



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2022

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25 October 2022

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 1.00 pm, acknowledged country and read prayers.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT (TEMPORARY COVID-19 PROVISIONS) BILL 2022

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the bill.

PAPERS TABLED

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

STATE BUDGET — COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES

Removal of Notice — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.02 pm]: I advise members that private members' business notice of motion 1, notice of which was given on 22 March, will be removed from the next notice paper unless written notification is provided to the Clerk requiring that the notice be continued.

COST OF LIVING

Notice of Motion

Ms L. Mettam gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls on the McGowan Labor government to address the impact of increased demand and rising costs of delivery for community organisations supporting WA families through the ongoing cost-of-living emergency.

BILLS

Notice of Motion to Introduce

1. Directors' Liability Reform Bill 2022.

Notice of motion given by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**.

2. Liquor Control Amendment (Protected Entertainment Precincts) Bill 2022.

Notice of motion given by **Dr A.D. Buti (Minister for Racing and Gaming)**.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Removal of Order — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.03 pm]: I inform members that in accordance with standing order 144A, the private members' business order of the day that appeared on the last notice paper as "Critical Sectors Diversification and Growth" has not been debated for more than 12 calendar months and has been removed from the notice paper.

BATTERY AND CRITICAL MINERALS INDUSTRIES

Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade) [1.04 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to inform the house of another exciting outcome from the government's investment and trade mission to India in July. The mission not only strengthened Western Australian and Indian government and industry connections, but also continues to unlock and accelerate opportunities for local businesses in the Indian market. As a result of positive engagement during the India mission, Western Australian critical minerals company Technology Metals Australia Ltd has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Mumbai-based Tata Steel Ltd, which is part of the global Tata Group and the tenth-largest steel producer in the world. This is not only great news for the WA-based company, but also a great sign for WA's growing battery and critical minerals sectors.

There is no greater example of how the McGowan government is facilitating this energy transition than in the centre of the universe, my electorate of Kwinana, where we can already see WA's first large-scale battery project and the production of Australia's first battery-grade lithium hydroxide. Western Australia has the opportunity to be not only the centre of renewable and alternative energy in Australia, but also a supplier for the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. These partnerships between WA-based critical minerals companies and key international markets are how we make that happen.

Technology Metals is developing the Murchison Technology Metals Project, which is located 50 kilometres south of Meekatharra and includes the Gabanintha and Yarrabubba vanadium deposits. It is one of the highest grade vanadium projects in the world. Technology Metals is also investigating opportunities to move downstream in the production process, including the production of vanadium electrolyte, ferrovandium and vanadium nitride. Vanadium electrolyte is used in the manufacturing of vanadium redox flow batteries, which are used to provide long-term storage for electricity systems. This memorandum of understanding establishes a framework for discussions on the offtake of vanadium pentoxide and other downstream vanadium products.

It is not the first successful outcome of the trip, nor will it be the last. It is a great example of the McGowan government's commitment to the energy transformation of our state and the diversification of the WA economy. I congratulate Technology Metals Australia Ltd and Tata Steel for entering into this memorandum of understanding, which has the potential to deliver benefits for both companies, as well as for Western Australia.

DIWALI

Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [1.07 pm]: It is always a pleasure to bring to the attention of the house the celebration of one of Western Australia's major cultural festivals. The festival of lights is currently being celebrated here in Western Australia, running from last Saturday until tomorrow, Wednesday, 26 October. This annual festival celebrates good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. It has become a highlight in our festival calendar. Diwali, or the festival of lights, is a public holiday in India and is celebrated widely in many other countries.

I was fortunate to attend the Indian Society of Western Australia's annual Diwali Mela last weekend at Claremont Showground. This year's Diwali Mela attracted a large crowd, despite the rain and the distraction of the Men's T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan—what a game that was! It was enthusiastically embraced by everyone at the festival. That is an understatement!

With fireworks, spectacular entertainment, delicious food stalls and a cheerful family atmosphere, Diwali is an enjoyable day out for all. This state is fortunate to be home to large and thriving Indian communities, as well as visiting students, tourists and businesspeople from India, all of whom make Diwali an event to remember. The McGowan government has again been proud to fund three large celebrations this year: the Indian Society of Western Australia's Diwali Mela in Perth, funded with \$30 000; the Midwest Multicultural Association's Festival of Lights in Geraldton, funded with \$5 000; and the South West Indian Group's Diwali Festival of Lights in Bunbury, funded with \$5 000.

The Diwali and Hindu New Year celebration at Parliament House will take place this Thursday. If any members of the house have not taken part in a Diwali event before, I encourage them not to miss out. I wish all Western Australian Indian communities and everyone here today happiness, peace and prosperity for Diwali 2022.

HEALTH SERVICES ACT — GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [1.09 pm]: The Health Services Act 2016 commenced on 1 July 2016 and provides a legal framework for roles, responsibilities and accountabilities at all levels of the WA health system. Importantly, it enacts a devolved model of governance that enables decision-making closer to service delivery and patient care. On 17 January 2022, cabinet approved a governance review of the WA health system and the appointment of an expert panel to conduct this review, headed by Kym Peake, former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria. The purpose of the governance review is to examine the operational and practical effectiveness of governance structures set out in the act and their impact on patient experience and outcomes.

The panel has submitted its final report and made 55 recommendations to strengthen accountability for outcomes, improve strategic alignment, and drive delivery of strategic initiatives. Consultation was fundamental to this review. The panel consulted widely across the health workforce, consumers and carers, and the wider public. The panel commissioned the Health Consumers Council to engage with consumers, carers and families and found that although there are examples of good consumer engagement across the system, feedback identified that these experiences are not always valued. A change in culture is needed and I am personally committed to ensuring that change.

Overall, the panel's findings reinforce the value of the health service provider model, and it is pleasing to hear that these boards are fit for purpose and largely working well. The recommendations comprise clearer mandates within the system for the delivery of major projects, ICT and procurement; formalising collective accountability for health system performance; strengthening of system-wide leadership; better use and sharing of data, information and innovation; consistency in staff employment and training; and structured mechanisms for clinical, workforce and consumer engagement. The panel recommended that the system manager focus on strategic workforce initiatives that both ensure a fit-for-purpose health workforce for the future and further enhances the current workforce experience.

The review also outlines future considerations regarding the delivery of mental health services. I acknowledge these findings and would like to reassure Western Australians that we are committed to ensuring improved access to mental health services and that lived experience is at the heart of our mental health system. We know early intervention and community-based services are key, and we are already implementing important reforms such as the recommendations of the *Final report—Ministerial taskforce into public mental health services for infants, children and adolescents aged 0–18 years in WA* to better meet the needs of Western Australians experiencing mental ill-health and their families.

The state government welcomes the report and will consult stakeholders in the development of a formal response. The independent governance review is a significant body of work, and I would like to thank the panel members for their important contribution to the future of our health and mental health systems. I table the report.

[See paper [1614](#).]

TRANS-TASMAN MUTUAL RECOGNITION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from 17 August.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [1.12 pm]: I rise in support of the bill because it is a very important arrangement for the state and indeed for my community. The purpose of the bill is to continue Western Australia's participation in the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement by adopting the commonwealth Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act under section 51(xxxvii) of the Australian Constitution. The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Act 2007 adopts the Commonwealth act until 31 January 2023 when it is due to expire. This bill will ensure the state's continuing participation in the mutual recognition arrangement, which I think is particularly important.

The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement seeks to facilitate trade between Australia and New Zealand by removing regulatory barriers to the movement of goods and the mobility of people in registered occupations. This arrangement and other aspects of mutual recognition between Australia and New Zealand provide considerable benefits to our state.

Over the weekend, I met Rob Delane, a Woodlands resident involved in mentoring recent migrants. He was lamenting the fact that recognition of the qualifications of skilled migrants is notoriously slow and difficult at a time when we desperately need all the skilled people we can get. It is not uncommon for a person to come to Australia as a skilled migrant but in an occupation for which they are overqualified. One example is that of a person who comes to work as a chef but who is actually also a qualified engineer; however, recognition of their engineering qualifications is a much longer and slower and, indeed, more frustrating process than for other occupations, so they work as a chef.

At least for New Zealanders this is not an issue because we now have, and will have as a result of the passing of this bill, continuing mobility for people in registered occupations. Last week, our office was contacted by a local plumbing company, Plumbing Bros of West Leederville. It has hired a New Zealand resident, now resident in Perth, who has successfully completed three years of a plumbing and gas fitting apprenticeship in New Zealand. The Australian standard for plumbing and gas is the same as that for New Zealand, and a plumber licensed in New Zealand may have their qualifications recognised in Australia under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement. However, the path is not so easy for the apprentice plumber. Initial advice from TAFE indicates that the young woman will have to start her apprenticeship as a first-year apprentice. Our office has referred Plumbing Bros to Jobs and Skills WA to see whether it can help in recognising the prior learning of this apprentice so that she can be hired as a fourth-year apprentice and, therefore, a nearly qualified plumber. If an improvement could be made to the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement, it is in mutually recognising the standing of trade apprentices.

Continuing the removal of regulatory barriers to the movement of goods between Australia and New Zealand under the mutual recognition arrangement is good news for Glide Products, a local WA manufacturer of a range of manual and customised wheelchairs. It markets its wheelchairs in Australia and New Zealand. The principals of Glide, Steve Walsh and Peter Green, are members of my Green Jobs working group, and Peter is a Floreat local. Glide is a registered NDIS provider and Hon Bill Shorten, Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, last week visited Glide's Balcatta factory to see firsthand the quality of the manufacturing and service that goes into the customisation of motorised wheelchairs to meet the precise needs of people with disabilities.

Glide also benefits from another trans-Tasman agreement—the Australian and New Zealand Government Procurement Agreement to which Western Australia is also a signatory. The purpose of that agreement is to create and maintain a single ANZ government procurement market to maximise the opportunities for competitive Australian and New Zealand suppliers and to reduce the cost of doing business both for government and industry. Nearly 30 years ago, at the beginning of my career in the public sector in procurement in Queensland, I was involved at the working level in contributing to the framing of the ANZGPA. I, therefore, understand how it works to the benefit of local manufacturers such as Glide. There are no thresholds in the ANZGPA, so it applies to all government procurement

wherever Australian and/or New Zealand firms are seeking to supply—a really important feature of that particular agreement. Importantly, the determining factor in awarding contracts in competition to supply under the ANZGPA is the basis of value for money on a whole-of-life or life-cycle costing basis.

Up-front price can be the tip of the iceberg of cost when it comes to the cost of manufacturing things such as wheelchairs for purchase. The very important thing about the ANZGPA is that Australian and New Zealand suppliers are not competing on price. In the case of manual wheelchairs, Glide is generally competing against overseas, non-New Zealand-manufactured wheelchairs that are distributed locally and, unfortunately, the competition to supply is often based on price.

What whole-of-life value-for-money benefits does Glide offer? The fact that Glide wheelchairs are manufactured locally means that it employs local people in customer service, including wheelchair customisation to meet the specific needs of customers; manufacturing; after-sales service; repair and maintenance; and recycling the wheelchairs at the end of their useful life. This represents significant value for money in the WA economy. By way of comparison, a distributor of an overseas import will provide customer service and maybe some after-sales support, but not much else.

Another aspect of the whole-of-life value delivered by Glide is that a purchaser can return a wheelchair to Glide for repair or replacement if anything goes wrong. This is not generally the case with the overseas-manufactured wheelchairs with which Glide competes; therefore, the incentive for Glide is to build quality into its wheelchairs so that they are not returned by customers. The incentive for the manufacturers of imports is to build in obsolescence because the shorter the life of the wheelchair, the more wheelchairs they will sell through their distributors. Glide wheelchairs have a longer service life and therefore represent value for money to the purchaser.

Wheelchairs that are no longer serviceable take up space in health facilities, which represents a cost. There is also a cost for their disposal. The shorter the serviceable life of a wheelchair, the higher the cost per unit of managing wheelchairs at the end of their useful life. This cost is not taken into account when wheelchairs are purchased on the basis of up-front price. Glide will take back its wheelchairs at the end of their serviceable life and re-use parts or responsibly recycle materials. This represents a saving to the customer. In fact, Glide also takes back the wheelchairs of other suppliers and provides a service for recycling and re-using the parts of those wheelchairs as well.

The Australia and New Zealand Government Procurement Agreement's focus on whole-of-life value for money is another Trans-Tasman agreement that benefits this state. I believe that the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2022 is an extremely important piece of legislation that will deliver benefits to both the state economy and people in my community.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.22 pm]: I would like to make a contribution on the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2022. I am not normally the lead speaker in these matters and I did not actually attend the briefing, but I have been supplied information about the bill. I can confidently say that the opposition will support the legislation; we see it as being non-contentious.

I thank the member for Churchlands for her contribution. I thought it was interesting to have some practical examples of how this legislation will operate in the state. Her example of the wheelchairs was a good one with which to do that.

The purpose of this bill, as we know, is to continue Western Australia's participation in the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The current legislation was passed in 2007 and is due to expire on 31 January next year. If the bill before the house is not passed, Western Australia will no longer be captured under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The bill will allow for the continuation of goods produced in or imported into New Zealand that may be sold legally in New Zealand to be sold legally in an Australian jurisdiction, including WA, without the need for further regulatory requirements and vice versa. A person who has a registered occupation in New Zealand will be entitled to carry on the equivalent occupation after notifying the local registration authority of an Australian jurisdiction—in this case the Western Australian jurisdiction—and vice versa, subject to local registration conditions, which will ensure that there is equivalence between those occupational qualifications. I understand that there is a number of examples in which those types of conditions have been posed. The arrangement extends mutual recognition principles from other states in Australia across the Tasman to New Zealand.

The legislation will no longer have a set time for the recognition to remain in place. As I said, under the current arrangement, the legislation will expire on 31 January 2023. If this bill is passed, the termination date will be removed and instead of having a date, there will be a clause about termination and how that will take place. There will not be something set for a particular date, so we will not have to necessarily address this matter again in a certain number of years.

I note that the bill addresses how we can expect to see reports presented to Parliament down the track. The reports may come from a review of the scheme. That is in proposed section 6, "Tabling documents relating to scheme reviews". I will ask questions about when those reviews may be expected. I also note, on the general nature of the review, that the Productivity Commission looked at the legislation back in 2015 and found that it provided benefits for the state and the nation.

I note that the Premier spoke about the benefits of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement in his second reading speech. He went on to say at the end that exiting from the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement —

... would have immediate consequences for the free movement of goods and services between Western Australia and New Zealand. Western Australia benefits from being part of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement and should continue its participation.

I wonder whether there are any studies that may point to the level of that benefit. Has a dollar value been placed upon it and is there any transparent information about the actual benefit from Western Australia's participation? I heard the member for Churchlands speak about a particular matter. I think it would be instructive to have some information about exactly what benefits we can point to so that we know that we are, in fact, receiving those benefits, and what we may expect to see in the future from the continuation of this arrangement.

The arrangement is all about allowing in certain goods and also allowing people who have certain occupations to have their credentials recognised in Western Australia and in New Zealand. I will read from a handout—I suppose you could call it—the members' briefing on 6 September 2022. The Leader of the Opposition and Hon Peter Collier attended that briefing and were provided with this material. It refers to the laws relating to safeguards that are in place, whereby exemptions can be imposed to ensure that certain goods are not allowed to be brought in under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement. It states that these include laws relating to quarantine, endangered species, firearms and other prohibited or offensive weapons, and agricultural and veterinary chemicals. That is interesting. I wonder why it includes agricultural and veterinary chemicals. Western Australia has its own agricultural and veterinary chemicals approval mechanisms, and I would have thought they would be closely aligned with those of New Zealand. Therefore, I am quite surprised that there is not greater recognition of those goods. It states also that indecent material is, understandably, exempt from the ability to be traded under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement, along with other goods.

It is interesting that road vehicle standards are also exempt from this arrangement. Not many years ago, many of the vehicles in New Zealand would have been made in Australia. Therefore, I would have thought that there would be a strong case for this arrangement to also include those standards. I wonder why that exemption is necessary. I imagine that these exemptions will take place not so much at the state level but at the federal level, because all Australian jurisdictions have the ability to exempt certain goods from this arrangement. I understand that Western Australia is currently pursuing an exemption for Western Australia's Plan for Plastics and the container deposit scheme.

Another important part of cross-Tasman trade is the workforce. Under the arrangement, New Zealand workers must notify the relevant Western Australian local registration authority if they wish to practise in Western Australia. It is interesting that the range of occupations that will be covered includes teachers, builders, and construction and mining workers. Doctors are exempt from this arrangement, because they have their own arrangements in place, but I understand—correct me if I am wrong—that other medical staff, such as nurses and the like, can take advantage of this arrangement.

Another issue is worker shortages. It was conveyed to the opposition at the briefing that only about 50 teachers annually use this pathway to come into Western Australia. I wonder whether there is any intention to provide at some point data on the number of people who are taking advantage of the arrangement in not just teaching, but also other occupations in which there is a shortage of personnel. It would be quite instructive to know the effectiveness of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement in enabling the free transfer of labour across the Tasman from New Zealand into Western Australia. It seems from that number of 50 that not a lot of people in the teaching profession are coming into Western Australia under this arrangement. It would be interesting to know the number of people in other occupations and trades who are also using this pathway to come into Western Australia.

Worker shortages are a critical issue for Western Australia. The long wait times for builders and the like to do work is causing a lot of stress in many industries, and that is feeding into making every occupation quite difficult and placing extraordinary time and work pressures on people. We have not seen that situation previously. That problem exists not just in Western Australia, but it is most acute in Western Australia.

As an aside, New Zealand is providing a lot of labour into rural areas and farming sectors that are facing acute labour shortages. Those labour shortages are having an effect on not only communities, but also individual farming families and producers, because often extra hours have to be contributed by family members and by older people who normally would no longer be involved in farming but want to help out. In recent months there has, unfortunately, been a number of tragic accidents and fatalities. I wonder whether fatigue is behind quite a lot of that. There are labour shortages not just on farms and in rural industries and communities, but also in a range of other professions. That needs to be addressed with a great deal of urgency to ensure that this state can access the labour that is required to enable those industries to go forward so that people are not burnt out by the excessive demands that are being put on them at the moment.

I understand that a number of years ago, the Productivity Commission conducted a review into the arrangement, and there was some discussion about whether there might be another review in the next year or so. I wonder whether the state government would commit to ensuring that reviews of the operation of this arrangement in Western Australia are undertaken and that the analysis of those reviews is presented for the Parliament and the public.

As I have said, the opposition is supportive of the arrangement. This is not a contentious bill. It is probably good to remove the need for Parliament to come back in a fixed number of years and once again pass a bill to enable the continuation of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement and to rely instead upon the termination provision as the effective mechanism for bringing the arrangement to an end if at some point that is seen as desirable. In the meantime, I am happy to support the bill and look forward to its transition through the Parliament.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [1.37 pm] — in reply: I thank members for their support of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2022. In particular, I thank the member for Churchlands for her analysis of the work that is being done by businesses in, or in close proximity to, her electorate. I am familiar with some of those very high quality people and have met them at various events. I am amazed at the niche industries in Western Australia that are providing high-quality products that are being exported around the world and certainly should be used by the Western Australian health system. I also thank the member for Moore for his commentary.

As I stated in my second reading speech, this bill is largely uncontroversial. It is largely a renewal of an arrangement that has been in place for a long time. This bill is required to be passed by the Parliament this year to enable the continuation of the existing arrangement with New Zealand, which will expire on 31 January 2023. As members know, the standards in New Zealand are similar to those in Australia and Western Australia. The bill includes some important caveats. It will potentially expand the labour market by providing the opportunity for labour to move freely between Australia and New Zealand. What we are doing today is very reasonable and sensible, and I thank members for their support of the bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 4 amended —

Mr R.S. LOVE: Clause 5 amends section 4 of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Act 2007. The blue bill refers to how the amended section will appear. Subsection (4), as amended, will read —

The Minister is to cause a copy of any regulations referred to in subsection (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament within 14 sitting days of that House after the registration of the regulations in the Federal Register of Legislation maintained under the *Legislation Act 2003* (Commonwealth).

Will this mean that all existing regulations will have to be re-tabled at this point or will there be a continuation of whatever has happened in the past?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It will be a continuation of the existing arrangements. If any further changes are made to the commonwealth act, we will table those changes in the Parliament.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6: Section 7 replaced —

Mr R.S. LOVE: Clause 6 inserts proposed section 6, headed “Tabling documents relating to scheme reviews”. I am wondering whether the Premier can outline what a scheme review will entail. Will it look at the outcomes of the arrangement or some other matter? Is there an intention to have a scheme review within a particular time frame; and, if so, will all those matters be laid before the house without too much redaction?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Productivity Commission is tasked with the review of the mutual recognition scheme. I understand that that is due in 2025. Any such review will be tabled in both houses of the Western Australian Parliament.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Will that review be purely of the Western Australian aspect of the legislation or will it be of the national arrangement as a whole? Will it reflect both the New Zealand experience and the Australian experience, or will it simply be about the Australian result?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It will be for the entire country. There will be a call for submissions from all stakeholders, from both Australia and New Zealand.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Proposed section 6 states in part —

- (3) The Minister must cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after the Minister receives the report.
- (4) If a report to which subsection (3) applies contains sensitive, confidential or personal information, the Minister may comply with subsection (3) by removing the sensitive, confidential or personal information from the report before causing the document to be laid before each House.

If it is a national report, will the redaction be done by the commonwealth minister or by each state minister, including the Western Australian minister? Surely, the information will be tabled in the federal Parliament as well, or will it not?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The responsibility will rest with the Premier of the day.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [1.47 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.47 pm]: I rise to very quickly thank the Premier and his advisers for their participation in consideration in detail and the answers that were given. As I said before, the opposition supports the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2022 and looks forward to its transition through the Parliament.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES (COMPLAINTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Council's Amendments — Consideration in Detail

The following amendments made by the Council now considered —

No 1

Clause 28, page 24, after line 17 — To insert —

52U. Review of the decision to publish public health warning statement

If the Director publishes a public health warning statement setting out the name of a person, the person may apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of the Director's decision to publish the public health warning statement.

No 2

Clause 30, page 24, line 22 — To delete "52T" and insert —

52U

No 3

New Clause 42A, page 33, after line 17 — To insert —

42A. Section 79A inserted

After section 79 insert:

79A. Review of amendments made by *Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Amendment Act 2022*

- (1) The Minister must review the operation and effectiveness of the amendments made to this Act by the *Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Amendment Act 2022*, and prepare a report based on the review, as soon as practicable after the 5th anniversary of the day on which the *Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Amendment Act 2022* section 42A comes into operation.
- (2) The Minister must cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after it is prepared, but not later than 12 months after the 5th anniversary.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I move —

That amendment 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

Ms L. METTAM: On behalf of the opposition, I would like to state that we support the amendment that has been moved. My understanding is that some issues were raised in the other place by our representatives in the Legislative Council. I would like to thank the government for supporting a compromise agreement on this issue. I understand there was some concern that the director of HADSCO could issue a public health warning statement without a prohibition order or interim prohibition order and that a person subject to such a statement could have that done without a review. This puts in place the necessary review mechanism. We certainly support the proposed amendment and I thank the government for its position.

