversion to electronic conveyancing and removing the requirement for duplicate certificates. All titles with Landgate are now stored in the cloud and for some years now customers have been able to opt out of storing a duplicate. Many banks have adopted the option to not store a duplicate—95 per cent of mortgage duplicates were not required by banks in recent years.

I think that demonstrates that certainly the banking industry in general is very much onside with this. I think of the old story of a person going to the bank, pulling out the metal box and saying, “I think I used to have my farm title in there.” They open the box, and the title is not there. They then have to try to locate where it is, having forgotten where it might be. Generally, banks always hold them, but once a person has paid off the mortgage and has full title, of course, they could take it home and put it in the filing cabinet or wherever they wanted. I think electronic storage will certainly help in situations like that.

Queensland and South Australia have already removed duplicate certificates of title. For many years the industry has been consulted on the issue of removing duplicate certificates as part of the national electronic conveyancing initiative.

Certificates of title will still be made available, providing an accurate copy of the current ownership information as it is recorded on the WA register of titles. It is important that people can still get a certificate of title. It makes them feel more secure. We understand that it is better for electronic conveyancing that goes backwards and forwards, but it is still nice to be able to have some sort of hard copy.

Dr A.D. Buti: Member, but, as you intimated, since we have had electronic conveyancing, obviously the trend has accelerated away from the duplicate certificate of title. As we go forward it is going to become less and less relevant and most people will not even desire one.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Certainly, I think that side of it is very logical.

As the minister said, Landgate is preparing a grassroots community campaign to educate consumers about the changes to a digital format for transactions. This especially targets the elderly and immigrant property owners. We cannot underestimate the percentage of the population, a lot of whom do not have even an email address or a computer, who will feel very secure having that paper title in the bottom drawer. I imagine there will be certain apprehension or hesitation from that section of the community.

Dr A.D. Buti: That is right. That is why Landgate wants a thorough information campaign. I may even appear in a video, speaking in another language, to assist with that. That is part of the reason that this change will not take effect immediately. It will take effect at an appropriate time.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am pleased to hear that, minister.

In a contribution a year or two ago, the minister spoke about the Torrens title system and enlightened the chamber on this matter with a very comprehensive history dating from 1858. I think the member for Thornlie spoke about his experience with joint tenancy and tenants in common. I must admit I learnt about that in my short conveyancing career. I did not realise at the time that there were two different types of ownership. When a person is in a joint tenancy and someone passes away, that property automatically goes to the survivor; whereas, if two people are tenants in common, 50 per cent can go to whomever a person directs it to go in their will. To be honest, I think a lot of people still do not understand the two different forms of ownership. They think that they can leave 50 per cent of their property to whomever they like, but then realise that it must go to the surviving family member. It was interesting to re-read the minister’s contribution and read the contributions of the members for Thornlie and Baldivis.

In general terms that probably sums up some of my concerns about the electronic scenario and that section of the community who feel a little bit uncomfortable with it—that is, those people who will not have access to it. I liken it a little to the COVID-19 scenario. Some members of the older generation who would like the Pfizer vaccine have to apply via email and grind their way through a 20-minute process to an application panel to give medical reasons why they should be able to get the Pfizer vaccine. Half of them cannot complete the application because they do not have the skills. The decision on that application will take 15 days and then they can be rejected anyway. A large vulnerable part of the community is vaccine hesitant. They want to apply and do the right thing and get the Pfizer vaccine, but it is made to be so difficult. These electronic scenarios are very difficult for that part of the population. That is an example of something that is slightly off track.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I wanted to mention that because it is frustrating when many of my constituents want to do the right thing. I think both the federal and state governments underestimate that when they say, “Go out and get vaccinated.” A lot of people in the older generation want to get vaccinated, but they want to get the Pfizer vaccine. I look forward to some changes being made here.

Going back to the bill, I would like the minister to expand on the facsimile scenario.

Dr A.D. Buti: Can I do it by interjection?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: You can if you like.