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

Ms A. SANDERSON: I move —

That amendment 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

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

Ms A. SANDERSON: I move —

That amendment 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

Ms L. METTAM: Again, the opposition supports the amendment that has been put forward by the government. I understand that the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review proposed that this review mechanism be put in place, and the opposition supports the amendment.

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

The Council acquainted accordingly.

TEACHER REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from 17 August.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [1.52 pm]: I thank members for the opportunity to speak to the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I want to start by acknowledging the number of former teachers who currently sit in the Western Australian Parliament. I am one of them. I am not acknowledging myself, trust me; I am just saying that I am one of those people. I want to start my contribution by telling members my favourite way of disarming people. When people in the community met me as a teacher, they would often ask me how many children I had. I would say, “This year, 100.” They would look quite perplexed and I would tell them that my career and enterprise class has 25 students. I teach five classes a day, with approximately 25 students in each senior school class, which is 100 kids a year. Thankfully, I did not teach maths because that is not my strong point! Certainly, people were quite amused at the idea that I had 100 children.

In beginning my contribution today, from the perspective of an educator—this is shared by every teacher in every classroom, certainly in Western Australia, Australia and probably the world—I was not quite sure how someone could actually love other people's children almost as much as they loved their own. I have two of my own kids. I speak on behalf of just about every teacher in Western Australia, and certainly on behalf of me and all members in the chamber today. The reason for that is that teaching is a calling. It is not a job. It is something teachers live and breathe. From the minute they wake up, they worry about whether the kids in their class will have the resources they need for the day. They worry about whether they have prepared their lessons in enough detail so that the student who is struggling in their classroom will understand what they are trying to teach them. I think it is something that teachers want to do. I would like to start by saying thank you to all teachers, retired teachers and those who are beginning the journey and training to be teachers. A number of teachers and students are in the public gallery today in preparation for question time. Thank you and welcome. Hopefully, there are some young teachers in their ranks.

In reflecting on this bill, I considered how the teaching profession touches all our lives in some way. At some point, we have all had a teacher who has made a difference in our education. Research shows that teachers are the single most important factor in a child's learning and their achievements outside their own family. The teacher registration scheme has been in effect in Western Australia for around 20 years. I think the key point for all of us when we are talking about teachers, teacher registration and this bill is that the paramount consideration of the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia is the best interests of the children in our schools. As at 30 June 2022, there were 56 751 registered teachers in Western Australia. Fully registered teachers make up 78 per cent of that, with a number of provisional, non-practising and limited-registration teachers making up the difference. The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill follows the 2018 review of the Teacher Registration Act, which included consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including employers and unions. Changes to the act will strengthen the powers of the board to respond to very serious matters of child safety involving teachers, consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

We need to make sure that we have an effective registration system that allows teachers to move between registration categories and improves fairness for teachers returning after an absence. The changes to the act will also allow Western Australia to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy, which is a COAG initiative to identify gaps in the availability of teachers across Australia. Importantly, it will provide for and promote a skilled teaching workforce within Western Australia.

Other aspects of the bill that I would like to highlight make changes to the scheme of teacher registration fairer. A key change is how the category of non-practising teacher registration will work. Further, two subcategories of registration have been included in the provisional registration. There is recognition of returning teachers to teaching practice as distinguished from graduate teachers. This will allow employers to distinguish between new teachers and more experienced teachers returning to the profession.

Making note of all those very important aspects within the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill, I would like to again talk about the importance of teachers and how critical they are in the educational success of young people right across Western Australia. In the high school sector, the area in which I have most experience, it is critically important in achieving outcomes for students for post-school success. On average, approximately 30 per cent of high school students study ATAR courses, leading to university qualifications, and around 70 per cent of students study vocational education. It is important to understand that there are some barriers for education for regional students. In my case, a lot of students in Collie do a gap year. I am sure that is the case in a lot of other regional communities. I am looking round the room at the people from the regions. There is certainly the opportunity for young people in our communities to take that gap year, earn some money and set themselves up ready to come to the city for education and further training.

The really important thing about teaching is that it is about creating a safe space for all young people within Western Australia. Often, we are the first point for young people to understand respectful relationships. Certainly, early education is about promoting those values of sharing and making sure that we know how to speak nicely to other people—all very important lessons that people need to learn.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 4969.]

VISITORS — NORTH BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: On behalf of the member for Scarborough, I acknowledge the deputy principal and the student leaders from North Beach Primary School. Welcome to Parliament and welcome to the Speaker's gallery. I understand that Mr Grant Ward, the deputy principal of North Beach Primary School, was formerly the principal of City Beach Primary School, where he was the member for Wanneroo's boss. Welcome.

Ms J.J. Shaw: Good luck with that!

The SPEAKER: You should be saying good luck to me, because I now have to keep an eye on her!

I also acknowledge the guests of the member for Hillarys.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HEALTH SERVICES ACT — GOVERNANCE REVIEW — MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE RECOMMENDATION

628. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Mental Health:

I refer to yesterday's release of the *Independent review of WA health system governance* and the recommendation to create a new mental health directorate, which will shift a number of responsibilities, including strategic direction, system planning and commissioning, funding and performance management into the Department of Health.

Does the minister support this; and, if so, what assurance can she give that mental health services will not be compromised or forced to compete for funding from a health sector under significant pressure?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I am pleased to get a question on the mental health portfolio from the opposition spokesperson, because she has asked only one question about mental health in the time that I have been Minister for Mental Health. The last one was in February, eight months ago. I am pleased to get a question on mental health.

We can never rely on the member for Vasse to actually do the reading, the research and the work to understand the issues. If she read the report, she would understand what the report was trying to say. Ultimately, it is an independent review. We will work through the recommendations and we will do that in a consultative way with stakeholders. But my record and my commitment to mental health speak for themselves, and stands with the stakeholders and the community. My commitment is to supporting the continuation of the incredible work of the Mental Health Commission in refocusing policy development that brings co-design, recovery and a patient-centred focus. That is my absolute commitment to the mental health sector and it is my commitment to the delivery of mental health services. Regardless of what the review says, or what changes may or may not happen now or in the future with the delivery of those services, the priority is the delivery of those services, the important reform of the infant, child and adolescent sector, and ensuring access to those services.

If the member also read the budget papers, she would understand that the funding for mental health and health is quite separate. That funding gets followed through. Regardless of where it goes, the funding gets followed through. There just is not the capacity or the ability for the health department to spend money on something that it is not allocated to in the budget. There just is not the capacity for it to do that. The accountability and acquittal of those funds is rigorous under this government and transparent in the budget papers.

HEALTH SERVICES ACT — GOVERNANCE REVIEW —
MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORATE RECOMMENDATION

629. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Mental Health:

I have a supplementary question. How does this recommendation align with Labor's 2017 commitment to retain the Mental Health Commission and ensure the 10-year plan is implemented?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

Again, member, read the review. Do the work. It does not recommend abolishing the Mental Health Commission. That is not what it recommends, so stop spreading misinformation and fear amongst people. That is all you peddle. That is the only thing you trade on. Do the work.

Ms L. Mettam: Listen to the sector!

Ms A. SANDERSON: I talk to the sector all the time, and people in that sector know my personal commitment to this issue. They know that and they understand that. They speak to my office regularly. I speak to them regularly and I meet with people in the sector regularly. I understand their position and I absolutely support the incredible work that the Mental Health Commission does and has done, particularly around that development of peer workers, lived experience and the recovery model. Very little of that work progressed under the member's government—very, very little of that work. It is only under the Labor government that that work has progressed. I am proud of that work and I will continue to support that work.

TELETHON — STATE GOVERNMENT DONATION

630. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Premier:

On behalf of the member for Southern River, I acknowledge Mr Colombini and the students of Ursula Frayne Catholic College, which is the former school of the members for Southern River and Victoria Park.

I refer to the state government's commitment to making Western Australia a world leader in medical research and the record donation of \$11 million it pledged to Telethon this weekend. Can the Premier update the house on what important work this donation will fund and outline how the state government has been able to provide such a significant contribution?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for the question.

I indicate to the house that we are very pleased to be able to make an \$11 million donation, on behalf of the people of the state, to Telethon, which is the biggest donation in the history of Western Australia by a long way. That is going to a very worthy organisation—Telethon—that delivers real health and research outcomes for children not only in Western Australia, but also around Australia and the world.

The donation itself will support 97 grassroots organisations. It will deliver critical services and equipment for children in hospital and will also support health and medical research in Western Australia. On top of that, certain things will be funded as part of this. Professor Fiona Wood is studying the lifelong impacts of paediatric burns on health and why some children cannot respond to vaccines after a burn. There is the preclinical assessment of age-appropriate immunotherapies for childhood cancers led by Telethon Kids Institute and the University of Western Australia, and, as I said, there is a range of organisations that provide equipment, therapy and the like to children suffering from medical conditions or disabilities.

In terms of medical research, as the member is aware, we have an unprecedented record. We established the future health research and innovation fund, which is providing grants of \$80 million for medical research over the first three years. We created the Western Australian office of medical research and the first Minister for Medical Research in Western Australia.

In closing, I acknowledge Telethon. It was a great weekend. I do not know how many people went. It is remarkable how it was done. I thought it was a terrific change to use RAC Arena. The donations, big and small, from people around the state were terrific. I was in the phone room talking to people who were donating \$20 and I was at a function at which people were donating \$1 million. There were lots of donations, big and small. The good thing is that everyone plays a part and puts something in. The event raised \$71.4 million, which is a record by a long, long way. It took 55 years to get to \$500 million; I suspect that it will probably take only another five or six years to get to \$1 billion, so that is a remarkable achievement. I acknowledge the people behind Telethon. There are many, but I especially acknowledge Richard Goyder and Kerry Stokes. As I said, we were very proud to provide \$11 million on behalf of the state and the people of WA.

LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

631. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I refer to information from an FOI request as revealed by Hamish Hastie in WAtoday on 24 October.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I refer to the information from an FOI request as revealed by Hamish Hastie in WAtoday on 24 October outlining how this government sold the Midland Landgate property on the lowest value sale scenario using the assumption of a vacant building.

- (1) Why did the government accept this scenario, considering the sale included a prime government tenant for the whole 15-year lease period, making this a prime rental property?
- (2) Can the Premier explain how selling the Landgate building to avoid \$12 million in overall expenses will result in a saving to taxpayers when they will be paying over \$68 million more in rent than the building sold for?
- (3) Why will the Premier not release the modelling used to justify the sale to the public of Western Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) I am pleased to answer that question, but at the outset, I want to let the member know that the Auditor General has reviewed this issue as part of the Department of Finance’s 2021–22 financial audit. Finance has been told that the Auditor General has made no findings in relation to the lease negotiation process or financial modelling that supported the sale and lease-back transaction. The Auditor General has looked at it and that is the finding. As I said, there is no issue with the financial modelling or lease negotiations.

In terms of the broader issue, the Landgate building in Midland is 30 years old, or something of that nature. I have seen it over the years and it is a large building. Landgate itself is now using only a small proportion of a very large building. The building was old and it has had no major refurbishments or upgrades in the last 30 years, so a market-led proposal was received on this building. It was assessed as part of a rigorous three-stage assessment process by two independent panels and committees comprised of senior public servants. It was recommended to cabinet twice that we accept the proposal. The value of the land was tested on the market and determined by both Landgate and a leading national commercial property firm. We had assessments of this building carried out by two panels of senior public servants, the State Solicitor’s Office and a national commercial property firm, and the Auditor General has found no issues in relation to it.

Part of the building has been leased back. As part of that, two other offices from the Department of Communities will go into this building. It means that we will not pay the lease costs on the two Department of Communities buildings and the actual overall cost of this project is a \$12 million saving on the alternative of us having to refurbish the building. This is the commercial reality. We have to be a bit flexible and innovative with these things. It has been assessed by a whole bunch of people. It was not assessed by the political elements of government, if you like, but the public servants on advice, and that is what was found to be the appropriate way forward with this building. What happens next? The building will be upgraded. There will be a coalescence of existing tenancies into the building. There will be a fit-out. We will not have to pay the ongoing costs of the maintenance, the fit-out or the upgrades. We will not have responsibility for cost escalation or unexpected costs and, therefore, there will be an overall net saving on government having to do that compared with this model.

LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

632. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Was accepting the lowest value sales scenario with no tenant purposeful or a mistake?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I do not understand the member’s question. I will explain it to him again.

Dr D.J. Honey: Or was it deliberate? Did you deliberately know the valuation had no tenant?

The SPEAKER: Order, please! You have had your chance for the supplementary. We will just have the response now.

Mr M. McGOWAN: What is the member’s allegation? Is he trying to suggest that the commercial party involved is somehow improper? Is that what the member is suggesting?

Dr D.J. Honey: No, I am saying Treasury didn’t do its job.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am just saying to the member that government experts in this area analysed it and advisers—major commercial property firms—looked at it and said there is an existing asset that is tired, old and under-utilised. They came up with a model that was cheaper than government having to do it and that was the model that was taken forward. That is what was accepted by government. The MLP process is designed to throw up innovative things. I know that the member does not support innovation—that is not the way that he thinks—but innovative and new ways of doing things is what the MLP process is designed to come up with. Industry across the state supports the MLP process. It wants the MLP process. I might say that it is very vigorous, and it can be time consuming and

have so many probity checks that sometimes it can take a long time to get to an outcome, but I want to see it produce outcomes. It produced an outcome based upon all the advice, the hurdles and the probity checks within it that saves the government money. I would have thought that that is a good thing.

BENTLEY HOSPITAL — BED CAPACITY

633. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment our hospitals and its commitment to deliver extra capacity across Western Australia's public health system.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the delivery of additional beds in our hospitals?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what these additional beds mean for Bentley Hospital?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the member for Riverton for his question and his lifelong commitment to improving health outcomes for our community and bringing that passion into the Parliament.

- (1)–(2) On Tuesday, 11 October, the new 30-bed modular unit opened at Bentley Hospital. It is a welcome addition to Bentley Hospital that is part of our delivery of the equivalent of a tertiary hospital in beds across our health system in the last 12 months—a significant uplift in beds across our public health system. The modular ward is a unique build and design for WA Health and it has worked incredibly well. We are certainly keen to explore further opportunities for this kind of build and design into the future. The unit is, essentially, designed and built in WA using a local workforce and then moved onsite and landscaped into the hospital. It is a permanent structure and it is beautifully and seamlessly attached to the existing hospital. At Bentley campus, this means an extra 30 beds for the rehabilitation of patients. It is a beautiful unit. It has a kitchen, a dining area and a gym as well as the beds so that people who have had significant injuries can be assessed and learn skills in a home setting such as how to manoeuvre around the kitchen to cook for themselves and to take care of themselves if they are using new equipment or a wheelchair and so on and so forth. There is a group therapy area as well.

It was great to talk to some of the patients and allied health staff at the new facility. These modular constructions have added additional beds to Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus, Osborne Park Hospital, Bentley Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital. That is fantastic and they have gone up in literally six months. It is outstanding work from the infrastructure team at the Departments of Health and Finance and I want to thank Multiplex for delivering this build on time and on budget.

A member interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, it is really good. It will also mean an uplift of 80 full-time clinical staff in this ward alone. That will leave open beds at Royal Perth Hospital. Those who are recovering in Royal Perth Hospital can be moved out to Bentley and do their rehabilitation there. That will open up beds at Royal Perth Hospital for those who come in with more traumatic and acute illnesses and who need to be supported in a tertiary hospital such as Royal Perth Hospital. It is fantastic outcome. It has taken less than six months for all these modular builds and it is a great outcome for WA Health.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PROJECTS — BINDOON BYPASS

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

I refer to the continued delays in the construction of the Bindoon bypass, which was given the green light in 2017 but is yet to be delivered, and reports that \$6.5 billion in infrastructure projects will be pushed back or undergo re-profiling in tonight's federal budget. Has the minister written to or spoken directly with her federal counterpart, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, about the continued funding and on-time delivery of the Bindoon bypass?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and of the Nationals WA for his question. As the member would be aware, the federal budget will be handed down this evening. Western Australia has done very well in securing funds for infrastructure for WA and will continue to do well in securing funds for Western Australia. More recently, the Prime Minister announced a commitment of funding to the election commitments given at the federal election, such as for the Tanami Road, the William Street level crossing removal in Beckenham, and the Garden Street–Nicholson Road interchange. The federal government is delivering on its election commitments. We have been working with the federal government to make sure that we can deliver all our projects, just like we did with the previous federal government when we re-cashflowed 17 projects 18 months ago to make sure that we could continue to deliver our projects in a value-for-money way and sustain economic activity for not only two years, but, more to my liking, the next six to 10 years on our infrastructure spend. We are negotiating and making sure that we have a sustainable level of commitment. We have committed to and delivered a section of the Bindoon bypass project already. I have

been out to the site to see the local Aboriginal workers who are delivering that project and will continue to work on regional projects across Western Australia. Does the member for Moore remember which party in Western Australia said that it did not believe that roads were a priority? It was the National Party. It was in power for eight and a half years and its then leader explicitly said that he did not want to concentrate too much on roads because he did not want to spend too much money on roads. That was the Nationals' commitment to regional WA. We are spending —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If members look at any indicator, they will see that we are doubling the former Liberal–National government's expenditure on roads in regional WA—major projects, road maintenance, road safety and supporting the movement of grain freight through regional WA.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is my next question!

On every front, we are doubling the former government's efforts. Yes, of course, we are working with the federal government to make sure that we can sustain our delivery of infrastructure spending, just as we did with the previous federal government. Under the previous federal government, in conjunction with us, 17 projects had their time frame changed to make sure that we have sustainable delivery over the next four to five years.

I am very proud of our infrastructure spend. I am very proud that we have been working constructively with the federal government. I am not sure where the member for Moore got the figure of \$6.5 billion worth of expenditure from.

Mr R.S. Love: It was a quote from the Treasurer in the press.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In Western Australia?

Mr R.S. Love: No; I said \$6.5 billion of infrastructure will be pushed back. That is what your federal colleague said.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The \$6.5 billion does not refer to Western Australia, so why is the member asking the Western Australian Minister for Transport about a figure of \$6.5 billion?

I am very proud of our infrastructure spend. I was out in Northam this morning. I woke up early and we drove out to Northam to see how maintenance work has been brought back to Main Roads. I went past the monuments to the member for Mandurah, which are littered throughout Northam. I had a good chat with the CEO and the shire president, but they did not mention the member for Mandurah. I am not sure why!

We are very proud, and we will continue to deliver a record amount of infrastructure throughout Western Australia.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PROJECTS — BINDOON BYPASS

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

I have a supplementary question. If the Bindoon bypass is re-profiled in the budget papers this evening, can we take it that the minister has failed to advocate for the delivery of the project?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

Given that the National Party had eight and a half years to deliver this project, do we take it that it failed regional Western Australia time and again? Under its stewardship, it did not invest in road safety funding, it did not build the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, it did not build the Albany ring-road, it did not fix the projects on Great Northern Highway and it did not spend money on road maintenance. Shall we say that it completely failed regional Western Australia for eight and a half years? I think that is a yes. It had eight and a half years, but it said it did not want to spend money on regional road funding. It purposely went out there to not deliver projects in regional WA, so do not start lecturing us about delivering road spending in WA. Everywhere people go, there are road works, road spending and local people building our roads.

MAIN ROADS — MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

636. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to bring outsourced services and jobs back into the public sector.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the work that is underway to end the outsourcing of road maintenance and bring jobs back in-house at Main Roads?
- (2) Can the minister outline how this decision will support the local economies of regional Western Australia?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) The house will be happy to know that I went out to Northam this morning, which—again, to rehash my joke—is the member for Mandurah's home town. As the Premier said, he went into the school looking for

the member for Mandurah's name on the dux board, but it was not there; rather, there was "Mr Congeniality, David Templeman"! I went out to Northam because, of course, one of the other things that we are doing in regional WA is bringing back road maintenance jobs to regional WA. Do members remember which nasty government cut all those jobs from regional WA? Members would be correct in saying it was a Liberal–National government that outsourced and contracted out road maintenance from regional WA. In one fell swoop, it cut 700 jobs from regional WA. The permanent workforce across Western Australia went from more than 2 000 to less than 1 000.

Mr D.J. Kelly: It did the same with the Water Corp as well.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It did the same with the Water Corp. Of course, these are the parties that privatised Westrail freight and had planned, and were ready, to sell Fremantle port and Western Power. They did massive wholesale privatisation in regional WA. They did all this privatisation and now they come in here and ask about road quality and potholes. We have made the decision to bring it all back to Main Roads; there will be 490 permanent jobs in regional WA alone. Today, the first tranche was delivered, with 48 workers in Northam all wearing their brand new Main Roads outfits. They are all very, very proud to be back working for Main Roads. Three guys, Graham, Steve and Stewart, worked for Main Roads 23 years ago and now they are back at Main Roads. I talked with another person about the benefits for the regions of having Main Roads employees, and he said, "What it means is that people make choices to move their families out to the regions." This guy lives in Toodyay and he said, "This is going to make it much easier for people to move their families because it's a permanent job in a regional town", so it will be supporting local communities. It will also give a career path for young people. We are also delivering new programs to encourage young regional Western Australians to stay and work for Main Roads. I met three Aboriginal workers out there and, again, they are very, very proud to be wearing the Main Roads uniform and delivering projects for Main Roads. This is another example of real change for regional Western Australia. There are no bumper stickers—just real change and real reform that is delivering benefits for not only communities and workers, but also the overall road network. It is a very, very proud day. I made the trip out to Northam. It was a very exciting morning.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You should've taken me; I would've come.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I was going to say some negatives, but I will not. It was a positive morning and I did not want to ruin it!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sorry, that was harsh—unnecessarily harsh for Mr Congeniality! It was a great day and a very proud day, and very exciting for the town.

POLICE — CRIME STATISTICS

637. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:**

According to official statistics from the Western Australia Police Force website, there were 46 025 crimes against the person in Western Australia in 2017 and 53 986 crimes against the person so far in 2022. Can the minister confirm that these statistics are correct; and how can he explain this explosion of crime on his watch?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question.

I have not yet looked at the statistics; I am getting a briefing this afternoon about that, because they come regularly. I regularly get briefings on statistics. One thing that we do know about statistics is that they are directly related to population. When the population goes up, crime goes up. That is one of the things that occurs. As everyone knows, in the last few years during the COVID pandemic, there was an exceptional increase particularly in crimes related to family and domestic violence and a lot of concern about increased mental health issues, which have also resulted in a significant increase in crimes of the nature that the member is referring to. Specifically, whether that is what has caused it, I cannot confirm that. I can confirm that the police are better resourced, better equipped and more capable of dealing with crime than ever before in the state's history. The equipment improvements that were made throughout the last term of office and that continue in recent times have been extraordinary. The new Commissioner of Police is very focused—as he was in his role as deputy commissioner—on integrating technology, and using technology and adapting new technology, to ensure that we can bring together intelligence with real-time operations. We are getting intelligence to the people on the ground in a far more rapid and efficient manner than ever before, which gives them situational awareness so that as they are approaching a difficult situation, it becomes safer and they are able to more accurately and effectively assess risk. It also assists crime solving. I have referred to it here in recent times. We have only to look at some of the more high-profile incidents that have occurred, even as recently as this week. The police are bringing to account suspects, people who have allegedly conducted offences, at a far more rapid rate than ever before. It is extraordinary. It will only increase and improve in efficiency and speed as we progress in the future, as some of the new initiatives that the commissioner is pursuing come to fruition and as we pass new laws that give police more powers to effectively use those capabilities. They are doing more than ever before in rapidly solving crimes. They are doing it really well. I am really proud of what the police are delivering.

POLICE — CRIME STATISTICS

638. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Given that this is a 17 per cent increase in violent crime over the period, is this not proof that the minister is failing to rein in serious crime?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

No.

BANNED DRINKERS REGISTER — REGIONS

639. Ms A.E. KENT to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to reducing the harmful impacts of alcohol, particularly in regional communities.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the trial of the banned drinkers register in the Kimberley, Pilbara and goldfields areas, and the recent announcement to extend the trial?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what this will mean for communities in regional Western Australia?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for her question and continued advocacy in the community on safety issues, trying to make sure that her community is a better place to live.

- (1)–(2) The member mentioned the banned drinkers register, introduced by the McGowan government in 2020 by the now Minister for Police. It was aimed to target and address problem drinkers—those who are impacted by excessive alcohol consumption—by trying to restrict their access to takeaway alcohol. That is the whole premise of the BDR. We targeted it to those who have harm-related issues from excessive consumption of alcohol. That is the beauty of the BDR. Rather than trying to have a more general prohibition, we try to target the problem where it is most acute, and that is with people who have an issue with excessive alcohol consumption. The member mentioned that there have been trials in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Kalgoorlie regions. It started off in the Pilbara region. The trials have been well supported by the local communities—local government, the courts, the liquor industry, individual licensees, the local police and other providers of alcohol-related support services. I should acknowledge my predecessor in this role, the current Minister for Environment, as well.

With any trial, we look to see where and how we can improve. It was always set up as a trial. We engaged an independent evaluation from the University of Western Australia, and it identified a number of possible improvements in the BDR. Those findings have led us to reconsider ways that we can improve the BDR in consultation with various stakeholders. Last month, with the member for Pilbara in Karratha, I announced a range of measures that we are looking to introduce to strengthen the BDR. These include a legislative framework for the BDR and making it compulsory for all outlets selling packaged liquor in the regions in which the BDR is in place. At the moment, it is a voluntary situation. We are also looking at creating additional pathways for people to be placed on the BDR.

The report highlights, which we knew from our consultation, that there are not enough people on the BDR. There should be more people. One way is to make it compulsory for all takeaway alcohol outlets, but also other pathways in which people could be put on to the BDR. They include court order pathways, such as bail or parole conditions, and giving police greater powers to place someone on the BDR in cases of drink-driving or alcohol-fuelled violence. We also announced that we will extend the trials in the three regions for two years once legislation is passed by Parliament next year. They will come together and have a two-year phase in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Kalgoorlie regions once the legislation is passed.

We are seeking feedback from the community on our proposed measures, and submissions close this Thursday, 27 October. I should say that there is no easy fix to this. The BDR is only one measure, but it is a very important measure as we, as a responsible government, try to address harm caused by excessive alcohol consumption.

RESIDENTIAL EATING DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY

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

I refer to the \$4 million the Department of Health received from the commonwealth for the development of a residential eating disorder treatment facility following the 2019 federal election.

- (1) Is this facility ever going to be built; and, if so, where and when?
- (2) If not, where have the funds gone, and why is this facility not being progressed, as in other states?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

(1)–(2) The \$4 million commitment to the Department of Health was made by the federal member for Canning, Andrew Hastie, with no consultation, discussion or any reference to what the state’s eating disorder model of service is. I do not know whether the member for Canning has much experience with the development of health facilities, but \$4 million is not a great contribution from the federal government in that. It was, frankly, an underwhelming contribution. South Metropolitan Health Service has been working with the commonwealth government on how we can best use those funds to support the eating disorder service. This state government has funded an increase of around \$31 million to provide an outpatient service, which is best practice in eating disorder services, in the South Metropolitan, North Metropolitan and East Metropolitan Health Services. This government has a strong commitment to expanding eating disorder services in Western Australia and we know that the models of care in WA need some work and everyone recognises that. It is up to those clinicians to do that. That is not something that politicians should interfere in. That is clinical work and a clinical framework. We know that supporting people with eating disorders is best done as an outpatient service, not an inpatient service. When people get critically ill, of course they should be admitted to hospital and supported, but continuing treatment in the community is the best outcome for them.

We are in discussion with the current commonwealth government about how we can use that money to support services in the Peel region that support our community down there and how we can best provide support for eating disorder patients there.

RESIDENTIAL EATING DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY

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

I have a supplementary question. Who made the decision that a residential facility was not needed in this state?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

Did I say that? At no point did I say that.

Ms L. Mettam: Yes or no—is the facility going to be built?

Ms A. SANDERSON: No-one has said that.

The SPEAKER: You have asked the question; you cannot change it now. Minister.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member has asked the question. No-one has said that. No-one has made that decision. We are working with the commonwealth government on how we can best deliver the best possible model of care for patients in Western Australia. That is ultimately what it should be—the best model of care that gets the best outcomes—should it not? It should not be what the member for Canning decided was best for those patients. What clinicians and experts in this field tell us achieves the best outcomes. That is what we will do. We will deliver a model that provides the best outcomes, not the outcomes that Andrew Hastie thinks are appropriate.

HOME INDEMNITY INSURANCE SCHEME

642. Mr G. BAKER to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government’s commitment to supporting Western Australians who are building a home.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what this government’s reforms to the state’s home indemnity insurance scheme will mean for prospective homebuyers?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what else that the government is doing to provide home owners with greater confidence and protection?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. It is an important question because we know the home indemnity insurance scheme provides an important protection for people building homes and investing their life savings to create a roof over their head. It provides them with the protection and assurance that if things go wrong, they can recoup some of the costs associated with defects or in the incidence that a construction company can no longer complete the project. We are acutely aware of the issues currently impacting the building industry and consumers, including disrupted supply chains, labour shortages and material costs. Fortunately, the McGowan government understands the challenges that the current construction market is going through, and particularly throughout the pandemic, via the excellent work of the Minister for Housing. We have placed a high priority on supporting the construction industry and delivering key infrastructure for Western Australia.

I know many members have been contacted by constituents who are out of pocket or who are struggling with projects that are yet to be completed, and that is why we are making important changes to the home indemnity insurance scheme. It is about protecting homes; it is about protecting home owners. We

know that the current market is producing a tough set of circumstances, which is the reason that we recently announced some significant changes. The McGowan government is committed to assisting Western Australians building a home and protecting their investment. We have approved reforms to the scheme that will double the maximum payouts to home owners. The home indemnity insurance scheme reforms will mean that eligible home owners will be entitled to up to \$40 000 for lost deposits and up to \$200 000 for incomplete or defective works in the event their builder becomes insolvent. This will give prospective buyers peace of mind and the confidence to build, because even though we know the market is tough at the moment, we do not want to stop people making investments to secure funding and the construction of their new family home. This will ensure that they can build with confidence knowing that if things go wrong, there will be a better safety net to look after them.

Earlier this year, we also extended the time frame for building bonus grant applications to commence construction from 18 months to 30 months from signing a contract, which provides additional support for home owners impacted by industry disruptions. With record employment levels, significant work has also been underway to attract interstate and overseas workers to ease the workforce and skills pressures, including the Build a Life in WA campaign and the Reconnect WA package. The home indemnity insurance scheme changes will take effect as soon as possible, and are just one of the ways in which the McGowan government will continue to ensure prospective homebuyers can have peace of mind and confidence to build their lives here in Western Australia.

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — CARNARVON

643. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the youth crime crisis engulfing the Carnarvon community.

- (1) Noting the pressure placed on local police by the ongoing crisis, is the minister working with the Minister for Child Protection to deliver a safe space for vulnerable children to go overnight, particularly between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am?
- (2) Has the minister considered the viability of the Carnarvon Police and Community Youth Centre as a venue for such a service to operate from?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

- (1)–(2) I am not sure that the member for North West Central has posed the question to the right minister. I am always working with the Minister for Community Services; Child Protection. We collaborate all the time. Our agencies work closely together. The department is currently recruiting people to establish and deliver a full-time Target 120 program in Carnarvon that focuses on multi-systemic therapy and wraps around the family home of juvenile offenders at an early stage—it is demonstrated around the world to be the most effective response to juvenile offending—to divert those who might be on a pathway towards serious offending at a later age. It brings together multiple agencies and therapies and a focus on the family home. That being delivered to Carnarvon is the best possible response to counter offending over time.

Is the member saying that policing is not being delivered properly in Carnarvon? Is that what she is saying? I am the Minister for Police. If that is what she is saying, I would be very concerned because I am not of that view. I think that the police are doing an exceptional job right across the state, but particularly in Carnarvon. I spoke to the President of the Shire of Carnarvon, Eddie Smith, this morning and sought his view because he is really in touch with that community. He has been a great advocate for that community his entire life, particularly in recent times when the member for North West Central's predecessor was doing such a poor job of representing the community. Eddie was the one who brought the town together. He is the one who went out of his way to avoid division. He is the one who always has been a great advocate for every member of his community and has avoided disruptive and derisive comments that were engaged in by the member's predecessor. I asked Eddie this morning whether he had any concerns with policing in Carnarvon and he said absolutely not. He confirmed that the police are doing an exceptional job; that is reassuring. That is the portfolio that I hold.

With respect to police and community youth centre, the member has reminded me that her predecessor opposed the PCYC expenditure by this government. He criticised the PCYC, including the wonderful volunteers who ran that operation in Carnarvon. It is an exceptional facility. But in relation to any of the services that the member is talking about and whether they should be considered, the member is asking the wrong minister because that is not my role.

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — CARNARVON

644. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Yes or no—would police officers in Carnarvon benefit from having a safe space to take vulnerable children, which would help reduce their workload?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member. I leave policing to police. I leave police operations and the manner of delivery of those services to the Commissioner of Police because that is his job, and that is actually the law. It is not right, and it would not be right, for me to ever try to direct the police on how they should conduct their operations and what they should do with the resources they are provided with. I can tell the member that they are better resourced, better led and better staffed, and have higher numbers and more capability, than ever before, and certainly far more than when the member's party was in office. Her party neglected Carnarvon and that electorate and, particularly with respect to policing, showed very little interest. But I do not try to tell the commissioner how to do his job. If ever the Commissioner of Police requires additional resources, he will approach me.

One thing that I can confirm is that Operation Regional Shield is the means by which the police are supported to deliver whatever additional resources are required anywhere in the regions, including in Carnarvon. Regional Shield is in operation right now. Assets, officers and capability will be delivered by the commissioner in accordance with his requirements under the banner of Regional Shield wherever they are required. I am sure that if they are required in Carnarvon, they will be delivered.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

MINISTER FOR POLICE — PERFORMANCE*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) informed the Assembly that she was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Liberal Party seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [2.51 pm]: I move —

That this house calls for the Minister for Police to cease quoting incorrect statistics and making announcements on recruitment numbers and, instead, focus on his job, which is to protect Western Australians from criminal activity.

The cornerstone of any successful strategy against violent criminals, indeed, against criminals of all kinds, is stable and effective law enforcement. That is why I find it so perplexing that the Minister for Police seems more focused on maintaining his government's image than addressing underlying criminal or crime problems. Never was this attitude more apparent than during question time last week when I asked the minister about police morale and levels of attrition. When I asked my question on Tuesday, 18 October, with a follow-up on Thursday, 20 October, the police minister said, according to *Hansard* —

... the Western Australia Police Force recruited 1 306 officers between 2012 and 2016 and there were 1 211 resignations.

He went on to say that that was a net increase of 95 officers under the Liberals last five years in office.

What we did not hear was the minister cite the change in overall headcount for police officers—these are, as we know, sworn officers—between 2012 and 2016. Instead, the minister subtracted the recruitment numbers from the total resignations. That does not tell the story of the headcount in the police department. Why would the minister do that? It would appear that it was an attempt to hide what actually went on with the police numbers during that period and contrast it with the police numbers in that period.

Let us look at the facts and use the facts published by the WA Police Force in its annual report. I remind the minister that he claimed there were just 95 new police officers under the previous Liberal government between 2012 and 2016. Is that true? That is not based on the statistics the police department publishes every year. The official annual reports of the WA Police Force state that in Western Australia there were 5 821 police officers in 2012 and 6 342 police officers in 2016. The mathematics is pretty straightforward. That is an increase of 521 in the number of police officers, not 95, during that period. That is, as I say, five times more than what the minister stated. I do not know why the minister comes into this place and tries to contrast or somehow puff up what he sees as performance under his government and misrepresent the numbers that were actually published in the police department report.

The minister then boasted that under this Labor government there has been an extra 481 police officers. In terms of achievement, that is a lower increase by some distance than what was achieved during a shorter period by the previous Liberal government. That is far from being a gotcha point on the opposition. Instead of the minister doing an outstanding job in recruitment, the misstatement of those correct numbers is, in fact, deliberately trying to hide the poor performance of the government and this minister.

I followed up my question during question time and gave the minister an opportunity to correct that point, yet the minister did not take the opportunity to correct it. If the minister has a beef with his own department's statistics, I suggest he take it up with the department. He should not come into this place, misquote statistics and misdirect the people in this Parliament and Western Australia.

As I pointed out, I gave the minister a chance. The minister was clearly a bit embarrassed and tried to deflect attention. Instead, he talked about the economy and the WA workforce participation rate. I have raised that matter and commented on it in this place. Is the minister saying that the only reason the WA Police Force is suffering high attrition is purely due to the WA economy and the WA workforce participation rate? What is very clear from talking to police—my colleague Hon Peter Collier in the other place spends an extensive amount of time talking to the police given his shadow responsibility—is that they are not the reasons that police are leaving the police force. That is reinforced by recent publicity on the matter that they are doing it because morale in the police force is at a record low. A survey conducted by the police force in May found that a third of police officers—in fact, 60 per cent of officers were surveyed, 2 000 officers out of 6 000, so this was not an idle survey that was simply passed around the office to get a few people to comment on it; it was a substantial survey—believe that morale in the force is bad.

The minister comes in here says, “You’re saying morale is bad; you hate police.” As I pointed out in this place, I have the deepest respect for police and the deepest admiration for them, having worked with them for six and a half years of my career when I first started employment in my role as a forensic scientist, not as a police officer. I have the deepest respect for them and that is why I am so concerned about the cultural issues that are affecting the police force. The minister discounting this and saying that it is only because of those other things means that the minister is not doing his job. He does not talk to police officers. The minister’s job is not only to talk to the Commissioner of Police; the minister and his department’s job is to understand what is happening in that force and to make sure that it is in peak shape—not just with new equipment and cameras, but making sure police officers feel that they are valued and are not, for example, having their shifts inappropriately changed—and officers feel as though they are being treated with respect by the police department.

I will look a further into attrition in the police force, but there is a sense of *deja vu* here. This is exactly what we hear about nurses. The Minister for Health has told us that the only reason nurses are striking is that it is some sort of grubby union tactic to try to strongarm the government in a union negotiation. When we talk to those nurses and midwives, we learn that they are deeply, deeply upset by the way in which they have been treated by this government and deeply concerned about cultural issues within hospitals. That is the most distressing thing about the nurses’ dispute with the government.

Let us look at the issue of attrition and the promises that this government made. In 2020, the McGowan Labor government promised 950 additional police officers over and above attrition for the next four years. For the financial year 2020–21, there were supposed to be 350 new police officers, but the actual headcount for that time was only 290 police officers. Even in the first year, the government did not achieve close to that. In fact, it was 60 police officers short of its target. For the next financial year, 2021–22, the target was another 200 police officers. Only 80 more police officers were recruited against this much-lauded target. We hear again and again that this government is doing something about crime because of the 950 officers, but, again, it fell short of the target in the second year. What has happened this year, 2022–23? This year, we can see that numbers in the police force are, in fact, down from the previous year by 110—not up, down by 110!

The great boast of net recruitment is going backwards. We have gone from 7 007 to 6 897. That is the real answer, under this minister. I can see why he might try to put the previous government in a bad light over the numbers, but the minister should not come into this place and mislead us with those numbers. The minister should instead focus on the issues within his force. As I said, when we look at the targets, we see that we should have had 7 187 police officers in the force at the end of last year, but instead we are 180 officers short. What we see is this drop in the number of police officers. Obviously, that is not missed by members of the press in articles about this. We have a government that says it wants to do something, but it is obsessed with spin. That is the reality. The government is obsessed with trying to paint a good picture, but not as obsessed with actually doing something meaningful about the situation that it faces.

Why is this so important? The reason this is important is that behind all these statistics are the real human stories about what is happening with serious crimes under this government. The most serious crimes are crimes against the person—what we typically or colloquially refer to as “violent crime”. I revealed in question time today that, under this government, we have seen an explosion of violent crime. Again, the government has attempted to try to spin this away. The answer that this is purely a reflection of a population increase is clearly nonsense. Under this government, violent crime has increased—this is crime against a person; that is what I am referring to as violent crime—by 17 per cent. We have gone from 46 025 cases in 2016–17 to 53 986, almost 54 000 cases, in 2021–22. That is an increase of 7 961 cases. I do not for a moment think that the level of crime against the person under the previous government was acceptable. Clearly, that was far too high, but, under this government, we are seeing an explosion in violent crime. On another occasion, when I have more time, I will dig a little bit more into some of the underlying factors of this, but this is a crisis and a catastrophe.

I will not cover the ground that my colleagues are going to cover about crime in regional areas. All I can say is that operation shield is not working. It is not working at all. Operation shield may have —

Mr P. Papalia: What operation?

Dr D.J. HONEY: Your operation to deal with crime north of Geraldton, where you have the extra resources.

Mr P. Papalia: You might want to ask your colleagues what the name of it is.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Let us have an argument about the semantics of the name, but I can tell the minister that it is not working. He can go to Carnarvon, Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing or Broome and see that it is demonstrably not working. He will hear more about that from the other members today.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: You focus on that, minister, because clearly that is your bent.

In every category of crime in this state there are substantial increases. The most serious category of crime is crime within the home—family and domestic violence and related crimes in the home—but we are seeing substantial increases in every other category of crime. These crimes against the person are terrifying; some of the crimes sound like they are out of some horrendous dystopian movie. Time prevents me from going through this in detail, but it is quite clear that the government is failing to take action. In communities where crimes are being committed, the same people are committing crimes again and again without effective action from this government.

This severity of crime is occurring in every suburb. We can go through all the suburbs. We can look at Maylands, Edgewater, Gosnells, Greenwood, Atwell, North Perth, Koongamia, Midland, Ashfield and Bentley. Some of those names may ring a bell for members because those are places and electorates that they represent in the lower house. I can give members that list of all the areas. I do not know how members go to their communities and explain what they, the minister and the government are doing to deal with violent crime. If we go north of Geraldton, we see that it is genuinely a catastrophe at every level. The lives of youths are effectively being stolen from them and communities are living in fear. I will not cover that ground in detail, but it is a catastrophe of escalating proportions.

I think the problem for this government is that its landslide result in 2021 has lured it into a state of complacency. It does not think it has to do anything; it thinks it can just spin its way out of problems without being open with the people of Western Australia. It thinks that it can blame the previous government five and a half years in, but the truth is that this government is doing insufficient work to deal with the serious crimes that are happening in the state of Western Australia, and the people of Western Australia are suffering for it.

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [3.07 pm]: I rise to support the motion. I think it is fair to say that everyone is very aware that Western Australians across regional areas are suffering the effects of a law and order crisis. The danger and fear on our streets is very real and our communities, particularly the community I live in and many of the communities in the north west, are crying out for relief. People are exhausted; they are tired, and there is no way out. A lot of people are looking to leave the regions, which is a serious issue for all of us, particularly as we try to support and sustain those regions that are the income earners for a lot of us.

Parallels have been drawn between the situation playing out in some of the communities and a war zone. I know people think that is an exaggerated analogy. Such a comment probably sounds hyperbolic to those who spend time in the comfort of their homes in Perth, but not as someone who barricades our front door every night with our table, and who regularly wakes up and walks through our business premises and our home because there are people breaking in. There is glass; there are trolleys going into doors. That is just where we are, not to mention the people in the suburbs of the town who get this throughout the day and night. Just going shopping is actually an issue for some people. They have now locked two doors in our local shopping centre. I saw a lady carrying her child under the counter because she was afraid the child was going to be hit with a flying can while walking between some youths and some older people who were undertaking some activity that they really should not have been. It was not acceptable. It does feel accurate on some days to draw a parallel between those types of situations and a war zone. It is not exaggerated. It has become so commonplace in communities across the state like Carnarvon, Meekatharra, Mt Magnet and many others that it does not rate a mention; it has become the norm, which has become an issue.

When I was in Carnarvon on Friday, people were talking about putting electric fences around their properties, as people in the north west have done around their commercial premises. The fact that crime and antisocial behaviour has become normalised causes a lot of trauma for people in our towns, and they are not talking about their trauma. A lot of people are suffering from a mental health perspective. They are constantly being barraged and people are constantly targeting their home. Some people are prisoners in their own home and are afraid to leave. There are people who will not go out, particularly the seniors in our communities. The crisis is engulfing our communities. People use the word “crime”, which I think everyone understands. I am an advocate for these issues not being about crime; crime is just a product of all the underlying issues. I think everyone understands that they are massive issues and that we have to deal with them. That requires a holistic approach across agencies and communities. Every one of us needs to take some responsibility for it.

In my area, it is no longer just a matter of this problem turning away tourists or of public servants leaving or that people do not want to be in town because it leaves a bad taste in their mouth; third-generation families are now seeking to pack up and make an exit plan. That is a huge concern for the communities and towns in the north west. Some of those people who are planning on leaving are not the fly-by-nighters who are there to make a quick buck.

They live there and their children are at the schools. These are genuine rusted-on, committed locals who love their community but who can no longer bear the brunt of the ongoing crime they are enduring. It is more than just the damage done to windows and the acute crisis that we face. We cannot attract future businesses either. We cannot attract the workers and other people into our towns to achieve the growth that we need.