Dr A.D. Buti: It is not preventing facsimiles from current mortgagees. In the current situation, you would still use facsimiles. This is looking into the future. Very few people have facsimiles. It is not preventing the use of them at the moment.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I took it from my reading of the bill that people could use it. As the minister knows, they are being phased out and I am curious why this has been left in there.

Dr A.D. Buti: I am sure the member for Roe could probably count on one hand how many people use facsimiles today.

Mr P.C. Tinley: There are no CDs anymore.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The member is right. They are well and truly on the way out. I am curious why they are still part of the package.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Member, my electorate officer said to me, “You’ve got a fax.” I said, “Where from?” and he said, “The last century.”

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is right. Some people still rely on them so I will not criticise it.

Dr A.D. Buti: You can use facsimiles in regard to existing caveats; it is just that it is being phased out for the future.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thank you, minister.

To sum up, in general terms we support the bill. We need to move into the twenty-first century. The majority of conveyancing agents to whom I have spoken support it. My only concern is about the hesitancy of people. I think the minister’s education program will be very important because there are concerns about fraud and whether someone’s title could be electronically sold from underneath them. That is the real key to it.

Dr A.D. Buti: Member for Roe, I think going electronic will probably provide greater security than we have at the moment in the paper form. In regard to the education program, as I said, Landgate will be undertaking a comprehensive public consultation. It provides, as I said, for a proclamation date in the future when we are confident it is ready.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I note there have been changes in the Strata Titles Act, which I registered for and I have been following. I think a pretty good education program was done on those changes. Landgate has tried to keep people up to speed with those changes to the Strata Titles Act. It has tried to make sure that people have an opportunity to understand those changes.

I will wrap up my contribution there. The opposition in general is supportive of the bill. I am sure it will be interrogated in more detail in the other place, but in general terms we are supportive of the bill. I think it is a move in the right direction as long as those security measures and the education program is in place.

Dr A.D. Buti: Member for Roe, thank you, and I can assure you that it will be. You are part of the new modern National Party, which is great to see.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Very good.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [3.30 pm]: I rise to commend the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2021 to the house. I would like to make three points in my short contribution to this debate. First, it is currently a requirement that the mortgagee and the mortgagor both need the counterpart for settlement to go through. If there is even a slight difference, something like a difference in the contact details, they are not able to proceed further. This amendment states clearly that if the counterparts are substantially the same when the main items are similar, it could be accepted. It is only making things easier and better for the people of Western Australia under the McGowan government.

Second, COVID-19 has taught us to work from home. We have all moved to an electronic means with most things. The electronic service of notice is similar. A statutory notice for a property to be served electronically is what this amendment is about. Of course, we had a short conversation about not having facsimile as one of the options to be phased out; however, the traditional method of post will also be available for people who want to access it. Progressing and modernising things by making an electronic version available is the second amendment in this bill, which, again, will benefit the people of Western Australia.

I turn to the duplicate certificates of title. Forty-seven per cent of titles did not have duplicates. In 2020, 97 per cent of settlements occurred without duplicate titles. Even when the amendment is not in place, 97 per cent of people are already adapting it. We are only making it better by saying that there is no need for a duplicate title. Sometimes the bank requests a duplicate title, which costs money. We are trying to save money for Western Australians and make things easier and better.

On the day I am speaking about the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill, during question time the member for Cottesloe questioned the transfer of my very small commitment to the Corinthian Park Tennis Club. I can confirm that on 28 June the funds were transferred to the Corinthian Park Tennis Club. On 14 July, the president officially wrote to me thanking me for my contribution in supporting the club. It received funds of \$160 000 and work is nearly completed.

This government is about delivery. This government is about making things better for Western Australians. I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak today on this bill, and I commend the bill to the house.