To reiterate, sometimes it is considered that the government is looking at this crisis through the lens of a policing resource. Obviously, the government has struggled to address it, given the situation we are all in at the moment. I want to say to the Minister for Police that I am one of the greatest advocates for our police force. The police do an amazing job. Our local police officers who I deal with in Carnarvon are absolutely fantastic. They just need help and support, and for all of us to step up. The recent increase in police numbers in Carnarvon was very welcome, but, again, I think sometimes the point is missed that a lack of police is not the cause of the crisis. Police resourcing is crucial to improving the safety of our local residents. Police are not the cause of this problem. This is happening because of a lack of responsibility and consequences. The local constabulary works hard with each member and our community. Clearly, they do their absolute best to uphold the law. The police are definitely doing their job. They are naturally frustrated with being used as a bandaid solution to a much deeper dysfunction that lies at the core of our communities' challenges.

Perhaps it is time that we took a more whole-of-government approach to deliver real outcomes that will make a difference, hence my question today about safe houses. I live in the main street and see six and seven-year-old children wandering the streets at 2.00 in the morning. I ask them why they are not going home and they say that they have been taken home but they are back. They say that they will go home when the sun is up. There is a need for these children to be taken to a safe house. I cannot emphasise that enough. These kids are actually vulnerable. They really are. They like a trip to Banksia Hill Detention Centre because it is not seen as punishment. They have told me it is good food and a good bed. These children absolutely need a bespoke solution that delivers the care and security they need. Unfortunately, I do not think that a 24/7 crisis helpline will help these kids or help the police have somewhere to take them.

The government's mindset on the plight of regional kids is stunning, given that the state has a surplus. I will keep pushing this because I am aware of the support that the police need and of the issues these kids are facing. These kids are headed for no future. They do not have a future at the moment. We are calling on the Minister for Police to do his job of keeping Western Australians safe from criminal activity and working with the police. I am happy to work with ministers to find a workable solution.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [3.15 pm]: That was a very good contribution from the member for North West Central. I certainly back up the member for Cottesloe's motion today. The member for North West Central lives at the coalface at the Port Hotel in Carnarvon. I have seen pictures and videos of the front door being broken and of the graffiti and the whole package. It was very interesting to hear that from the member.

I want to talk about a couple of things today and inform the Minister for Police. I am not sure how many times I have read or listened to people either writing letters to the paper or calling the radio station and questioning why their application to join the police force was rejected. In *The Sunday Times* last weekend, a letter writer stated he had applied to join the Western Australia Police Force. He was a qualified drug detection dog handler with over 10 years' experience and a qualified correctional officer who had worked in maximum-security facilities in other states. He is a fit and healthy 52-year-old, but his application to join the police force was unsuccessful. To make matters worse, he was given no reason for why his application was not accepted. On 16 October, it was reported that the WA Police Force is now looking to recruit overseas officers. The article said that police officers from the United Kingdom and Ireland will be able to move to WA under the employer nominated scheme, putting them on a pathway towards citizenship. I am sure those police officers are fantastic and would be welcomed, but where are they going to live when they get here and why are we not employing people like this applicant who lives here and seems to have the qualifications but who did not get any feedback? The applicants get rejected by the police recruitment and human resources division but do not get any feedback. I have also heard about this when listening to calls to talkback radio. Fathers have called in and talked about their sons who have wanted to go into the police force all their life. The applicants did all the interviews but got rejected and were told to come back in 12 months, but they got absolutely no feedback. My feedback to the minister is to give some feedback to applicants.

I want to move on to the disappointment that I have seen in the WA Police Union. The union is calling it the great resignation. The stats from the member for Cottesloe back that up. According to a collation of WA Police Force resignations, 238 officers abandoned the agency in the first six months of 2022. The police union invited people to participate in a survey. A total of 135 people who had resigned participated, and their responses were enlightening. Some 76.8 per cent were dissatisfied with the WA Police Force management and culture; 37.6 per cent were dissatisfied with the long working hours or high workload; 33.6 per cent were dissatisfied with the lack of career development; 29 per cent referred to family circumstances; and 21.6 per cent were dissatisfied with the type of work they were doing. The survey identified that what is powering the exodus of police members is not the fly-in fly-out issue—only one respondent gave that as a reason—but the practices of the agency's human resources department. This is what I am talking about, minister. The Western Australia Police Force rejects people and does not give them

any feedback, and those new applicants are dissatisfied—but experienced members are also dissatisfied. They go on to say that it is a broken system. The minister's comments about the culture problem shows how out of touch the hierarchy is. That is one part of it.

The other part I want to speak about very briefly is the experience that I have had relayed to me from our teachers and nurses out in the regions. At Fitzroy Crossing, a young teacher had to leave. Her car was smashed; people were knocking on her door and threatening her. Last week, four nurses up at Halls Creek were pelted with rocks; one departed the scene and went back to Queensland. Now the pub at Halls Creek has had to put up an electric fence. We know that the police do a great job. We have seen the minister's Operation Regional Shield program and heard all the talk, but he needs to get out there at the coalface to see what is happening and support his police officers. They are doing an excellent job, but he needs to resource them and make sure that when new applicants come along who want to join the police force, he actually gives them some support and feedback instead of saying, "Come back in 12 months." It is not good enough.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police) [3.21 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address this drivel. What the member has just said was embarrassing for himself and entirely wrong. The member for North West Central may pay attention to this little bit of advice for someone who has just got here. I know that the member was advised by her colleagues that if she throws in at the end of his contribution that she cares about the police, that will somehow deflect from the nature of what she has said and the criticism she has made of the delivery of the police service in Western Australia. Let me tell the member that that is not true.

Member for Roe, the recruiting of police officers, the process for recruiting police officers, the selection of police officer recruits and the rejection of people through that process is entirely controlled and done by the police force. The Commissioner of Police sets the criteria. The Commissioner of Police directs the academy in its recruiting processes, and officers comply with guidance from the Commissioner of Police. The reason they do not tell recruits why they have failed is entirely a decision by the commissioner. When the member comes in here and says what he has just said, he is directly criticising the Commissioner of Police, not me. I have no role in selecting police officers. I do have a role in resourcing the police force to meet the objective of growing the police force by the biggest numbers in the history of the state. We have done that and we continue to do that. The member should not embarrass himself any further by referring to processes, operational techniques or policing, and then pretending somehow that affords some criticism of me when all he is doing is criticising the Western Australia Police Force.

If the member for North West Central saw a child on the streets late at night and believed that they were at risk, I hope that she would report that to the police. I hope that she would get an incident report number. If she does get an incident report number and she believes that the child has then been found —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am talking to the member for North West Central. The Leader of the Liberal Party might want to remain quiet so I can give her some advice.

If the member for North West Central then gets an incident report number that indicates that there has been a response and she is not satisfied with that response, she should not complain to the Parliament. She should contact my office and allow me to investigate it so that I can ensure that the police are doing their job, because that is my job. That is how the process works. If she fails to get an incident report number—if she comes in here and just says something without having evidence of it having happened—that is misleading the Parliament and the people of Western Australia, and it is wrong. She should not do that. She is also unnecessarily contributing to anxiety and concern in the community if she refers to things that did not actually happen. She has no evidence to prove that police have not conducted their task and fulfilled their role. If she ever again comes into this place and refers to a task that police have conducted and she wants to report them, she should make sure that she has an incident report number and has contacted my office so that I can investigate it. If she comes in otherwise and just makes a claim, her integrity is at risk. It is an embarrassing thing to do. Do not repeat the error.

It is sad that members of the Nationals WA have engaged in this debate. Had the Leader of the Opposition been here, I suspect it would not have happened. Quite frankly, this is one of the most embarrassing motions that I have witnessed in almost 16 years in Parliament. Members opposite have told me that I cannot talk about police officer graduations. When the police force recruits police officers, I attend their graduations. I attend every single graduation that I am available to attend. There have been only two graduations that I have not attended in the entire time of my tenure in this role. On the day that we were sworn-in as members of Parliament, I had to drive my father back down to his home in Burekup after the ceremony, so I did not attend that graduation. More recently, at the start of the year, there was a situation whereby I was out of the state and I asked the Attorney General to attend in my stead. I cannot say that for the opposition spokesperson for police. He is rarely there.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr P. PAPALIA: The Leader of the Liberal Party claimed that I need to talk to more police officers and get out there, and that he knows more because he gets his advice from the shadow Minister for Police. I say this: by necessity,

by law, the opposition spokesperson for police needs to request permission from me to visit police stations, subdistrict offices or subdistricts. Do members know how many times I have received a request from the shadow Minister for Police since I became the Minister for Police? It is not very hard to count, because there has not been one occasion. He has not visited a police station on one occasion.

Dr D.J. Honey: They contact him!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Do they contact him? I have talked to hundreds of recruits as they graduate. The Leader of the Liberal Party recently referred to a claim. He said something about morale at the academy. Am I correct?

Dr D.J. Honey: No, I said the survey on morale.

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is good; I am glad he did not go there, because I have spoken to hundreds of recruits at the academy on the occasion of their graduation, because I hang around after the graduation and go to the function with their families, and I think I would know if morale were poor. The member referred to talking to police officers. I do a bit of that, too. I can tell the member that unlike him and unlike the shadow minister, I visit police officers in the field. I see police officers constantly. When I am able to, I am always travelling the state. Before the end of the first year of my tenure, I had visited all 15 police districts and scores of police stations and subdistricts in those districts. I am continuing the process of getting around. I think there are more than 200 police stations. It is my aim to get to all of them in my tenure, but I have been to 75 police stations since I took office. When I go, I meet with police officers and talk to them. Just to give the member an example, I have visited police stations that cover the entire length and breadth of the state, and I have been to Kintore Police Station, which is in the Northern Territory. It is the only Western Australian police station within the geographical bounds of another jurisdiction; we have joint policing at that multifunctional police station. I visited Warakurna while I was out there, as well, which is something like 30 kilometres inside the border. I have been to Kununurra, Derby, Broome, down south to Esperance, Kalgoorlie on multiple occasions, and Norseman. I have been to every police station in the south west. There are something like 15 or 18 police stations there. I drove to every single one of them with the local members of Parliament. We visited all the police stations in the south west. I have visited every single district office. For most of the district offices that are co-located with a police station, I have also visited the subdistrict. I have visited 75 individual police stations.

There are far more police stations in the regions, of course, than in the metropolitan area. Beyond police stations, there are many other internal divisions and other sites that I have also visited. Clearly, we were constrained a little during Operation Tide when there was a lot less movement for a little while, but I visited Op Tide at a number of different sites. I have visited the tactical response group, the state crimes division, serious and organised crime, and Curtin House. I got a briefing on Operation Ravello at the Hatch Building. I have been to the Maylands Police Complex where there are plenty of different divisions and organisations. The Midland Police Complex houses the people who work for state traffic and the police operations call centre, and the Maylands complex houses the State Operations Command Centre. I have been to that centre many times.

I have also been to the prosecuting services division. I have been to the health, welfare and safety division that houses those people who the member for Roe criticised just now, having no knowledge at all of them and no awareness of just how hard those people work to support our police officers and deliver an exceptional and a hugely increased service to the officers who may be suffering as a consequence of exposure to trauma. The member has never been there and he has never met them, yet he took the opportunity to criticise them openly in the Parliament. The member should apologise to them. They are good people and they are doing an extraordinary job. It is embarrassing for the member that he chose to make observations on something about which he knows nothing. It is clear that he knows nothing about what they do. They are good people. I have visited them at their worksite. I know what is done to support police officers who are medically retiring in far greater numbers than under the previous government's tenure, as the member knows. That government used to kick officers out under a section 8, which is the same process used to get rid of criminals. We have eliminated that process.

This government delivered a redress scheme for people who were historically medically retired that enabled them to claim up to \$150 000 and we delivered police compensation—something sought by police since the inception of Western Australia Police Force and something the member's ministers said was not possible. We have done far more than that. We have doubled the number of chaplains. A 24/7 chaplain response is now available to officers who encounter trauma. We have doubled the in-house psychologist support through directly employed psychologists. Beyond that we have a huge number of authorised external providers. Police can see those providers without the organisation knowing who they are seeing or what it is about. We are in the process of doubling the number of peer support program-trained officers, and more are coming forward all the time to receive that training. That program was started under a previous Labor government and, in my view, is the single best response to assist officers who confront trauma and subsequently suffer as a result.

The member dismissed it but the police are significantly better equipped in terms of operational equipment or gear that results in them being able to do their job in a safer fashion. Personally designed or fitted body armour has been

distributed to every police officer under this government. Officers are fitted with body-worn cameras, which are increasingly enabling us to dismiss spurious or malicious claims made against police during the conduct of their duties. Apple CarPlay provides officers with situational awareness whilst approaching a task. They have direct access to a database via the OneForce mobile phones that, in the past, would have been the purview of only detectives. Now, as every police officer approaches a task or conducts an investigation on the ground, they get access to information like never before and they are supported directly 24/7 by the State Operations Command Centre. A whole team of people up to the rank of inspector directly support officers right across the state with support from other agencies such as the Departments of Communities; Justice; and Education to ensure that they are given more information, direct support and assistance than ever before.

Member for Cottesloe, yes, crimes against people have gone up. As I said in my answer, I was not suggesting that it was because of population growth—the member knows that. I said that due to a number of factors, family and domestic violence exploded around the world during the COVID pandemic. That has been experienced in every jurisdiction on the planet. We do not know why. We do not know the specifics as to how that came about, but we are dealing with it. Beyond that, drivers of crime of that nature are directly linked to illicit drug use, which comes into this state via organised crime and is delivered to the vulnerable people of Western Australia by outlaw motorcycle gangs. The member knows that we are doing more than ever before to disrupt, dismantle and prevent the distribution of illicit drugs by outlaw motorcycle gangs. Does the member want the answer or not? He spent half an hour berating me and suggesting that somehow I am not doing my job. I am responding. Everyone in Western Australia knows that the Premier, the Attorney General and I are focused on outlaw motorcycle gangs and doing our utmost to disrupt them. We are providing police with the powers they requested from our government to carry out that task. We are in the process of delivering that.

The other thing that everyone in Western Australia knows is that I am pretty focused on removing and reducing the number of firearms in the community because firearms are constantly, almost daily, being employed in the conduct of crime. They represent a real and direct threat to all Western Australians, but particularly police officers. I am doing something about that. When I bring in the complete rewrite of the Firearms Act later next year, I will be looking forward to the Leader of the Liberal Party's response because anything he does to inhibit, reduce and slow that process will be of direct assistance to the criminals of Western Australia and to the violence being conducted in Western Australia. The member will have nowhere to hide when that legislation comes in, and neither will Nationals WA members. There will be nowhere to hide. Members opposite should prepare themselves.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: I have been asked to provide a couple of my colleagues the opportunity to speak. I am not sure that I actually need the assistance, but I appreciate it because there are some good people on our side of the house who have an appreciation and respect for the police and probably want to get that on the record in light of the disgraceful conduct of the opposition this afternoon. I am going to finish my contribution by responding to the ridiculous claims by the Leader of the Liberal Party in this weird, strange and bizarrely worded motion —

That this house calls for the Minister for Police to cease quoting incorrect statistics and making announcements on recruitment numbers ...

I am never going to cease making announcements on recruitment numbers. I welcome every single police officer who puts on the uniform, sets aside the indulgence of civilian life and dedicates themselves to serve the community. I welcome every single one of them and I will shout it from the rooftops. I will never stop doing that; that is a ridiculous request of me. With respect to the statistics, I refer to an email of 16 September. When all this started, the member referred to me talking at the end of September. I will quote from an email sent to someone in my office—I will not say his name—from the “Office of Commissioner, Western Australia Police Force”. It reads —

Hello ...

Please see response as per below:

- Number of officers recruited from 2017 to present;
- Answer: 1,799

This letter is dated 16 September, bearing in mind that I think the member referred to some answer I gave later than that —

Tabling of Paper

Mr R.S. LOVE: I believe the minister is reading from an official document and I wonder whether he could be asked to table that document?

Mr P. PAPALIA: You might want to hear from me before you do that. I am happy to table the document after I finish reading from it, if you do not mind, because I am reading from it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, there is a procedural thing here.

Mr P. PAPALIA: You are being ridiculous if you are asking me to —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I need to explain. The member for Moore raised a point of order about reading from an official document; it sounds like it is an official document. If you could bring it up here, because it is not optional, if that makes sense; even though you are going to table it, we need to make a decision about whether or not it is an official document.

Minister, it appears to be an official document. If you are committed to table it, you can finish reading from it. It will be tabled once you are done.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: Just repeating, the email reads —

- Number of officers recruited from 2017 to present;
Answer: 1,799
- Number of officer resignations (for all reasons) from 2017 to present;

The email is dated 16 September —

Answer: 1,357

- Number of officers recruited from 2012 to 2016 (inclusive);

What that means, Leader of the Liberal Party, is the calendar years. The Leader of the Liberal Party quoted from the annual reports, which, clearly, are the financial years that would have ended at the end of June in each of those years. When I talked about the numbers, I was talking about the numbers I received from the Western Australia Police Force, which, by the way, change every day. Does the member know that the number of officers who resign or leave for whatever reason changes almost on a daily basis? The email states that the number of officers recruited from 2012 to 2016 inclusive is 1 306. It continues —

- Number of officer resignations (for all reasons) from 2012 to 2016 (inclusive)

Answer: 1,211

Knowing that the Leader of the Liberal Party does not think I am good with numbers, I wrote them down, did the subtractions and double-checked them. There is a net difference of 442 under our tenure, in the comparative period—the member is so aggrieved with my answer—there is a net increase of 95, and that is in accordance with the office of the Commissioner of Police.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr P. PAPALIA: A previous email from this chain of emails—I will table them all; only the names have been redacted—says —

The data provided for 1,2,3 and 4 are calendar years (January to December). For 2022, the data is up to 14 September 2022.

The net growth of 95 is confirmed.

My office asked whether the net gross under the four or five years of the former Liberal–National government was 95 and, as much as the Leader of the Liberal Party might not like it or appreciate it, we were told in an email that “The net growth of 95 is confirmed.” What I am disappointed about is that the member has such a low estimation of me that he expected that I would come in and say those numbers without having received advice from the police force. That is a bit disappointing; I would have thought that he would think that I might be a bit better than that.

The point I would like to make—this is not about the comparison so much—is that the Leader of the Liberal Party knows, and everyone in Western Australia knows, that we have committed to growing the police force by 950 officers above attrition over the course of the four years. That commitment was made before the last election, when there was not a pandemic, a nationwide shortage of workers, the lowest unemployment rate in decades and the highest participation rate probably ever at that time. There was not this magnificent economy that we are enjoying at the moment, which means that there is opportunity everywhere. That is the single biggest factor that has resulted in the change of some of that attrition in the three months that the member got all excited about. But we are going to do everything we can; the police force has all the resources.

It was already planning to recruit overseas, not just from the United Kingdom and Ireland, but also New Zealand. It is recruiting qualified officers from those jurisdictions and it is continuing to attract and recruit officers here in Western Australia. It is doing everything it can to attract people in a very competitive economic environment. Members on the opposite side of the house have criticised things such as renewing cadet programs—which have been going for decades since time immemorial—as a manner of attracting young people to get a sense of what it

is like to be a police officer at a police station and get a bit of training and be mentored and supported towards achieving their ambition of becoming a recruit; providing additional allowances for recruits from the regions; and specifically going out of their way to market and deliver awareness to our culturally and linguistically diverse communities, which, in the past, may not have been seen as a potential recruiting pool but are now absolutely part of our recruiting process. That will ensure two things: we will not only get new officers, but also our police force will look more like the community it is policing. All those things are happening. The police are better equipped and better supported; they have been provided with better resources than ever before.

We are focusing on the drivers of crime. The big one is organised crime and the people who bring the illicit drugs that do so much harm, particularly methamphetamine, into Western Australia. We are very focused on disrupting them. We have done more than the previous Liberal–National government ever dreamt of or bothered to contemplate doing. Of course, we anticipate doing a lot about the availability and threat of firearms and making it safer for the community and the police. I do not know what the member would like me to do in my role as the police minister that I am not doing—perhaps he can list them—other than waving a wand to stop crime, which I am not capable of doing. If the member has any suggestions, I would welcome and appreciate them. I cannot say that he has made any sense at all in his contribution today, nor can I say that he has made a positive contribution to the discussion. He has certainly been critical of the Western Australia Police Force, and that is very, very disappointing.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, minister. Those papers are tabled.

[See paper [1615](#).]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: For future reference, the fact that something is an email does not automatically preclude it from being considered an official document; there is more to the consideration than just that.

MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough) [3.48 pm]: I rise to speak against this matter of public interest and support the Minister for Police. Since joining the government in 2021, I have worked heavily with this police minister to improve community safety in my electorate and across WA. I recently joined the minister at a police graduation to pay my respects to, and acknowledge the service of, WA police, especially the local police at Scarborough Police Station. I work very closely with the officer in charge, Senior Sergeant Wanstall. He and the officers of Scarborough Police Station are doing an exemplary job in keeping the Scarborough community safe.

I have also been working very closely with Minister Papalia, who has visited Scarborough multiple times to listen to my community and learn what community safety improvements we can make at a local and statewide level to assist our police in keeping our community safe. These measures will assist our police by giving them the tools they need to confront thugs and criminals who would do harm to the Scarborough community and the Western Australian community.

One particular local measure is that, working with the minister, the Western Australia Police Force and the City of Stirling, we are introducing a trial closure of roads for cars along the Scarborough foreshore during peak times to make it safer for pedestrians and make it a much more community-friendly pedestrian environment by limiting the interaction between people coming out of nightclubs and vehicles driving along the foreshore. We also recently requested that the City of Stirling link its foreshore CCTV to the police state operations command centre. This was actioned by the Western Australia Police Force and has now been put in place, and WA police can monitor the Scarborough foreshore from its state operations command centre.

One only has to come to the Scarborough foreshore on a weekend to see the significant police presence that protects our community during busy periods. Everyone deserves to be able to enjoy a night out free from harm or threatening behaviour, and workers in entertainment precincts should be able to safely go about their business. Under the protected entertainment precincts legislation recently announced by the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Minister Buti, the Scarborough foreshore and other entertainment precincts will become protected entertainment precincts, making them safer places for our community. Protected entertainment precincts are about reducing violent and thug behaviour in our popular precincts to create safer and more vibrant entertainment and nightlife areas. I can say that my community of Scarborough is welcoming this legislation with open arms, with much support from stakeholders in my community to see Scarborough made safe by this new legislation.

This is in line with many of the other things that have been introduced or are due to be introduced in this Parliament. The unlawful consorting and prohibited insignia reform is tackling organised crime in Western Australia. The minister mentioned in his rebuttal the firearm prohibition order scheme and the new legislation to modernise Western Australia's Firearms Act. There are also our measures tackling homelessness in Western Australia. The government has committed a record \$2.4 billion investment in social housing and homelessness, including funding to deliver 3 300 social houses across WA. Family and domestic violence is a scourge that must be stopped. The government has taken unprecedented action to address this issue across the state by investing an additional \$150 million since coming to government. We also reintroduced the senior security rebate—it was axed under the previous Liberal government—that gives \$400 to seniors in our community to improve the safety of their households. These measures and many other measures introduced by the minister and at a local level in Scarborough are keeping our community safe.

It is not just about the numbers of police; it is about ensuring that they have the necessary tools to do the job they need to do to protect our community and keep our community safe. With that, I will end my contribution and give my colleague some time to speak.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [3.52 pm]: I was thinking about contributing a bit, but with only two minutes left, I will just answer the three members from the opposition who spoke.

The member for Cottesloe's motion has two parts—one part is about statistics, and the other is about the work of the police minister. It is disgusting that such a motion has been brought to this house in the first place. The statistics have now been clarified. The member for Cottesloe was looking at annual reports, which are financial year reports, and the actual statistics presented by the Minister for Police were for the calendar year. One statistic is right: the opposition spokesperson for police has made zero visits to any police station. He has not followed the procedure by seeking permission from the police minister. One statistic that is right is that the shadow Minister for Police has not sought permission from the Minister for Police to visit a police station, and that means he has not made an attempt to visit them on the ground.

Coming to the member for Roe, somehow I got the feeling that he was trying to say that we have to lower the selection standards for the police. He was trying to influence the police minister to interfere in the recruitment process, which is absolutely wrong.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Deputy Speaker casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (5)

Ms M. Beard	Mr R.S. Love	Mr P.J. Rundle (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	

Noes (42)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr G. Baker	Mr H.T. Jones	Ms L.A. Munday	Dr K. Stratton
Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Dr A.D. Buti	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mr P. Papalia	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr J.N. Carey	Ms A.E. Kent	Mr S.J. Price	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms C.M. Collins	Dr J. Krishnan	Mr D.T. Punch	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr P. Lilburne	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M. McGowan	Ms A. Sanderson	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	Ms C.M. Rowe (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms J.J. Shaw	
Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens	

Pair

Ms M.J. Davies

Ms H.M. Beazley

Question thus negatived.

TEACHER REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [3.59 pm]: I will resume my contribution, which I commenced just before question time today, on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I was in the middle of talking about the very significant role that teachers play in schools within Western Australia. I alluded to the fact that quite often teachers' classrooms provide the only safe space for young people. It is difficult but it has been my privilege to deal with young people whose family situations have broken down or who are suffering from some form of trauma in their background. Teachers do an incredible role of helping to mentor those young people. I also mentioned that teachers model and teach respectful relationships between young people on a daily basis. One of the greatest things that I think teachers help young people do is to develop resilience and skills when they have had a setback in life; they start to understand how they can overcome that setback. Often, success for those young people instils in them a huge sense of pride. Part of a teacher's journey is to help those young people and their families celebrate those successes.

I want to highlight the role that the public school system has played in the lives of many young people, including my own, over generations in Western Australia. I want to put on record my absolute commitment to public schooling and the outstanding outcomes that public schools achieve for young people. Often they are achieved for young people who, as I spoke about before, are going through significant challenges whether due to their family circumstances or things that have happened to them in their background. I love the fact that in public schools we measure success

in human terms, not data and not who has the highest ATAR score—although we absolutely celebrate those things. But I think the story that public schools tell is about people achieving success in their communities and going on to become successful young people in their own right. I really would like to highlight the concept of success in education because it is absolutely relative to the young person.

I would like to talk briefly about a couple of young people whom I had the pleasure of meeting during my 30 years of teaching in the public school system. I would like to start, firstly, by mentioning a young man whom I met at the Eaton Community College graduation last week. He attended Eaton Community College as a student and he was the guest speaker at the graduation; schools often have previous students come back and talk about what they have done in their lifetimes. This young person had significant challenges in his background and he declared that if it were not for the staff who helped him at Eaton Community College, he would not have finished high school. This young person went on to finish high school, study at Edith Cowan University in Bunbury and become a social worker—the member for Nedlands would be very pleased that he joined the ranks of the social work team. He is now married with a young child of his own and has just taken up the role of social worker at Bunbury Regional Hospital. That young person is doing incredibly important work and he would not be in that situation and giving back to their community in that way if he had not been ably assisted and guided by the hardworking teachers and support staff at Eaton Community College.

As teachers, we often do not understand the impacts that we make on young people's lives. We go through the daily—I do not want to say grind, because it is a great job, but we teach the third class of year 9 humanities and we are ready for our cup of tea at recess or lunchtime, that is for sure. I taught a young man, Michael—I will not name the school because I do not want to identify him in any way—who suffered from foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. His mother had abused alcohol during her pregnancy with this young man, and he was in the inclusive learning program. One of my roles at this school was to organise work placements for students. Sadly, securing work placements for students with disabilities is more challenging than it is for students without a disability. However, schools do an incredible job and individual teachers do an incredible job of really linking with those employers and creating pathways and opportunities for students with disabilities.

My role with this young person was to ask him where he would like to go for his work placement, because he was in year 11 and going into year 12 the following year. He said that he wanted to collect trolleys at his local shopping centre. Again, I mentioned that success is measured by the young person individually. He was not interested in going to university. His aim in life and his measure of success was to secure a job as a trolley collector. He absolutely loved it. He was the happiest and friendliest trolley collector in this community. He went on to finish school. The sad thing for me is often we do not always get to see the end product because teachers may move out of those communities in which they work. But about five years later, I came across Michael in the same local shopping centre that I had visited previously, on a return trip after I had moved down to Collie. He recognised me and he said to me, “Oh, thanks so much for everything you did helping me get that work placement.” I said to him, “Oh, Michael, that is fantastic. What are you doing now?” He was obviously still pushing trolleys at that point. He said he owned his own trolley collection business and employs other people. He married his girlfriend who he had at high school and they have had a baby. He said that he told his girlfriend she was not allowed to drink when she was pregnant. He said, “Guess what, Miss, our baby is not like me.” It struck me how successful this young person was. Despite every other measure—we might not necessarily see that in traditional ATAR achievement scales—that person had achieved success for himself. That is the beauty of what teachers do every day in classrooms around Western Australia.

I think that teaching is an absolute privilege and despite the fact that I love my role in Parliament, I absolutely miss being in the classroom with young people. I am very passionate about education and in particular public education. I was born and raised in Yarloop and attended Yarloop Primary School for my entire primary school life. I went on to Harvey Senior High School and was the first person in my family to complete year 12. I forgot, Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday), that you are also a graduate of Harvey Senior High School. Wait until I get to the next story I am about to tell.

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: We won't hold it against her.

Ms J.L. HANNS: We will not hold it against the member for Dawesville —

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Or you!

Ms J.L. HANNS: — or me! Harvey Senior High School was a fabulous school. Again, thank you to all those people who contributed to my education. Once I finished year 12 at Harvey Senior High School, I went to Brakpan High School as a Rotary exchange student for a year. I apologise to the people who have heard me tell this story many, many times, but the year I was in South Africa was the year Nelson Mandela was released from prison—1989. South Africa was very much still in the grips of apartheid, so there were separate schools for white children and for black children and for coloured children, because at that point in time people were classified based on the colour of their skin. I lived with an amazing family full of teachers. In South Africa at that time, part of the workforce were domestic household servants. My host parents, Lulu and Pieter, had domestic servants.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.L. HANNS: One of their domestic servants, whose child was not allowed to attend school because he was a black child in a white community, asked Lulu and Pieter to tutor their child so they could learn to speak English and to read, write and do maths, which meant that they would be more employable.

My stay with Lulu and Pieter solidified my thoughts on what I wanted to do after I finished school. I am absolutely committed to the idea that quality education should be available to every person, every child, and that access to a quality education should not be based on the colour of your skin or how much your parents earn. That value has carried me through nearly 30 years of teaching. I thank those teachers who made a difference to my life. When I grew up in Yarloop, employment opportunities were not great. My grandparents owned the general store and I knew that I did not want to work in the general store. My dad worked at Alcoa and I knew that that kind of employment was not for me. I was set on going to university. A couple of teachers really supported me in that goal, one of whom was Brendan Hart, a principal and teacher at Yarloop Primary School. He was an outstanding person who developed in every single child in his classroom that if they put their mind to it, they could do anything. It takes only one teacher to make a difference with one child. There was a group of young people who went through Yarloop Primary School with him as their teacher and who went on to pursue whatever level of success they felt was the measure for them.

The second person I want to mention is someone I saw again on Saturday night. After representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming at the Collie Cup on Saturday, I was asked to represent the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Stephen Dawson, at the Eaton–Australind Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service event. When repping the minister, we are asked to provide a speech, and I certainly was asked to do that. As I looked around the room after acknowledging and welcoming the people I was asked to acknowledge at the dinner, I noticed a name in my notes—Tony Dodd. Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday), your jaw has aptly fallen to the floor because you also were the recipient of a quality education at Harvey Senior High School under the tutelage of Tony Dodd. I was not sure whether it was the same person, so, me being me, I said, “Now where is this person Tony Dodd, volunteer fire and rescue services associate executive member? Where are you?” And it was the person I thought it would be. He was a little bit greyer—sorry, Mr Dodd—and a little bit older; again, sorry Mr Dodd. It was absolutely him. After I confirmed that it was him, I said that I had two questions for him. The first was: was he a teacher? He said, “Yes.” Then I asked whether he had been a teacher at Harvey Senior High School and he said, “Yes.” Then I said in a most unprofessional way, representing the minister, “Yay! Greatest teacher of social studies ever!” The whole room erupted. I am 50—I cannot believe I said that—and that person taught me as a 15-year-old. Thirty-five years later, the feeling of joy and connection with that one special teacher who made a difference is still there. I am sure that if I asked every single person in this room, they could replicate a story about a teacher who did that for them during their education. That is the power of teachers.

Thanks to all the teachers who had an impact on my life. As I said, it meant that I was able to be the first person in my family to finish high school and attend university. As I said before, teachers the world over probably do not understand the impact they potentially have on young people’s lives.

I would like to talk about something I raised prior to question time. A lot of young people in the regions have to travel away, particularly if pursuing a university education, to complete their studies. But what I absolutely love about regional people is that they often come back home afterwards. That is no truer than in the case of some of the young people who went off to study teaching and came back to teach in the communities that they were raised in. A couple of examples at Collie Senior High School include people I taught and then mentored as beginning teachers through the teacher registration process, which was an absolute privilege. Young people who returned to the regions include Kirsten Thomson, who would give Eddie Woo a run for his money as an amazing maths teacher, and most recently three graduates who returned to Collie Senior High School after having been students there: Chloe Garner, Luke Kearney and Brianna Harrison-Brown. All went off to train as teachers and have now come back to our community and the cycle starts again. I think that is an incredible story about regional education.

I also acknowledge that it is school graduation season. I mentioned that I went to the Eaton Community College graduation last week, which was a fabulous evening. I have to say that the highlight of the Australind Senior High School graduation event was the showcasing of the school band. Australind Senior High School has an incredible music program and the school band did themselves absolutely proud. The program continues to grow.

I want to give a shout-out to Collie Senior High School, which has its school graduation tonight and for which I am an apology. Unfortunately for her, I have had to send one of my staff members along to represent me at the graduation tonight; I usually like to attend. She is not very happy about it because she may or may not have to get a photo taken. Apparently, it was written in her employment contract that if she were asked to get a photo taken, she would resign. So, hopefully, Natasha goes along tonight and smiles for the photo, like I have to, and represents me ably, which I know she will. More importantly, she was my vocational education and training support officer when I was a vocational education and training teacher at Collie Senior High School and knows the students who are graduating very, very well.

Moving along to some of the fantastic programs that are run in schools around Western Australia, I have come to the point at which I want to talk about vocational education and training. A lot of young people in the regions pursue TAFE training or apprenticeships or traineeships within their local community when university is too difficult, and

they often gain full-time employment as a result of school work placement programs. There are some fantastic opportunities for young people. I am really proud in particular of the Indigenous programs that the WA government supports. Obviously, Aboriginal school-based traineeships have done an incredible job in improving educational and job outcomes for Indigenous young people. The Clontarf Academy and Shooting Stars programs operate in a number of schools around Collie–Preston, and do an incredible job mentoring young people.

Last year, the WA government initiated a fantastic program called the Year 9 Career Taster program from which a number of young people have already reaped the benefits of being involved. Recently, nine students from Collie Senior High School visited Roy Hill for a two-night stay to see what careers might be possible in the mining industry in remote communities around Western Australia. The Chamber of Minerals and Energy thanked the government for that program, which was part of the Year 9 Career Taster program. I know that Collie Senior High School and other schools in my electorate of Collie–Preston have not been the only beneficiaries of the Year 9 Career Taster program run by Roy Hill. When kids are taken overnight on an excursion, that also means that the teachers who are attending are away from their families. A lot of the Year 9 Career Taster programs are well supported by those in career practitioner roles, which were implemented in schools this year. The career practitioner and workplace learning coordinator from Collie Senior High School took those nine students up to Roy Hill and had a fabulous experience.

Obviously, Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day this week, on Friday, 28 October, so that it would not coincide with the school holidays. I would love to encourage people right around Western Australia to thank a teacher they know and to really show schools our appreciation of the work that teachers do.

I would like to finish my contribution today by reflecting on the new federal Minister for Education's approach to education in Australia. Jason Clare delivered a speech at the Early Childhood Australia National Conference on 6 October. I happened to see it at the time and thought, "This guy gets education. He might not be a teacher, but he absolutely gets education." I will conclude my contribution today by quoting Jason Clare from that presentation. He said —

Somewhere here in the audience is a very special person in my life. My big cousin Karen.

Karen has worked in early childhood education for thirty years this year.

She has forgotten more about the work you do —

He was addressing teachers —

than I will ever know.

And I hope I don't embarrass her, but she gave me three tips when I got this job: —

As the education minister —

1. Don't say kids. Kids are goats;
2. It's not child care, it's early ... education;
3. And the first five years are everything.

What they see, hear, what they eat. Every smile, every laugh, every friend, every book, every lesson, shapes the person you become.

That makes what you do about as important as any job in this country.

And all the evidence shows that.

Particularly the impact that early childhood education has for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

He gets education, and so does the McGowan Labor government. That is why we are committed to delivering quality education in public schools across Western Australia. I will conclude my comments there. I commend the bill to the house.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [4.22 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. It was really pleasing to hear the member for Collie–Preston acknowledge the outstanding nature of the music program at Australind Senior High School and the school band. I am an alumni of the Australind Senior High School concert band. I will not subject members to a performance on the clarinet this afternoon; I know they will all be terribly disappointed by that!

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I do not have the thespian or performative skills of the Leader of the House.

I want to pick up on something the member for Collie–Preston said. I am also thankful for the work done by teachers, both in my electorate and throughout the whole of Western Australia. I said in my inaugural speech how much not only the public education system, but also the teachers within that system have meant to my life. I would not be

here today if it were not for the many investments that my teachers made in my life, not just in the classroom, but also outside the classroom. Something that is often neglected is that teachers do not work merely between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm, or during school hours; they do a lot of other hours, not only in doing prep work, writing lesson plans, writing reports and planning extracurricular activities, but also often as mentors or quasi-social workers to the students at their schools. I want to give my heartfelt thanks to all teachers, and particularly those teachers who assisted me over the years.

I will be relatively brief today as there are just a couple of points I want to make about this bill. When thinking about my contribution on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill, it occurred to me that I would not need to speak as long as I have in previous debates because we have plenty of former teachers in this chamber who are capable of doing the speaking and heavy lifting on this bill. That got me thinking about the parallels between being a lawyer, which was my background prior to entering this place, and being a teacher. Both professions have registration requirements. People need certain qualifications and have to apply to be registered, and there can be consequences if people misbehave. Some of those consequences include being suspended or, for teachers, being deregistered. I note that one of the reforms in this bill is that it will insert definitions of “serious misconduct” and “serious incompetence” into the Teacher Registration Act to give clarity to employers and employees about the sort of conduct that falls within those definitions. That is welcome, because it is really important for school administrators, teachers and parents to know what is acceptable or unacceptable conduct. The legal profession has similar concepts, referred to as professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct. It is slightly different terminology, but the same concept. If a lawyer or teacher engages in behaviour that falls within those definitions, there can be consequences, including, for lawyers, being struck off the roll of practitioners, or in the case of teachers, being deregistered.

In thinking about the similarities between the professions of lawyer and teacher, I got thinking about who has the numbers in the chamber between the lawyers and the teachers. I have gone through it and will see whether members need to correct me. I have those in the chamber with legal backgrounds as being the Premier, the Attorney General, the member for Landsdale, the member for Swan Hills, the member for Mount Lawley, me and one other, but I will leave that member for now. That gives us six ex-lawyers in the chamber. For the chalkies, I have the Speaker, the Leader of the House, the member for Southern River, the member for Hillarys, the member for Collie–Preston, the member for Wanneroo, the member for Carine and the member for Bateman, which gives us eight. There is one other member, and that is the Minister for Finance. It is tricky with the Minister for Finance because he was first a teacher and then became a lawyer. I have decided to give him to the lawyers because that was his most recent profession. We also need the numbers, because even with the Minister for Finance, there are only seven lawyers in the chamber, while the teachers have eight.

Dr K. Stratton: He also taught at university.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I was thinking about that, but if I extended the definition of “teacher” to university lecturers or TAFE lecturers, a number of other people in the chamber would also qualify on that side of the ledger. However, I do not want to give the advantage to the chalkies too much because they already have the numbers. The next time people complain about the Parliament having too many lawyers in it, I will wheel out that fact and remind them that it is actually the teachers that we have to watch out for!

Mr P.J. Rundle: Who is the new Minister for Education and Training going to be?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The Minister for Education and Training that we have is doing an outstanding job, member for Roe. She is very fortunate to have a very capable parliamentary secretary as well, who is managing this bill through this chamber. The member for Roe raised an issue that the Premier has commented on before: that we have a great depth of talent in the Labor caucus. That is our cross to bear. Luckily, it is not a cross that the member’s side has to bear!

I will reflect next on the year that has just been for teachers in Western Australia. It does not matter which side or corner of the chamber a member is in, because I think we can all agree that teachers have had a pretty difficult and challenging couple of years. The COVID pandemic has challenged our society in a lot of ways. One of those areas has been schooling. It has been disruptive for students, teachers and families. I acknowledge teachers for getting us through that disruption. Many teachers in my electorate of Cockburn and, I am sure, other electorates, have gone above and beyond to make sure that we get through this. We have been enormously fortunate in this state because we have not had it as difficult as jurisdictions in other parts of the country and the world during the pandemic, but there have been challenges. At the start of the year, I tried to visit as many schools as possible in my electorate when school resumed. I met with a lot of principals, all of whom were rising to the challenge at the time. They knew there was a challenge ahead of them and they rose to it. I revisited the same schools towards the end of term 1. I have to say that all the principals were rising to the challenge, but there was a thousand-yard stare in their eyes as well because they had been through a challenging term.

I put on the record my thanks to the team at Atwell College, led by Kolin van Der Wal, and all the leaders and teachers there; Myles Draper and his team at Fremantle College; Cathy Baron and her team at Lakelands Senior High School; Paul Watson and his team at Emmanuel Catholic College; Stephen Doherty and all the teaching staff at

Atwell Primary School; John Gillett and the staff and support staff at Beeliar Primary School; Paul Burke and his team at Coogee Primary School; Craig Anderson and the whole Harmony Primary School team; Margaret Gold and her outstanding team at Jandakot Primary School; Linda Humphreys and her band of hardworking teachers and school leaders at Newton Primary School; Lyn Beard and the team, whom I just visited a week ago with the Minister for Environment to tour the great sustainability programs, at South Coogee Primary School; Kristy Mularczyk and her whole team at Success Primary School; Andrea Macfarlane and the team at Yangebup Primary School; Leigh Liley and the whole teaching and support staff at South Lake Primary School; Toni Kalat and her team at Mater Christi Catholic Primary School; and Chris Cully and his team at St Jerome's Primary School. Thank you so much for the work that you have done over many years, but particularly over the last couple of years. It has been a challenging time. We are lucky to have a government that has steered a clear path through the pandemic and a Minister for Education and Training who has done the same to provide the resources that the schools need. We all acknowledge that there have been challenges and I thank them all for their hard work. We are all enormously grateful for it.

The final thing I want to touch upon is the way the government is assisting teachers to rise to the challenges they face, particularly in the area of psychosocial supports. When I visit the schools in my electorate and speak to the principals, the one thing they are absolutely crying out for is extra support staff, so extra non-teaching resources. They are looking for resources who can help with behavioural management, provide pastoral care, and early detection and intervention for things like language difficulties. I am very lucky to have the language development centre satellite school at Beeliar Primary School in my electorate that does great work in identifying kids who need early intervention with language difficulties and providing that intervention. The schools are all crying out for that.

I note also that we are delivering on our election commitment to provide more school psychologists across the state. That is fantastic because schools are about not just the quality of the particular academic or vocational program, but also making sure that the students get the pastoral care and extra behaviour management they need, and that the teachers are supported in that. I commend the minister and the parliamentary secretary for providing those additional school psychologist resources into schools. I would love to see that expanded in the future to include speech pathologists. South Lake Primary School is a great model in my community. It devotes part of its one-line budget to provide a speech pathologist for one day a week, which has resulted in great dividends to the community by detecting kids with speech and language issues earlier and referring them to places like the language development centre at Beeliar Primary School or being able to introduce focused strategies in the classroom. I think it is a great model. There are challenges with recruiting more speech pathologists because we do not have the supply of graduates in Australia to fill those positions, but I hope that in the future we can build on the great work we have done by expanding the access to school psychologists and looking at providing extra supports like speech pathologists for our schools and teachers. I commend the bill to the house.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [4.35 pm]: I am the lead speaker for the opposition on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. We will support the bill. I think that in general terms it is a good-quality bill. Obviously, it takes into account the findings of the statutory review that was tabled in 2018. As always, I will ask a few questions along the way. I look forward to getting a bit of clarity about a few things here and there. In general terms, I will also take the opportunity to speak a little more about education in my electorate and around the state.

I will turn to the basics of the bill, which will obviously strengthen the powers of the Teacher Registration Board of WA to deal with disciplinary matters, including teachers who pose a risk of harm. It will ensure an effective registration system that will allow teachers to move between registration categories and improve fairness for teachers returning after an absence. Importantly, it will allow WA to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy. For some reason, we are the only state that has not been included in that strategy. It is very important to make sure that we are included in the Australia-wide statistics. The bill also promotes a skilled teaching workforce.