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [3.32 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker, I intend to take at least 30 minutes to get through my talk on the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2021! No, noting the time, I will be brief. This bill today seems to be an orphan—the poor old Whip had to run around and make me speak on it. I am proud to support my very good friend the Minister for Lands. This bill initially seems like just another iteration—an acceptance of new technology and bringing to bear a more transparent and, hopefully, slicker process. As we have seen, the 92 per cent take-up of electronic transfer is self-evident. However, it is part of a long journey. As the minister said in his contribution in the last Parliament as the member for Armadale, it comes from a heritage that we should always acknowledge this place around how we see property rights. This bill is basically an extension of the Torrens title system, started by John Septimus Roe as the first Surveyor General in Western Australia in 1829. I might add, it was a post he held for some 40 years. In 192 years there have been only 20 Surveyors General. It is both the oldest department of the Western Australian government and clearly the most stable leadership over that time as well.

Property rights to be conferred between individuals and companies allow a piece of land, in the European context, to be transferred or made fungible. It is an important underpinning of how we see our society and how we congregate and aggregate the economic wealth we have in the national endowment of the dirt we stand on. I am very happy to see that Western Australia now has the first female Surveyor General in Dione Bilick, the twentieth Surveyor General. I look forward to seeing the sort of transition that we have seen from way back then, from parchment, I suppose, all the way through to electronic transfers and the advent of ones and zeros.

We could call this department the department of changing names because it has been every variation from the Department of Lands and Surveys to the Department of Land Administration and the Department of Land Information and now in its modern form is Landgate. As the member for Roe identified, the Torrens system is a uniquely Australian invention. It was designed in South Australia by Sir Robert Richard Torrens and was quickly taken up in South Australia and across the country. We should also be very proud that it has been taken up elsewhere—not as much as barbed wire, which we invented—in Canada, Fiji, Ireland, New Zealand, Israel, the Philippines, Russia, Croatia and the United States of America, and on it goes. Those countries have all adopted the Torrens system. Obviously, some variations are relevant; for example, who owns the mineral wealth under the land. In the US it is a very different system where the landowner owns the mineral wealth. We are fortunate that under the system in Western Australia the ownership of the mineral wealth, if you like, or the subsurface of the land is in the common domain; that is, the people of Western Australia. It is important on these occasions to tip our lid to history. We note the transition across a long period, over 192 years, that has provided stability both to us as private landowners but also in the commercial context.

Of course, we have also added to the title system. The green title is the most common. For members who might be interested in a bit of trivia, here is a fun fact for their trivia night: why is it called green title? It is because when the title is produced, the shaded area that identifies the property is printed in green ink. I am making the bold assumption that purple title is the same. I am getting nods. I took advice from the table: purple title is the same. In my quick reading I thought that purple titles were defunct, but apparently they are making a late comeback. They are still identified in places such as retirement villages, where under a purple title one is the owner of a portion of the whole, not a particular identifiable piece of the property. There are also strata titles and survey titles. The new advent from 2018 was the community battery, which was a significant addition to what we need to be doing to allow community-based projects such as at-scale battery storage and those sorts of things that will facilitate the better use of property. In my former responsibility as Minister for Housing, it was fundamentally important to ensuring that we got the density infill that was required to make a good attempt at getting the 47 per cent and maximising the massive investment in Metronet.

I note the death of the facsimile under the bill—long may it stay dead! I remember that when I first joined the Army we used to use gestetners. Anyone who is old enough would remember that you would have to roll up the gestetner and you would end up with a lot of purple ink. If we were ever called to the school administration office to help roll out the weekly newsletter, we always came back with black hands. Faxes are a thing of the past. I do not think I even have one in my office. They do not make printers with them anymore.

My final contribution is a story about faxes. When I was a very eager young captain in the Army I worked for a general by the name of Blake. He was a very precise man. He had a beautiful copperplate style of handwriting. He was a very precise, dapper guy and was very well-credentialed and highly decorated. He was a Vietnam veteran. Working for a guy of that standing, a two-star general, I had to be on my game. He would always get certain documents. I vividly remember once being called into his office. He said that he had written this beautiful memo; it was a lovely first draft. He had written it all out and had no corrections. He said, “Come here, young fellow.” I said, “Yes, sir.” He said, “Here, take this memo; I want you to fax it off to the interweb straightaway.” “Yes, sir; no problems”—and I did!