The board will be able to respond to matters of child safety involving teachers, which is consistent with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It will provide that interim orders can be made if the board believes on reasonable grounds that a registered teacher poses a risk of harm to a student. The current act says "at imminent risk". The board will be able to suspend teachers from teaching for up to 30 days and, if necessary, the State Administrative Tribunal can extend that and the order will stay in place for longer. The employer obligations have been reviewed and clarified. The time that employers have to notify the board when a teacher ceases teaching in cases of serious incompetence or serious misconduct has been reduced from 28 days to seven days. That will strengthen the safety of the child victim. The bill will change the term "sexual offence involving a child" to "actionable offence". That reflects that not all serious offences that have a bearing on child safety are sexual offences. The board's powers of investigation will be enhanced. A penalty has been included for any person failing to comply with a direction notice. The bill also has a provision for impairment. The question is what constitutes an impairment and whether a person is fit to teach. I think an important part of this bill is that the board will now include a lawyer as well as a doctor. I think that is an important inclusion to improve the skill set of the board when judging whether there is an impairment. The limitation period for prosecutions under the act will be extended from 12 months currently to six years. The two categories of provisional registration are graduate teacher and returning teacher. I will talk about that a little bit.

We also consulted the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia and it had some comments to make about registration and limited registration. Obviously, with the shortage of teachers this year, we have seen the number of limited registrations skyrocket. I understand that we have a shortage and that when principals have a good-quality third-year teaching student, they will potentially apply for limited registration. I have samples of notices of intent to apply for limited registration. However, it is very important that we understand that we need our students to study for as long as possible and learn all those skills in classroom management and the like to make sure that they are fully qualified or as close to fully qualified as they can be. I know that principals have the ability to assess potential graduates when they are coming towards the end of their studies and they may want to bring one of those student teachers on board with limited registration. Certainly, that is a way of dealing with our teacher shortage, but it is also important that student teachers have as long a period as possible to bring their skills up to speed. That is a bit of a challenge.

There were concerns from the State School Teachers' Union. As far as it is concerned, the act needs to —

... reflect three categories of registration: full, provisional and limited.

That was one of its recommendations. Another was —

That the Teacher Registration Board provides greater clarity to school leaders as to the amount, and nature, of evidence required by the Teacher Registration Board to justify movement of a graduate from provisional to full registration.

That is another element that it has identified. Under the registration, the union would also like to include —

... school leaders—principals, deputy principals, heads of department, heads of learning area, program coordinators in government schools including those working at the Schools of Special Education Needs.

This will make sure that all those categories are registrable and —

That for the purposes of teacher registration the Department of Education's Schools of Special Educational Needs are a prescribed educational venue.

The other point the union brought up is —

That the teachers listed in recommendation 1 have their professional learning and professional engagement recognised for renewal of registration.

My assessment of this is that it almost goes a little bit too far the other way. The Teacher Registration Board is bending over backwards to make it easier to have limited registration for graduate teachers and the like, yet it is making it a bit too hard for teachers who have that experience and are coming back into the workforce. Some of those elements—the 100 hours and so forth—are actually turning people away and turning them off. In my opinion, there needs to be a better balance between those two categories. Let us face it: at this stage, we need to encourage our experienced teachers back into the workforce and some of these elements make it quite difficult for them to re-register. I am interested in the member for Southern River's comments on that. Obviously, it is an offence to teach without a registration. I understand that if there is an experienced teacher in the framework, a principal can make arrangements for them to come on board and teach, and the 100 hours and so on can be done over time, but I still feel it is almost a penalty that is a little bit over the top when they have all that experience and those skills in comparison with a graduate teacher. That is one element that I am interested in.

As I said, the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy is a good element of this legislation. I do not see a problem with increasing the board membership from seven to nine members, except that I wonder whether the registration fees are going to be increased to pay the bill for those extra board members. That is another point that I am sure the member for Southern River will let me know about as time goes on.

There are a few other things that I would like to mention. One is the function of the board during the criminal investigation of a serious misconduct claim against a teacher. In the second reading speech, the member for Southern River talked about the Western Australia Police Force and the Director of Public Prosecutions being involved in notification of the misconduct. I presume that the WA Police Force and the DPP will have a legal responsibility to notify the board of any criminal findings in relation to registered teachers, but I am not sure how that will happen. How will that play out with the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 and cancellation by the State Administrative Tribunal? That is another element.

In amongst its recommendations, the State School Teachers' Union mentioned —

... demonstrating fitness and propriety, teachers applying for registration be required to provide a valid Working with Children Card.

That goes without saying. It also mentioned —

That "impairment" be removed from the fitness and propriety requirements of the Teacher Registration Act.

The State School Teachers' Union recommendation on impairment review matters was —

That the category of impairment due to injury, illness or disability in the Teacher Registration Act be removed.

It made a couple other points. One of them was —

That the Teacher Registration Act be amended to allow for pro rata professional learning and professional engagement requirements for part time and relief teachers in meeting their renewal requirements.

I can understand where it is coming from there. As we know, a lot of our teachers nowadays work one, two or three days a week, so they do have that pro rata situation.

The union also made quite a few comments about disciplinary matters, but I think a lot of that has been covered in the bill.

Regarding fees, the union recommended —

That relief and part time teachers be able to pay a reduced rate of their annual fee.

And —

That the late fee payment be replaced by a capacity to “suspend/pause” registration until such time as payment is made.

We had an instance, I believe a year or two back, when the Teacher Registration Board sent out fines when, in fact, the invoice situation had not been clarified properly. Some sort of software issue or something was going on there, but people were receiving fines when they had not actually had the opportunity to renew their registration. Hopefully, that was just a one-off situation. I want to feed back, I guess —

Mr T.J. Healy: When did you say that was? Recently?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: In my memory, it was about two years ago. Hopefully, it was just a one-off situation, but I know that at the time, there was a bit of disquiet, I suppose you could call it, amongst our teaching fraternity.

It was very interesting listening to the member for Cockburn talk about the number of chalkies we have in Parliament. It will be very interesting to hear their contributions to this debate. I have 50 schools in my electorate that are spread far and wide from Narrogin to Esperance. Unfortunately, I do not have time today to reel off the names of all the principals and deputies and so forth, but I congratulate all our principals, deputies and teachers on the way that they have handled themselves during the COVID pandemic. It has been extremely difficult and very challenging for them. For example, principals had to check COVID contact details for the Department of Health, as well as carry out their principal duties and any other variation of things at schools. It is a positive thing that Western Australian schools have been able to keep operating very well. From memory, we had only five or six days without face-to-face teaching. As I described a few weeks ago, Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, the worst Premier in Australia, put Victorian schoolchildren, teachers, principals and families through 256 days of lockdown. I can only imagine the long-term effect that will have on the mental health of those students, teachers and principals. I certainly want to congratulate our teachers in Western Australia for the way that they got on with things and our principals for their leadership. We have had as minimal disruption as anywhere in the world. That is a positive.

I know a reasonable amount about teaching because I am married to a teacher. I hear about it after work pretty well most nights one way or the other. I certainly hear about the highs and the lows. As the member for Collie–Preston said, a lot of positives can be taken from our teaching environment and I get to hear about the things that go on and some of the challenges faced by our principals and staff. As the member said, it is certainly heartening to hear some of the stories about teachers who leave an impact on the life of a student. I also had a Tony Dodd at Katanning Senior High School; I suspect it was possibly the same person.

Ms J.L. Hanns: I think he ended up in Kalgoorlie for quite some time.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. Certainly, those teachers do a great job. I saw the impact that my wife, Andrea, who won the Australian Teacher of the Year in 2011, had with the engagement program at Katanning Senior High School and the lives she turned around. Even now when we run into one of the students that she impacted during that period, they come up to her, give her a hug and say, “You were that teacher who turned my life around.” I certainly agree with the member for Collie–Preston on the impact that a good-quality teacher can have on someone’s life. I have seen that firsthand.

I want to briefly touch on a few other things happening in the education system and some of my concerns. We have 56 751 registered teachers in the state, which can be further broken down as follows: 10 per cent are provisionally registered, 78 per cent are fully registered, nine per cent have non-practising registration and two per cent have limited registration. I will briefly talk about a few of my concerns. One challenging problem that we have in the regions—no doubt it happens in the metropolitan area as well—that I have tried to bring up with the director general is the scenario in which our principals hold a substantive position for four to seven years down the track after they leave a school. For example, Kukerin Primary School in my electorate has had nine to 11 principals over the last five or six years because what is the incentive for a principal to go to that school to further their career, to bring their family along and to get involved with the community when someone who went on maternity leave six years ago and has since moved on to three other schools continues to hold that position? That is a poor process. Somehow

or other, after our current Minister for Education and Training departs, the new education minister—whether it is the member for Collie–Preston, the member for Hillarys or the member for Southern River—will have to address that. It is not good enough that teachers and principals have to come into our community with absolutely no hope of retaining or winning that substantive position while someone from three to five years ago holds onto it. That has to stop. I am sure that the member for Southern River will come down on that like a tonne of bricks if he is the new education minister because it is a very mediocre way to go about business and something that can be remedied. We have human resources departments and unions to worry about and all the rest of it, but there is no need for someone to hold onto a job like that and create that merry-go-round; it is not good enough.

Another thing that I want to talk about that is one of my favourite subjects is Esperance Senior High School. It has two wings that were built in 1966. In the middle of winter, the canteen is like a dungeon and the toilet conditions are so poor that the nearly 1 000 students at that school do not want to go to the toilet during the day. They cannot cross from one area to another without getting wet. This is why I have been bringing a petition to our chamber and why we have created a community group comprised of members from the shire, the chamber of commerce, the development commission, the school board and the school's P&C. We are trying to do the right thing and come together as a group to get the Department of Education, our infrastructure people and our minister to understand the importance of replacing the 1966 buildings. Once again, I urge our minister and our infrastructure department to take note. I hear the member for Baldivis talking about how great it is to have a new \$28 million performing arts centre and all these buildings, which is fantastic, but we want just basic, good-quality buildings for our core subjects and our students. A grandparent came up to me at the Esperance Show to say that the buildings were the same when their son went to Esperance Senior High School, and now their grandson is going to the same school and the buildings are still the same and still have not improved. It is not good enough.

I have spoken about teacher shortages. As was reported in the statistics by Bethany Hiatt in *The West Australian* of 20 October, there were 175 secondary school teacher vacancies in September. We had 58 at the same time last year. There were also 141 primary school teacher vacancies, compared with 19 at the same time last year; and 126 principal vacancies, up from 11 last year. All up, there were 450 vacancies for teachers and principals as of September. The minister really needs to look at whatever action is possible to take to fill these vacancies. The comment was, “We will sit back and wait until we see who resigns and moves on”, but we need a more proactive way of remedying this teacher shortage.

I want to talk about a couple of other things. Something I always bat on about here when we have housing-related private members' business and the like is the issue of teacher housing, for our regional schools especially. In Bruce Rock, a house owned by the shire can be rented to the principal at a subsidised rate of \$720 a fortnight. Why would a principal go out into the regions and spend a large percentage of their salary on rent that high, when they could stay in the metro area, probably in their own house, and not pay any rent at all? Where is the encouragement for our regional principals from the Department of Education? That is a very frustrating issue. In certain towns there is not even a house, let alone one at \$720 a fortnight. I will say one thing: the Western Australia Police Force seems to have a different structure for housing, which encourages their people to reside in those regional towns.

Another issue I want to talk about is regional directors. From my perspective, our regional directors have a massive job with the number of schools they have to cover. I know that in the wheatbelt, there are something in the order of 60 to 70 schools. It is a great challenge for the director of education in the region—which I think is the term that is now used—to cover all those schools, their principals, the issues that they have. They also process and employ new principals down the track for the following year. I have been talking with the director general about the 1980s and 90s, when there were larger regional centres—the likes of Northam and Narrogin—and much better support structures. When a principal was struggling, there were mentors—people in the regional office who could get out there three to four times a term and support that principal. Now the executive director of the region has the challenge of operating mostly on the phone because they cannot physically get around all those schools and provide that moral support. I still wonder why we cannot have more of those people back out in the region to provide mentorship to those principals? We know there is a massive number of people down in Royal Street. Why do we not redistribute a few more? There are plenty of facilities out there. There are plenty of spare offices in Narrogin, I can tell the member that. That is another bugbear of mine, I guess.

We have incidents happening, especially up in the northern part of our state. Four people went up to Halls Creek and wrote 200 individual education plans in four days. There was no follow-up. A Department of Education employee put out the correct truancy figures and was raided by the police. He still cannot work for the Department of Education. He still has not been reinstated, seven or eight months after the judge threw out the case. He is still not employed. It is not good enough. Brock Burston had his house raided when his family and children were there. The case was thrown out of court, but he is still being investigated by the Department of Education. That is one of the most appalling situations I have seen. Those are just a few highlights of the issues that I think need to be dealt with by our Department of Education and our minister.

I will finish on the positives that I see in our agricultural colleges. I was at the WA College of Agriculture graduation in Narrogin last Friday. I have to say, as I said to both the principal, Clare Roser, and Sally Panizza, the director of

agricultural education, our agricultural colleges are real highlight of the regional education system. The camaraderie of those graduates was fantastic. There is a variation of courses on offer, with work-ready students going out there for harvest, engineering and mechanical jobs. There is a variation of roles, and they are well equipped to get stuck straight into it when they go into the workforce. I want to put out there how impressive the agriculture college system is, whether it be the WA College of Agriculture in Narrogin, Cunderdin, Denmark or Harvey. There is a very positive vibe. As far as I know, the boarding facilities of every agricultural college are pretty well full. I think that is a pretty good sign that agriculture is going well, as well as agricultural college education. In Denmark, about 50 per cent or more of the students are female; they certainly were a year ago. That is a real positive as well.

I will wrap it up there. From my perspective, the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 will be supported by the opposition. I think will bring into being a lot of the recommendations that have flown through from the statutory review of the Teacher Registration Act 2012, which was tabled in 2018. I will look forward to hearing some further contributions as time goes on over the next day or two. I look forward to some responses from the member for Southern River.

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [5.08 pm]: I rise today to also make a few brief comments on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I believe a record number of members in this place were once teachers. In fact, I will thank the member for Cockburn for counting up to nine members in this place who have primary or secondary qualifications and have taught in the classroom. I believe there are a handful of others in the other place. I had taught for only six years prior to entering Parliament. I have enjoyed hearing the term “chalkies” used this evening, given that I never had the pleasure of using a chalkboard in my time as a teacher. My colleagues the members for Collie–Preston and Wanneroo were teachers for up to 27 and 28 years, and I look to them and the years of dedication they gave to the profession.

Given my relatively short six-year stint teaching in Western Australia, I have quite strong memories of the very rigorous legislative requirements to transition from being a graduate teacher to what we call a proficient teacher. In my first three years of teaching, I would spend hours and hours at night collating folders of evidence to prove why I deserved to move up to that level of proficiency. Prior to getting my Diploma of Education and teaching in Western Australia, I taught in a number of other countries around the world, including Vietnam, India and Ireland. I taught English as a second language. I did not need a Diploma in Education; rather, I had what was called a CELTA certificate. Having taught in other countries—I hold their education systems in high esteem—I note how robust the registration process is in Western Australia, which ensures the highest of teaching standards. However, there is always room for improvement, and that is why we are discussing the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022.

The bill is based on the findings of the statutory review of the Teacher Registration Act 2012, which noted that some adjustments to the current system are necessary. The bill ultimately aims to streamline and improve the effectiveness of the registration system to implement a greater degree of fairness, particularly for those teachers who return to the profession after an absence. The bill will achieve this by increasing the clarity and effectiveness of the current structures for assessment of applicants wishing to register or re-register to enter the teaching profession after an extended absence. Unfortunately, there is a degree of confusion under the act about who is registered to practise teaching because there are two categories in place—namely, the practising registration and the non-practising registration. A misinterpretation of the wording of the act by both employees and employers has led to certain categories of non-practising registrants being allowed to continue to teach. The bill, therefore, will remove any such ambiguous interpretations. It will also make it an offence for someone with a non-practising registration to teach.

The bill intends to create two new subcategories of provisional teaching registration to clearly differentiate recently registered graduate teachers entering the profession as being distinct from teachers returning to the profession after an absence. I might add that as a former teacher and a recent newcomer to this place, that aspect of the bill may be of some future importance to me. I intend to be a very hardworking and dedicated local member for Hillarys for many years to come, but if the time comes, this bill will allow me to utilise the skills that I have gained in this place—I was a politics and law teacher prior to becoming a member of Parliament—and I believe I would have a much greater depth of experience if I were to re-enter the teaching profession. These proposed provisional distinctions will allow the board to more fairly assess the practical abilities of would-be registrants and distinguish between a recent graduate with little practical or hands-on experience teaching at the coalface and those who wish to re-enter the profession with a measurable depth of prior experience. Additionally, the bill will allow the board to give full consideration to academic and professional achievements of both Australian and overseas teaching graduates as part of a deeper due diligence process.

I am one of those people who really enjoys talking to taxidrivers when I get in a taxi. Something that I notice time and again is just how well educated taxidrivers are here in WA; in fact, they are probably some of the most educated taxidrivers in the world. Time after time, I am amazed by the life stories of some of these immigrant drivers who have come from a diverse range of professions—everything from professors to doctors and engineers—and who often find it incredibly difficult to gain recognition of the qualifications they gained in their home country where they spent decades practising their chosen profession.

The member for Collie–Preston mentioned the federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare. Recently on ABC radio, he said —

It's a good idea to get people who are already in the workforce, mid-career professionals, to make the switch to the classroom. Whether they're mathematicians or scientists or lawyers or God forbid politicians— if you can get people who have got qualifications to jump into the classroom then that's a good thing.

Even though I have done the exact opposite to what the federal member suggested, I think that is fabulous advice; in fact, we have an excellent program here in Australia called Teach for Australia, which encourages exceptional graduates, or those who want a career change and have perhaps excelled in their career, to go into disadvantaged communities and help close the gap in education between the metropolitan and rural areas. By introducing this more streamlined categorisation structure, the bill will bring the assessment process up to date to meet the more contemporary needs and requirements of the WA teaching profession and, perhaps, offer a pathway for very talented people to better use their knowledge and experience for the betterment of Western Australia.

The member for Roe noted this evening that there is a shortage of teachers in Australia. There is no doubt that the COVID pandemic played into that. The federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare, recently announced an extra 4 036 university teaching places. This is what Labor governments do; they take education seriously.

Another very important aspect of this bill is its intention to strengthen the power of the board to respond to matters of child safety that involve teachers. This is consistent with the intent of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission found that the board taking action upon imminent risk to children was not operating as intended. Having such a high burden to prove imminent risk reduced the capacity of the board to take fast precautionary measures to protect children. That will change with the provisions in the bill. The board will be able to issue interim orders if it believes that a registered teacher poses a risk of harm to a student. To protect students, the suspension of a teacher may be necessary. These orders will be made only if the board's belief and concern is, of course, on reasonable grounds.

I would like to talk briefly about the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia's access to good and reliable evidence. Evidence is critical for an authority such as a registration board. Without access to evidence, a review board is effectively blinded. A strong burden of evidence will be required before it can make an order and any decision may be reviewed by the State Administrative Tribunal. These reforms will give the board the power to request child victim and witness information from the Western Australia Police Force to assist in its decision-making.

The board will also benefit from a faster flow of information from the employer. If a teacher ceases teaching due to serious incompetence or serious misconduct, the board must be notified within seven days. When the WA Police Force prosecutes a registered teacher, police must inform the board as soon as practicable. If this prosecution results in an acquittal or a mistrial, this also must be communicated to the board as soon as practicable. These commonsense reforms will empower the board to have a greater knowledge of movements within their profession. They will ultimately break down the barriers between administration and the relevant authorities. They will increase the value and the worth of evidence that is gathered by dedicated investigators in the WA Police Force.

The impairment review committee of the board plays an important role in ensuring that teachers with an impairment may continue to work if they are approved. We will make this process fairer by allowing any teacher under review by this committee to gain access to a lawyer and doctor. This worthy reform will empower teachers and help ensure that we retain more fantastic staff after they have received the tick that they are good to go in the classroom.

We have had an extremely difficult three years with the global pandemic and teachers have really felt the brunt of that. They have done it tough and I want to take this opportunity to thank all teachers for the vital role that they play in the lives of our young people. I echo the sentiment of my colleague the member for Collie–Preston who said that teaching is a privilege. I continue to have many teaching friends, having come from that profession, and I can personally vouch for the sheer number of hours of their personal time and their energy that is given to their students.

To all teachers, particularly in the Hillarys electorate, I would like to wish you a happy World Teachers' Day for this Friday. Thank you for the work that you do and for continuing to inspire our future generations. I commend the bill to the house.

MR P. LILBURNE (Carine) [5.22 pm]: I, too, wish to acknowledge the incredible contribution that teachers make to our community and thoroughly commend the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022.

During my teaching career of 21 years, I had the privilege of being a part of many people's lives. The decision to become a teacher started when, as a 10-year-old child, I taught martial arts to fellow children. I enjoyed the reward of helping young people to understand, learn and develop their skill sets. My career as a teacher, prior to being elected as the member for Carine, gave me an interesting insight into my personal philosophy. The philosophical concept was that I learnt more from the children than I taught. I had the realisation that when a child trusts a teacher and enjoys the learning journey, both parties gain comprehension in best learning styles. The trust element facilitates the teacher and the student to adapt to learning more effectively, and builds greater capacity to express comprehension.

This lifelong learning concept is one of the most important rewards of being a teacher and inadvertently a student. I therefore support the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 because it will ensure the quality of those entrusted with the care of children and students.

Teachers may be the single most important factor in a child's learning achievement outside their family. Teachers instil the transcendent faculties of communication, decision-making and awareness of social responsibilities. Later in life, no matter which field we choose to pursue, our community again turns to teachers for training. During my 21 years as a teacher, I have seen the benefits of quality training being reflected in the classroom. A strong information base and well-developed capabilities of comprehension and analysis are critical for progress. These crucial responsibilities of inculcating knowledge, kindling inspiration and encouraging creative thought are all vested in the teacher. Keeping in mind the increasing trend of both parents working long hours, teachers are also expected to build strong moral character and provide emotional support. The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 will ensure the traits of moral character are established and monitored. Thus, teachers must build a rapport with students and be simultaneously approachable and authoritative. His or her role encompasses that of an instructor, a role model and a confidant.

I am and remain a foundation member of the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia and have maintained my full membership status for over 24 years. This statutory authority attempts to implement the requirements of elements of the Teacher Registration Act. Indeed, during my career, I have worked for the TRBWA—then known as the Western Australian College of Teaching or WACOT—as a public officer for a period of almost 12 months. During that my time of employment with TRBWA, I saw how diligently the statutory authority of the TRBWA works to ensure the quality of teachers' qualifications and behaviour. I can advocate that the paramount consideration of the TRBWA is the best interests of children. As of 30 June 2022, there were over 56 000 registered teachers in WA. Fully registered teachers make up 78 per cent of that number.

The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 follows a 2018 review of the act, which included consultation with a wide range of education stakeholders such as employers and unions. The changes to the act will promote a skilled teaching workforce, ensure an effective registration system that allows teachers to move between registration categories and improve fairness for teachers returning from an absence. It will strengthen the powers of the board to respond to matters of child safety involving teachers, consistent with recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will also allow Western Australia to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy.

The proposed changes include defining key terms in the act such as “educational venue”, which will be changed to “educational institution” to reflect that learning often takes place offsite or online. The definitions of “serious misconduct” and “serious incompetence” will be included to provide clarity for employers and employees on what matters should be referred to the board.

Several key changes in the bill will assist the board to deal with disciplinary matters involving teachers. The bill provides that interim orders can be made if the board believes on reasonable grounds that a teacher poses a risk to students and a suspension is necessary to protect students.

Last week, I attended the seventy-seventh anniversary of the United Nations Day Gala. During the presentation, both the past president and the incoming president of the United Nations Association of Australia Western Australia division commented on the importance of quality education in building the living standards of families in communities. It was an honour to attend the seventy-seventh anniversary of the United Nations event and hear such professionals highlight the profound effect that teachers have in communities around the world.

During my calendar events last week, I also attended a year 12 graduation event within my district. During the event, I witnessed the product of quality education within the Carine electorate. During the awards ceremony, the theme of the importance of experienced, highly qualified teachers in the Western Australian Department of Education was exemplified. In my teaching career of 21 years, prior to becoming a member of Parliament, I taught within four spheres of education, including early childhood education, primary school, secondary school and tutoring at university. I would like to now elaborate on my experiences.

My experience as a teacher of early childhood education was incredibly rewarding. The most important times of the day to kindergarten children are guided play, reading time on the mat, and recess crunch and sip! Quality teachers ensure that early learning programs are supported by excellent daily activities. The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 will ensure that future generations are protected from applicants to the teaching profession who may be unsuitable. The bill will also enhance the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia's investigative powers to enable it to get early information when teacher misconduct matters are raised. This includes a provision that will enable the Commissioner of Police to consider providing victim or witness-identifying information when it will assist the board's investigation.

The bill will also make the teacher registration scheme fairer. A key change is how the category of non-practising registration will work. The current legislation allows some teachers to teach while holding non-practising registration, and this perhaps has led to confusion for both teacher and employer. The changes in the bill will mean that it will become an offence for anyone with non-practising registration to teach.

My career as a teacher included teaching in the primary school sphere, for example, in a year 1–2 class. As a member of the education department flying squad, I was asked by the department to teach students in the year 1–2 split class, as mentioned. I can attest that my early childhood and primary teaching refreshed my career. Fellow colleagues in the teacher staffroom often asked me how I could go from teaching year 12 students in economics and geography one year and then change my teaching style to accommodate year 1 and 2 students in the next. I used to reply to my colleagues, “Guys, it’s just like another day at my home.” As a young father and qualified teacher from a Western Australian university, my skill set enabled me to adapt to the age group, and thrive and enjoy the opportunity of teaching within WA.

The secondary school space has requirements of student assessment and student personal growth. The teacher’s role within these objectives is to build rapport with students, teach the curriculum, assess the effectiveness of learning within a program, and provide results to parents and authorities. The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 equips relevant authorities to ensure compliance as per the recommendations of past investigations. Moderation marking of assessment items between schools and producing reports to parents and caregivers about student achievement is done by suitably qualified teachers. Numerous research papers have shown that quality teachers are a key element in student learning other than parents and caregivers. The amendment bill before this place today will continue to protect learning in Western Australia.

In reference to the bill, two new subcategories of registration have been included—that is, provisional registration for a returning teacher and provisional registration for a graduate teacher. This will allow employers to distinguish between new teachers and more experienced teachers returning to the profession. Provisional registration for returning teachers will allow experienced teachers from Australia and overseas or those returning to the profession the time to demonstrate that they meet the requirements for full registration. The legislation will also allow the board to have regard to teaching experience when determining whether an applicant is suitably qualified for teacher registration. Consideration of both qualifications and experience when determining applications for registration will contribute to the registration of well-qualified and experienced teachers in Western Australia.

During my career of 20 years, I mentored 19 students during their teaching practicums. I highlighted the importance of rapport to the practicum teachers entrusted to my guidance. In addition to rapport between students and teachers, I also demonstrated how tone and the suitability of language selection for students improves concentration, comprehension and understanding.

Last week, I had the pleasure of talking with my university professor, Professor Harry Phillips. Harry remembered me as a former student of his “Politics and Power” lectures at Edith Cowan University. We revisited his lectures, which I distinctly remember. My favourite lecture was on his concept of power in history and government. Quality teachers, quality resources and quality statutory authorities ensure the best possible outcomes for students in Western Australia.

I believe that teaching builds student resilience and teaches caring for members of our society. When I taught in Derby, in northern Western Australia, I learnt about the importance of the Clontarf Foundation. This incredible initiative within the education department of WA helps to settle students prior to their formal lessons. Students learn about the positive effects of a balanced diet and caring environments. These life skills facilitated by teachers need to be more greatly acknowledged within our community. Resilience offers hope for future generations who may have been challenged in their personal experiences in the past.

The McGowan Labor government in WA continues to forge ahead on the importance of public education and we are continuing to deliver on our election promises to improve resourcing and provide quality staffing. I commend the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 to the house.

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [5.38 pm]: I, too, rise to speak in support of the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I always tell my children that if they are lucky, they will have one or two teachers who will change their lives and whose impact will stay with them into adulthood. In fact, I have said it so many times that I can see their eyes rolling from here! But my mother’s wisdom to them is actually backed by evidence, with research showing that teachers are the single most important factor in a child’s learning outcomes outside their family and home. For my family, having access to high-quality public education and excellent teachers drove where my parents chose to live. They moved to Nedlands so that we could go to Hollywood Senior High School. When we came to buy our forever house, our aim was to buy within the catchment zones of either Shenton College or Churchlands Senior High School.

I was lucky to have two life-changing teachers. Jim Watterston, now a professor and dean of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, was the first. He was my year 5 and then year 7 teacher at Nedlands Primary School—a great local school in my electorate with an ongoing reputation for excellence. I was a very quiet, shy young girl who did not participate much in class, but I worked very hard and did very well. He was the first teacher to look beyond the noise of a very busy classroom to that quiet girl who got solid results, and he challenged me to push myself. He created for me a love of striving and being rewarded for rising to a challenge—the reward, of course, being the challenge itself—and a safe place to step outside my comfort zone. We would do a quiz first thing every morning on the news of the day or the week, including questions about politics and government. He would write the results

on the blackboard. I remember the smell of chalk and that one of our jobs was to go outside and stamp together the dusters, inhaling all that chalk dust. Those quizzes were the first time I had curiosity and knowledge about what was happening in the world around us and about who the leaders and decision-makers were. In year 5 and year 7, I could name every Premier of every state in Australia. The answer to the question of who was the Prime Minister then is Bob Hawke, so that gives members some idea of when I was in primary school. Mr Watterston, or Professor Watterston as he is now, came to Nedlands Primary School having taught in remote Indigenous classrooms for a number of years when he first graduated. He organised for those kids to come and visit us at Nedlands Primary School. It was a great experience of friendship and shared fun, and, dare I say, for many of my friends, the first time they had actually met an Aboriginal person. It was therefore an early introduction to highly local acts of reconciliation and community building through understanding.

The second teacher whose influence stays with me is that of Mr Chris Hill. Even though I now interact with him quite regularly in my role as a member of Parliament, I still find it difficult to call him anything other than Mr Hill. Mr Hill was my year 12 politics teacher at Hollywood Senior High School. He was also the politics teacher of Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC. When I was in year 11, I was on a trajectory to study engineering at university. I was doing all of the maths, physics and chemistry. Although I had a maths brain, which I inherited from my granddad who was a university lecturer in mathematics, I had a heart for social work. Even then, I knew that social work and politics were inextricably linked, so I kept only one maths subject and picked up politics. Mr Hill ignited in me a love of politics—the values, strategy and thinking involved and the impact that governments and politics can have on people's day-to-day lives. In fact, I continued to study politics in my first two years at university, going against all the advice by studying only politics outside the prerequisites that I needed to get into social work. As Mr Watterston had done, Mr Hill saw beyond the quiet girl to challenge and encourage me. I still remember our first assessment—an analysis of a political cartoon depicting Malcolm Fraser's role in the dismissal of the Gough Whitlam government. I went on to do four university degrees, but that year of politics with Chris Hill remains a highlight of all my educational experiences.

Mr Hill has been part of the leadership team at the exceptional and award-winning Shenton College, with Hollywood Senior High, where he taught me, being one of the schools that closed to form Shenton. I actually had the Shenton College school councillors in for lunch just last week, and they spoke of Mr Hill's continued amazing guidance, active involvement in their lives as students, support of the council's initiatives and goals, and ongoing influence on their educational experience. They were very clear and enthusiastic about his part in making Shenton College a great school. I told the students that this bill was coming up and that I would be speaking on it and talking about Mr Hill, and one of those students, Stuart, asked me to give a shout-out to one of his teachers, Mrs Barbara Sing, who was his teacher at John Tonkin College. Stuart had been having a really difficult time at home and finding it really difficult to stay engaged and attend school. He said that Mrs Sing recognised that students exist beyond the four walls of a classroom and that some students, like him, need clothes, books and food to be able to engage at school. Mrs Sing made sure that Stuart had what he needed, including a safe place at school—one where he was fed, clothed and provided with all the things he needed to engage in school. Stuart obviously is engaging brilliantly at Shenton College as he is serving on the council. He also happens to work at the Dome across the road from my office. I can vouch for Stuart being a very curious and questioning young person; he is an excellent reflection of Mrs Sing and her influence on his engagement. Shenton College is a finalist in two categories for the WA Education Awards that will be announced in November—for excellence in school leadership and excellence in secondary teaching and learning. I congratulate the school's leadership on this recognition and wish them good luck for the awards ceremony in November.

With the great impact that teachers have on children, through their learning, socialisation, educational attainment and ongoing engagement in education, comes significant responsibility. As such, there has been a scheme of teacher registration in WA for some 20 years through the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia. As others have noted, as at 30 June this year, nearly 57 000 teachers were registered with the board. This included teachers with provisional registration, non-practising teachers and limited registration teachers. This amendment bill follows a review of the act in 2018 that included consultation with a wide range of education stakeholders. A number of aspects of the legislation will be strengthened and enhanced to ensure that the best interests of children are met and that highly skilled teachers remain in the workforce.

The power of the board to respond to child safety matters involving teachers will be strengthened, based on recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The commission noted in its report that teacher registration is a key regulatory mechanism for ensuring that all teachers meet minimum quality standards, including the suitability of a person to work with children and be a teacher. To rise to this challenge, the board's investigation powers will be enhanced to allow it to obtain early information when teacher misconduct issues are raised. If there are reasonable grounds for the board to assess a teacher as posing a risk to students and a suspension is necessary for the safety and protection of students, interim orders will now be able to be put in place. Previously, there was a very narrow requirement that there be an imminent risk, which curtailed the board's capacity to suspend teachers in certain situations. It will be possible for the board to suspend a teacher's registration even if they are not currently working as a teacher, to ensure the protection and safety of

children. The period in which employers must notify the board of a teacher who has engaged in serious misconduct or taught with serious incompetence will be reduced from 30 days to seven, allowing the board to act quickly. Similarly, notification provisions for the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Commissioner of Police have been reviewed and enhanced.

A second area of change relates to improving fairness for teachers who return to teaching after an absence by creating systems to allow teachers to move between registration categories. A key change will be how the category of non-practising registration will work. The current legislation allows some teachers to teach while holding non-practising registration, which has led to confusion for both teachers and employers. The changes in the bill will mean that it will become an offence for anyone with non-practising registration to teach. Two new subcategories of registration have been included in the bill—provisional registration for returning teachers and provisional registration for graduate teachers. These new subcategories will allow employers to distinguish between new teachers and more experienced teachers who are returning to the profession. Provisional registration for returning teachers will allow experienced teachers from Australia and overseas, or those who are returning to the profession, time to demonstrate that they meet the requirements for full registration.

I come from a long line of teachers. My grandmother and grandfather delayed getting married for eight years so that she did not have to leave the teaching profession. My granny was also a very lovely and warm woman, but when she got married, her experience was also lost to the children in the classroom. My mother left teaching to have me. She taught at Kapinara Primary School. Likewise, she never returned to the classroom. That experience and commitment was lost to generations of children. It would be awful to return to those times when women did not have the right to return to teaching after taking maternity leave. This bill does much to recognise the importance of teachers, their impact and their influence.

I want to finish by acknowledging two teachers who have changed my children's lives. My children had a significant experience of loss and trauma at the ages of three and nine, and this impacted their capacity for learning and engagement at school in different ways. Alana Walsh, Cate's year 2 teacher, gave me a child who went from actively avoiding school to wanting to be a teacher, just like Miss Walsh. Miss Walsh saw and responded to Cate's trauma, understanding that this impacted her learning capacity. She advocated for Cate to have access to testing at school, which highlighted her strengths. Although she has a very high IQ, the impact of the trauma on her developing brain had meaning for her working memory. Miss Walsh gave Cate structure and opportunities to shine. She gave her strong, positive feedback and created a learning environment that was at once warm, safe and challenging. She allowed Cate to demonstrate her learning in ways that built on Cate's strengths. For the first time, Cate knew that she was smart and that she had much to offer the world. For anyone who knows Miss Walsh, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that she was also Cate's earliest style role model and someone who, just like Cate's mum, would never miss an opportunity to wear high heels. For school camp, we would have to make special shopping trips to buy the appropriate footwear. Thank you, Miss Walsh, for being a wonderful role model and teacher to my girl.

Jeff Peters was Oliver's year 5 and year 6 teacher at Hollywood Primary School. I have already got emotional, but it is really hard to talk about the influence that he had on my boy, and I have cried over him before. I will just say that he changed my son's life and the trajectory of his engagement with school and education. Again, he gave Oliver structure and challenged him. He let Oliver know that he knew that Oliver was capable of much more than he was doing. It also meant a lot that he was an amazing male role model to a boy as he became a teenager and young man. Oliver finished high school last year and completed ATAR during the COVID years. It goes without saying that that was a highly disruptive time. Oliver's teachers and the school leadership at Shenton College ensured that their wellbeing was at the centre of all the decisions they made. They provided flexible and adaptable learning support, and, perhaps most importantly, reminded the students of Shenton College's motto "More than marks". It was clear to the students that although ATAR was important and the results were meaningful, there is in fact much more to a meaningful life and wellbeing than just a single number. It would also be remiss of me not to wish my boy good luck as he finishes his final assessments for his first year of his Bachelor of Social Work at Curtin University. I thank the teachers there who have shaped his identity as a beginning social worker.

Having been a teacher myself, albeit in a different setting at university, I know what an honour and a privilege it is to be part of somebody's learning journey and to see the power of education to transform someone's thinking, values and very place in the world. Like other members have said, I miss it every single day, although I do not miss it so much at this time of year when it is in full marking season. Anyone who tells you they miss marking is telling you a lie! Knowing the privilege that it is to teach, I know, too, that it is very important to have structures and protections in place, and this amendment bill will provide those. I wish to commend the bill to the house.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [5.54 pm]: I also rise to make a contribution to the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I welcome the opportunity to say a few words about this bill and also, as others have done, to say a few words about our teachers, our schools and the excellent outcomes that are being achieved for our young people. I particularly want to talk about some of the things that I have seen in Mirrabooka.

Others have covered the bill in fairly reasonable detail, so I will just say that it is an important bill. It is important to have a sound Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia and that it can go about its job of registering teachers

in a way that is effective, efficient and reflects modern best practice. I think others have noted the significant number of registered teachers in Western Australia. We have more than 56 000 of them in this state, which is a significant number. Of those, 78 per cent are fully registered teachers and the rest are made up of provisional, non-practising and limited-registration teachers. The amendments contained in this bill follow a 2018 review of the act that included extensive consultation with education stakeholders such as employers and unions, including the State School Teachers' Union of WA.

In broad terms, this bill will do a number of things. First, it will strengthen the power of the board to respond to matters of child safety involving teachers, consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In this place we have dealt with a number of pieces of legislation—I have certainly spoken on some of those bills—underlying the importance of that royal commission in a range of different ways and in many different parts of the government to ensure that we have a widespread response to protect children in our community. This is another piece of that really important puzzle. I again commend the work of the Gillard government in calling that royal commission.

The second purpose of the bill is to ensure an effective registration system that will allow teachers to move between registration categories and improve fairness for teachers returning after an absence. It will allow Western Australia to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy. Registration schemes, or licensing schemes, which is another common provision, are really important in many professions and occupations as a way of making sure that the people who are performing the work are fit to do that. They are also required to do certain things to maintain that fitness to carry out that purpose. The work of the Teacher Registration Board is important for those who are engaged in the teaching profession. It is very similar to what we might find in a range of registration schemes for a range of professions and occupations.

Today, I also want to talk more generally about teachers and some of the amazing work that I have seen, particularly in my community of Mirrabooka, because I think that is where the rubber really hits the road. Teacher registration is important, but I think what is really interesting about this bill and the contributions that have been made to date is how profoundly our teachers impact on us. When writing my comments, I reflected on my favourite teachers who have impacted me the most. I will not share those stories with the house, but it was quite interesting to reflect on that. The impact of the teachers who clearly stand out, even after significant time has elapsed, as it has since I was at school, is profound. We remember them long after we have forgotten many other things about our young lives.

I want to acknowledge that this week, on Friday, 28 October, we will celebrate World Teachers' Day. That is a great opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work teachers do. As there always is nowadays for these sorts of days, there will be the opportunity to say thank you by taking a selfie. I think people will be able to superimpose a hat on their selfie, which leans into the theme of World Teachers' Day, which is "Hats off to teachers". I am not sure whether I will wear a hat on Friday, but I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to say thank you to the teachers in our communities, whether they are the teachers who are perhaps teaching our children or the teachers who taught us. On World Teachers' Day, I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the teachers in Mirrabooka. They do incredible work every day with our young people. They are committed to not only teaching our children, but also helping our young people to be the best person that they can be. They see the whole child and they help them to grow and develop and take advantage of their unique gifts. I know that our teachers regularly go above and beyond because of their commitment to the young people in our community. This year has been more difficult than most as teaching and other school staff have responded to the challenges of the COVID pandemic. They have coped with their fellow teachers and students being off on leave, and they have adapted to teaching in new ways using remote learning. They managed cancelled sports carnivals, school balls and camping trips, and helped to keep our students on track and learning during one of the most disruptive periods of the last 100 years. To all the teachers in the Mirrabooka community, I say thank you for all that they do.

In our community in Mirrabooka, we are fortunate to have many outstanding teachers and schools. I want to share a few of them with the house today. I wanted to particularly acknowledge Charan Pabla, a teacher at Girrawheen Senior High School, who was the winner of the WA Premier's Secondary Teacher of the Year award at the Western Australian Education Awards just last year. The Mirrabooka electorate had two schools that were also nominated for those awards. Girrawheen Senior High School was nominated for WA Secondary School of the Year and Koondoola Primary School was nominated for WA Primary School of the Year. I am very pleased to report that Girrawheen Senior High School has been nominated again this year and is a finalist in the Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award for the secondary category. I look forward to learning whether its nomination has been successful when the award winners are announced in November this year. I want to wish that school all the best of luck, but I know that the work that its teachers do every day is important and significant and, regardless of whether they are the eventual award winners, we all benefit from the incredible work that they do at Girrawheen high school.

Our outstanding teachers right through the community are working with young people, ensuring that we develop some incredible and outstanding leaders. I want to acknowledge some of those young people as well in my contribution tonight. Mirrabooka resident Zahra Al Hilaly was announced as the WA Young Person of the Year and winner of the Mission Australia Young Changemaker Award at the recent WA Youth Awards. In March, Zahra

was awarded the Youth Award at the 2022 Western Australian Multicultural Awards. Zahra is an outstanding young leader who has spoken at the United Nations and is already showing leadership on the global stage. Zahra attended Dryandra Primary School in Mirrabooka. I know that whole school community celebrated Zahra's recent success and is incredibly proud of her. I want to congratulate Zahra for her significant achievements and her leadership. She is an outstanding young person who is stepping up to leadership on the world stage. We are all incredibly proud of her and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for her.

I also want to give a shout-out to Koondoola local Shela Jarwee, who is a year 10 student at Girrawheen Senior High School. Shela was recently announced as one of the students who has been appointed to the first ever Western Australian Student Council established by the Minister for Education and Training. I recently had the pleasure of meeting Shela at Girrawheen Senior High School. He is an impressive young man and I have no doubt that he will do a fantastic job representing young people on this important student council. I congratulate him for being selected for this important role. Shela is a great example of a young person who is growing into a fine young leader under the guidance of our schools. He was a recent participant in the Mentor Me Reconnect program run by the Organisation of African Communities in WA in a number of schools. That program provides mentoring and support to young African people so that they stay engaged in school and learning. The Mentor Me Reconnect program has been working with Girrawheen Senior High School staff and has had a significant impact on this young man. I am told that when he started the Mentor Me Reconnect program, he was asked about his career aspirations. He had said that when he finished school, he wanted to be a cleaner because that is what he felt would be expected of him and an appropriate career choice. When I recently met Shela, we had a long discussion about his aspiration to be a police officer, in particular a member of the tactical response group. He had done a lot of research and had an extensive knowledge of the TRG and the work it does. That is a really strong example of how the interaction of people within a school environment can profoundly shape a student's expectations about what their future might look like. I want to wish Shela well, both for his role on the student council—I am incredibly proud that this young man has been selected to participate in the first ever student council—and his chosen career as a member of the Western Australia Police Force. I have no doubt that if he is successful, he will make an important contribution to policing in this state.

I also want to congratulate the students from Balga Senior High School who are part of a rap band called Proud Noongar Boys. Proud Noongar Boys are a group of students from Balga Senior High School who were recently recognised in the Triple J Unearthed High Indigenous Initiative with their track *Get UP Stand UP Show UP*, which was based on this year's NAIDOC Week theme. Proud Noongar Boys were also recognised by the City of Stirling at the recent NAIDOC Awards in Mirrabooka with the Young Aboriginal Performers of the Year Award. I was pleased to have the honour of presenting the award to them. Proud Noongar Boys consists of Domain Culbong, Ryan Culbong, Savannah Garlett and Laura Harrison. They worked with music teacher Nik Culum and Flewnt, a local Aboriginal rapper, who mentored the group as part of West Australia Music's New Noise program, which is being delivered in partnership with Healthway. Congratulations to the members of Proud Noongar Boys and the teachers and mentors involved in this great project. Again, we are all so proud of them and I cannot wait to see what they do next. This is another great example of how teachers are working with our students and young people to help them achieve outstanding things.