This is a very good and important step. Although it might not be the most significant thing we will ever talk about in this place, it is further evidence that the McGowan Labor government will make both significant change and the sort of change that is well overdue to make sure that we are most relevant as an internationally competitive jurisdiction for the purpose of the transfer of land.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Lands) [3.40 pm] — in reply: I would like to thank the speakers who have contributed to the debate on the Transfer of Land Amendment Bill 2021. I thank the member for Roe very much for his comments. Obviously, he sees the sense in this bill coming before the house to ensure that we move towards the electronic conveyancing process for land titles, as we have been doing since 2014. I thank him for his comments and hopefully I have answered them and cleared them up. I thank the member for Riverton very much for his eloquent contribution. I also thank the member for Willagee, who is a fountain of knowledge on many things to do with land. I thank him very much for his contribution. I thank all members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Dr A.D. Buti (Minister for Lands)**, and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 3.41 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — STAFF LEAVE

6. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the total number (in days) of sick leave taken by staff in all departments, agencies, government trading enterprises or boards within the Minister's portfolio responsibilities, and I ask:

- (a) How many sick days were taken over the periods:
- (i) 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2020;
 - (ii) 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021; and
 - (iii) 1 March 2021 to 17 June 2021?

Mr R.H. Cook replied:

Department of Health and health service providers advise:

- (a) The tables below provide the total number of sick leave days taken over the periods:
- (i) 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2020

Health Service Provider	Sick Leave
	1 Mar 2019 to 28 Feb 2020
	Days (7.6 hours)
Child and Adolescent Health Service	40,293.99
Department of Health	9,025.60
East Metropolitan Health Service	73,894.48
Health Service Support	12,232.02
North Metropolitan Health Service	111,115.32
PathWest	19,541.66
QEII Medical Centre Trust	264.72
Quadriplegic Centre	550.10
South Metropolitan Health Service	84,145.38
WA Country Health Service	84,503.88
Total	435,567.15

Note: Source from Human Resource Data Warehouse (HRDW) and Quad Centre

- (ii) 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021

Health Service Provider	Sick Leave
	1 Mar 2020 to 28 Feb 2021
	Days (7.6 hours)
Child and Adolescent Health Service	51,685.12
Department of Health	10,593.83
East Metropolitan Health Service	81,634.61
Health Service Support	11,140.52
North Metropolitan Health Service	113,071.54
PathWest	20,159.57
QEII Medical Centre Trust	294.37
Quadriplegic Centre	366.01

South Metropolitan Health Service	88,398.70
WA Country Health Service	94,155.57
Total	471,499.84

Note: Source from Human Resource Data Warehouse (HRDW) and Quad Centre

(iii) 1 March 2021 to June 2021

Health Service Provider	Sick Leave
	1 Mar 2021 to June 2021*
	Days (7.6 hours)
Child and Adolescent Health Service	16,771.19
Department of Health	4,087.71
East Metropolitan Health Service	27,799.55
Health Service Support	3,391.46
North Metropolitan Health Service	34,900.79
PathWest	5,971.65
QEII Medical Centre Trust	93.47
Quadriplegic Centre	62.55
South Metropolitan Health Service	27,996.30
WA Country Health Service	29,492.43
Total	150,567.10

Note: Source from Human Resource Data Warehouse (HRDW) and Quad Centre

*June 2021 data is up to the first pay period of the month (10 June 2021).

Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) advises:

- (a) (i) 137 days
- (ii) 229 days
- (iii) 59 days

Healthway advises:

- (a) (i)–(iii) Nil. Healthway does not directly employ staff.

Animal Resources Centre advises:

Personal leave:

- (a) (i) 653.26 days
- (ii) 644.38 days
- (iii) 170.96 days