Teaching is not just about helping students to achieve academic success. It is about finding pathways and opportunities that will allow our young people to develop in a way that takes advantage of their unique talents and skills. As the success of Proud Noongar Boys shows, artistic endeavours provide a great opportunity to achieve success. Balga Senior High School will be able to do so much more in this regard when its new performing arts centre is finished, giving students a real-world stage to perform and practice on. I am so excited to see that our election commitment to build a performing arts centre at Balga Senior High School is beginning to take shape. In June this year, Minister Ellery announced that architects had been appointed to begin the work of designing the new performing arts centre. The performing arts building will have a theatre, a green room, a servery and box office, a staff study and associated stores and toilet facilities for staff, students and guests. The new facilities are expected to be ready to open in late 2024. Great things are happening at Balga Senior High School. The staff are doing a fantastic job of delivering a range of educational opportunities for their students, and new facilities such as the performing arts centre will see that offering grow. Young people are our community's future and the McGowan Labor government has committed to ensuring that our local public schools offer students the best learning opportunities possible.

I want to conclude my comments tonight by giving a general shout-out to many of the students in the electorate of Mirrabooka. It is graduation season and I know a number of other members will be spending time going to student graduations, but I want to congratulate all year 12 students who are graduating from Balga Senior High School, Girrawheen Senior High School, Mercy College, John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, Emmanuel Christian Community School and St Andrew's Grammar School. I want to wish those students well for their future, whatever path they choose to take. Our students have grown up and attended school in one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse communities in WA. I say to those students that they will be well equipped to meet the challenges of this millennium, which will be international, connected and have at its heart more diversity

and tolerance than ever before. Those students will be well equipped with resilience, tolerance and all the skills and knowledge that their excellent teachers have taught them. I congratulate all those year 12 students for completing their schooling and I wish them well with their chosen career. Many will be off to do ATAR exams, but a greater number will pursue vocational education and training or go into the labour market. There has never been a better time in Western Australia to pursue a great career. There are so many pathways and opportunities for our students and young people that do not necessarily rely on people achieving an ATAR result. Therefore, no matter who you are or where you come from, great opportunities are available to contribute to our society and our economy.

It is our teachers, our public schools in particular, and all other schools that are helping to transform the lives of young people not only in my community of Mirrabooka, but also right around the state. Our excellent teaching staff understand that our students are not just there to learn academically, but to be treated as a whole person, with a set of unique skills and talents. Our teachers see that whole person and provide them with opportunities, supports and pathways that will allow them to grow and shine in the future.

This is an important bill that will ensure that our teachers in Western Australia will maintain that high standard, and that they will continue to be fit for the purpose of teaching in classrooms. I close by acknowledging that, as others have said before me, teaching is a calling. Many people who perform that work are driven by a deep desire to have a profound impact on a young person's life, and the submissions this evening really bear that idea out. As I said at the outset, the impact that teachers had on me, right through my public school education, was profound, and I spoke about my particular pride in my public school education in my inaugural speech in this place. With that, I conclude my comments, other than to add that I thank the teachers of Western Australia for all that they do. I commend the bill to the house.

MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [6.11 pm]: I, too, rise to make a brief contribution to the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I will start by taking a moment to reflect on the important role that teachers play in the lives of our children and in shaping the lives of our young people. As the member for Joondalup, I have the privilege of representing an electorate that is home to 11 public and private primary schools, an education support centre and four public and private high schools. I also have the absolute pleasure of my electorate being home to the Joondalup Learning Precinct for those people who choose to further their education and studies.

Research shows that teachers are the single most important factor in a child's learning achievement outside of their family. I spend a lot of time with our schools and the students, student leaders, parents, education assistants, school administration staff and the entire school community. As a community leader, I feel it is very important to engage with every part of our community, especially our young people who will soon be navigating future opportunities. It is important that I am visible and accessible and that I show that everyone has the opportunity to take a seat in our Parliament.

I have two children who attend school in the electorate. My daughter just graduated year 12 on Friday last week, and a few of my colleagues have children in a similar age group. We are in graduation season, and I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge all the students in both our primary and high schools who are graduating. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in wishing all the students, from year 12 in particular, all the very best with the next chapter in their lives.

With regard to the bill before us, there has been a teacher registration scheme in Western Australia for around 20 years. The Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022 follows a 2018 review of the Teacher Registration Act, which included consultation with a wide range of education stakeholders, such as employers and unions. As at 30 June 2022, there were 56 751 registered teachers in WA. Fully registered teachers make up 70 per cent of that number, with provisional, non-practising and limited registration teachers making up the difference. Each and every one of these teachers is heavily involved in their school community. I am overwhelmed by the dedication that I see when I am out and about at our schools. We have outstanding teachers dedicating their lives to support and educate our young people.

In organising my thoughts for my contribution today, I wanted to take time to highlight some of the successes of our local schools over the past 12 months. In doing so, I went through the different events, activities and acknowledgments that teachers do, and I note the extra time—the majority of that being after hours—that teachers give and the involvement that takes. Earlier in the year, Minister Whitby was up in the electorate at Lake Joondalup Baptist College talking with our students about all things environment and the importance of the McGowan government's continual investment in it. This was kindly organised by the very active politics teacher—or humanities and social sciences teacher, if you like—Telma Keen, who was fundamental in making sure that that opportunity took place. Again, she communicated in her own time, out of hours, to make sure that the students had the best experience in having a minister come out to their school.

From time to time, I head to a number of school assemblies, and it is always great to acknowledge students who have succeeded, whether academically or in other aspects of their schooling. Edgewater Primary School, among other schools in the electorate, acknowledges an Aussie of the Month. Earlier in the year, Ms Susanne Cleaver, one of the teachers there, invited me to come along, and I had the pleasure of acknowledging year 4 student Hesara as the Aussie of the Month for her great work in the school community.

One of the teachers at Beaumaris Primary School, got in touch with my office during National Science Week not too long ago. Students had had the opportunity to put together questions for the Minister for Science and our Chief Scientist, Mr Klinken, and it was great to see our schools participate in that. Students from Beaumaris in particular had a whole host of questions, and, in contacting my office, the teacher involved wanted to make sure that the questions put to her by students were answered. Although they missed out on the deadline by which they could communicate those questions, we were still able to work through a solution and keep in touch with the school.

As I mentioned, we have the fantastic Joondalup Education Support Centre as part of our Joondalup primary schools. It was acknowledged as Primary School of the Year in 2021, with the then principal Natalie Hatton. Anna Eason has since taken over there. The fact that Joondalup Primary School and the Joondalup Education Support Centre were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication was a pivotal and very important acknowledgement that I wanted to make. I refer to a local article that came out at the time. The then principal Natalie Hatton said —

The moment a child walks into Joondalup Education Support Centre for the first time, they belong.

She said —

“We have a positive culture built through trust, transparency and quality relationships where all staff, students and parents feel valued.”

I think the Teacher Registration Board is the most important part of the discussion we are having today, and I know that others in this place have mentioned it. I continue to see a wonderful workforce of teachers and education assistants come through to teach our young people, which is absolutely fundamental.

Quite a few schools in my electorate have started to focus on the aspect of sustainability and the environment, which I am sure is the same in other electorates. We now have two Miyawaki forests. I note that the member for Hillarys has one in her electorate as well. Again, this shows the dedication of the teachers who reach out to others to look for alternative ways of looking at forestry and the revegetation of local schools. A number of schools in the area have bush tucker gardens and vegetable gardens, and now the Miyawaki forests—miniature pocket forests they call them—at our local schools. I commend teachers for reaching outside their community to give their students new and interesting ways to get involved and understand a bit more about the world around them.

I get involved with a couple of different activities with our schools in the area every year. One activity in particular is our schools' Tree Day, and there is always a great uptake. The focus at the moment is on blueberry trees. I had a couple of mulberry trees that the schools were after as well. I always wondered about that, given the amount of mess that mulberries make, but, again, getting the kids involved in different activities is fantastic.

There were a few other notable mentions throughout the year. Again, these were with the involvement of wonderful teaching staff who supported different events and activities. Lake Joondalup Baptist College held a wonderful Create 2022 event. Megan Shaw, the visual arts technician, gave her time after hours. It was a diverse showcase of items that students had been involved with.

I went to St Simon Peter Catholic Primary School recently to present it with a WA flag for its flagpole. I also watched a performance of an upcoming musical called *Madagascar*. It was great to see the year 5s and 6s get all dressed up in their costumes and give a performance at their assembly. I am heading there on Saturday night to watch the main performance. Events and activities like these in our school communities show the dedication of the staff and support staff. I was astounded to hear that they had started rehearsing for these performances at the beginning of the year and after hours, every week, to make sure that the students understood and felt comfortable about performing on stage. These are extra activities that the teaching cohort embrace, and we can really see the positive outcomes for our children.

As I mentioned earlier, it is graduation season. I had the pleasure of attending the Ocean Reef Senior High School graduation last week and the honour of presenting the Caltex Best All-Rounder Award to Jane Duong. Again, that acknowledges fantastic students who have managed to complete their formal schooling. Noting the impact that teaching staff have had on the lives of those young people is really important.

I have a host of honourable mentions with regard to teaching staff. I do not know that I will have time to go through them all today, but I say thank you to everyone involved in our education system in Joondalup.

When we talk about the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022, we acknowledge that there will be a number of changes to the act, some of which will strengthen the powers of the board, which is focused on the best interests of children. It will also strengthen powers to be able to respond to matters of child safety involving teachers that are consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Some changes to the act will also ensure an effective registration system that allows teachers to move between registration categories and improve fairness for teachers returning after an absence.

It will also allow Western Australia to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy. More importantly, it will promote a skilled teaching workforce. There are some changes with regard to defining key

terms in the act, replacing the term “educational venue” with “institution”, and a few other areas like that that will be tidied up. There are also several key changes in the bill that will assist the board in dealing with disciplinary matters involving teachers. This scheme will also make teacher registration fairer.

Another key change is how the category of non-practising registration works. The current legislation allows for some teachers to teach while holding non-practising registration, but that led to some confusion, so changes in this bill mean that it will become an offence for anyone with non-practising registration to teach. There are some new categories within the amending legislation, including provisional registration for returning teachers, to allow experienced teachers from the rest of Australia and overseas, or those returning to the profession after some time, to demonstrate that they meet the requirements for full registration. Another area this bill will affect is to allow the board to have regard for teaching experience when determining whether an applicant is suitably qualified for teacher registration. Changes proposed in this bill will also allow Western Australia to fully participate in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy, which was a Council of Australian Governments initiative to identify any gaps in the availability of teachers across Australia.

I started by acknowledging the important role that teachers play in our community, and I want to conclude in that vein as well. I thank all the teachers in the Joondalup electorate ahead of World Teachers’ Day, which is being celebrated this Friday. Thank you for the significant role you have in nurturing resilient, confident and secure young people. I commend the bill to the house.

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [6.24 pm]: I rise to speak on the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. I note that the bill has been drafted in line with the recommendations of the 2018 statutory review to improve regulation of the practice of teaching in WA by strengthening the powers of the Teacher Registration Board, ensuring an effective registration system, allowing WA to fully participate in the WA teacher workforce data strategy and promoting a skilled teaching workforce. I think this is an excellent reform coming from the Minister for Education and Training, and I would like to compliment her on the reform process that was begun in 2018. Thank you. I would also like to say thank you to all the teachers at all the schools across South Perth. You do a fantastic job, and I think we are lucky to have some of the best teachers in my neighbourhood.

One of the joys of my job, and something that I do regularly now, is that on Principals’ Day each year I get all the principals together to thank them for the work they do, much of it unrewarded, and discuss the issues facing them in their school. It is a great way to find out what is happening across the education system. Much of what we talk about is COVID; their professional response to that over the last few years has been extraordinary. They weathered the storm that went through this year as people briefly dropped out of the workforce with COVID. The way they coped with that was really great.

Another thing that comes up at these meetings is the negative press about Como Secondary College. I want to raise some of the issues addressed by those articles. Como Secondary College is a great school. It has a proud alumnus to testify to its quality over time, and I know many fine people who are graduates and are now working all over the world in a wide range of occupations. At the core of its success over many years is the staff—the teachers. The team at Como Secondary College, from education assistants all the way up to the principal, are a brilliant bunch, running great programs, achieving great results, and going above and beyond to do the right things for their students.

For example, the Western Australian finalist of the Australian Teacher Aide of the Year Award was Jane Keehn, who is an education assistant at Como Secondary College. I think her citation says a lot about the character of the school as a whole, and the effort that those teachers put in. It said that she is a highly respected and valued member of the college’s learning support program, which is recognised throughout Western Australia for exemplary literacy and numeracy intervention in a secondary school setting. Since 2018, Jane has been an instrumental proponent of the program, supporting at-risk students in years 7, 8 and 9, to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Her experience and expertise in delivering evidence-based practices has led to a dramatic improvement in the literacy and numeracy outcomes of the students she supports, with six and 12-month gains in progress in a year. Jane provides direct instruction in the connecting maths concepts, spelling mastery and corrective reading programs. She differentiates her instruction to meet the needs of all her students by analysing system data, reviewing student disability adjustment documents and keeping detailed records regarding student progress to adjust the pace of delivery and content. She also works in partnership with the intensive learning team teachers to improve student outcomes. She provides the teachers with updates on student progress by creating weekly EA reports with regard to lesson completion and engagement, behaviour, mastery of test results and attendance. Mainstream teachers also collaborate with Jane to differentiate assessments and scaffold content delivery. Jane leads the EA team review on a fortnightly basis to common planning time, and facilitates discussion about learning progress and strategies that help engage students and address gaps in learning. Jane strives to improve her practice through high-quality professional development activities, and is a keen participant in the college’s performance and development cycle. Her ability to recognise the experiences of her colleagues has led to a high-functioning and cohesive team of EAs, with a high level of collective efficacy.

I think that speaks to not just her outstanding results, but also the way that the school as a whole deals with a wide range of issues. It gets the best out of every student, no matter their abilities or where they come from. It gets

them to where they are going as best they can. Last week, I hosted the student leadership team at Parliament House. To Kim, Kirby, Tej, Kal, Maddie and Mon, thank you for coming up. I think your future is very bright. I thank Michael Foster, the student services coordinator, for coming with them. It was a really great time. I look forward to seeing what happens to them in the future.

Como Secondary College is also benefiting from a number of capital works that the McGowan Labor government is introducing. Last night, as it happens, I was at the campus and I saw the new parking bays that we had promised in the 2021 election. There they were, spread out along the back of the school, which is a great addition. I spoke to Principal Mercer about the STEM laboratory that will be built next year, a fulfilment of another election promise. I do not think that anyone who was there at Como Secondary College on the day will ever forget the opening of the canteen and multifunction space, which was opened by the Premier and the Minister for Education and Training earlier this year. It felt like a scene from the Beatles; it was quite a raucous event. It was great to see the facility and the Premier welcomed so warmly.

We are also doing a lot of good work for other schools in South Perth. If I may indulge the house for a moment, I will talk about those schools. I have a soft spot for Collier Primary School, because it is one of the schools I went to when I was young. One of the election promises that we made in 2021 was to extend its adventure playground. It was great to see that completed and opened last year. It was a great pleasure. Another school I have a soft spot for is Curtin Primary School, which I also attended when I was young. An extension and renovation of the playground in the quadrangle is underway at the moment. There has been successful scoping of that, and I am looking forward to seeing that open very soon.

I also have a soft spot for South Perth Primary School because my father went there.

Ms E.J. Kelsbie: As did I!

Mr G. BAKER: Did you go to South Perth Primary School?

Ms E.J. Kelsbie: I did; yes, indeed.

Mr G. BAKER: What a fine school it is. Did it used to be called Forrest Street School or was that later?

Ms E.J. Kelsbie: No, South Perth Primary.

Mr G. BAKER: It was after that it changed its name.

The McGowan Labor government recently installed solar panels at the school, which is another great project we have got going. I have a soft spot for Como Primary School because my brothers and sisters went there. Earlier this year, I was very pleased to contribute to the protection of the timber floors in its historical school hall, which was built by Como locals after the Second World War. It has a warm place in the history of Como. We are trying to keep it preserved.

I have a soft spot for Kensington Primary School because that is where my daughter goes. The roof at the school was leaking but the leak has been fixed. We are really pleased about that. Renovation of the basketball courts is also underway. I also have a soft spot for Manning Primary School because that is where I participated in my greatest sporting triumph. On the oval at Manning Primary School during the U13s Mossie's Day grand final, Collier junior football club defeated—I do not know who it was—someone that we brushed out of the way and it was my first taste of sporting victory. We recently announced that the bushland adjacent to the primary school, which is on Department of Education land, will be preserved. We have managed to have it off in preservation for the next 30 years. It is one of the last stands of banksia and eucalypts in that part of Perth. I am very pleased to see that happen.

I do not want to neglect the great private schools in South Perth in my limited time, but I want to talk a little about Hensman Street Elementary, which is a tiny school; indeed, most people do not even know that it is there. For those members who know South Perth and the Hensman Tennis Club off Coode Street, the tiny building on the corner of Hensman and Coode Streets is a school, which takes pre-pre-primary to grade 3 students. It works very hard to provide alternative education.

Recently, I went there because it had been recognised as the winner in the prestigious Little Scientists Early STEM Awards. We are talking about four and five-year-olds. It was named the Western Australian winner. I was there with Senator Fatima Payman and South Perth Mayor Greg Milner. It was a great celebration of the two awards it won. We celebrated the commitment and dedication of early childhood educators to inquiry-based learning in early STEM education, which provides opportunities for children to learn as they explore, discover, create, improvise, test theories and imagine. Hensman Street Elementary is one of those schools that has play-based learning. It is the kind of school that says, "It looks like the kids are going to hurt themselves; we'll let them learn their limit." One of my daughters goes there and she never comes home with serious injuries, so it must be working very well.

Principal Tanya Steers and education leader Christy-Lee Antonas gained the attention of the judges for their Ramps and Pathways project. This STEM project used inquiry-based and child-led learning pedagogies at its core and added loose parts and materials to spark the child's imaginative nature. Wooden ramps of various lengths,

marbles of different sizes and weights and ample time to play and experiment with new materials allowed the team to springboard this STEM project. It was great to celebrate that with them and recognise their achievements at Hensman Street Elementary.

I will finish off by talking about the South Perth Primary School P&C art auction, which was held on Friday night. I do not know whether other members have attended one of these art auctions. It had an artist-in-residence program for a while with Mel Spillman, a local Noongar artist, who worked with each of the classes. On Friday night, the P&C auctioned off the artwork. I was quite unprepared for what happened. I put in a couple of bids and found myself rapidly outpaced by enthusiastic parents. I put in a bid for \$675 for what I thought was a pretty good piece of work, but I was left in the dust because it went for \$1 500. I picked up something from the pre-primary students, and I compliment Kellie McGrath and her pre-primary students for their beautiful piece, which will be in a position of pride in the foyer of my office from now on. The really big winner was the school, which raised many thousands of dollars for the P&C. I congratulate Melinda Williams from the P&C and Principal Karen Owens for quite an extraordinary night and for organising an extremely effective fundraiser. To put on that event, the teachers at South Perth Primary School put in a lot of extra effort. The kids came up with interesting ideas, but it was the teachers who took the care to finish those pieces to a very high standard. I saw a lot of the before and afters, and it was great to see. Teachers all over Western Australia go above and beyond all the time, just like the South Perth Primary teachers did.

It is with great pleasure that I support this bill that will enhance the professional standards of our teachers while providing extra safeguards for our children. One last thing: good luck to all year 12 students from Como Secondary College, Kent Street Senior High School, Penrhos College, Clontarf Aboriginal College, Wesley College, Aquinas College and all other schools on their final exams.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [6.38 pm]: I rise today to make a short contribution to the Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022. May I begin by acknowledging all my past teachers who have significantly contributed to who I am today. I am really thankful to them. I was brought up in a Hindu family and I was repeatedly reminded of the verse “Matha, Pitha, Guru, Deivam”. It is a very popular phrase in Sanskrit. “Matha” means mother, “pitha” means father, “guru” means teacher and “deivam” means god. The order of importance is that with mother, father, teacher and god, god comes after the first three. The mother is the person who shows who the father is. Mother and father together take you to the teacher, the guru. The teacher is the person who trains you to be who you are and who you will be and also points you towards god. The other way of looking at it is that if you believe in religion, god comes only after teacher. If you do not believe in religion, teacher is just after your mum and dad. The single most important factor in anyone’s success is the kind of teachers they have had. Even in the ancient days, when a king won a war, it was the guru or the teacher who played a vital role in their success.

I am really proud to represent Riverton. I have mentioned in this house multiple times that education is in the genes of the people of Riverton. We are fortunate to have the most successful high schools with Rossmoyne Senior High School, Willetton Senior High School and All Saints’ College all located in my electorate. People move to the electorate to provide the best education for their kids. They receive the support that they need and it produces the maximum number of successful citizens here in Western Australia.

The primary purpose of the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia is to provide protection for children. As of 30 June 2022, 78 per cent of the 56 751 teachers registered in Western Australia were fully registered. The balance of 22 per cent had provisional, limited and non-practising registration. The current legislation lacks clarity in the other types of registrations and there is a little confusion. This amendment bill will clarify that. Further, this amendment will strengthen the powers of the board, thereby producing an effective registration system. It will also allow full participation in the Australian Teacher Workforce Data strategy, which means it will be much easier to identify gaps in the availability of teachers in the country. This amendment bill promotes a skilled teaching workforce.

There are some key amendments to terms in this bill. “Educational venue” will now be amended to “educational institution”. There is a vast difference because post-COVID we have learnt that in many places education is being provided remotely and “educational venue” does not represent the right term. Also, “serious misconduct” and “serious incompetence” are defined. There is clarification of “impairment” to take into consideration equal opportunities.

There will be provision for interim orders under this legislation, which will allow the board to act swiftly, in a timely fashion, when it needs to intervene in the interest of protecting kids. The notification process will be reduced from 30 days to seven days with quicker action and prompt intervention when it is required. There is also provision in this bill for notification of prosecution, which can be done by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Commissioner of Police. The board will also be allowed to share personal identification details of a victim or witness, allowing the board to conduct an effective investigation early on when something goes wrong.

With the passage of this amendment bill, teachers with non-practising registration will not be allowed to teach, whereas under the current legislation, they fall through the net and can do so. There has been slight confusion among teachers and employers about provisional registration for returning teachers and graduate teachers. A returning

teacher with years of experience but a gap of not teaching may be on provisional registration when they come back to teach. They cannot be considered the same as a graduate teacher, so this amendment bill will clarify whether a provisional teacher is a returning teacher or a graduate teacher. With this amendment, the board will be allowed to take into consideration the teaching experience of a teacher when making its decisions. There are transitional provisions for when teachers move from one kind of registration to the other during the passage of the bill.

This bill will also allow two more members to be added to the board, but the requirement for three registered teachers and one Australian lawyer to be part of the board remains the same. This bill will enhance the powers of the board, effectively providing better protection for children. I commend the bill to this house and I hope it passes through both houses smoothly and swiftly.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms C.M. Rowe**.

House adjourned at 6.47 pm
