



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2020

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPER TABLED

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

CORONAVIRUS — “WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PANDEMIC PLAN”

Statement by Premier

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [12.02 pm]: I rise today to inform the house of the release of the updated “Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan”. This is the first time the plan has been updated since 2014, in order to respond directly to the potential impacts of COVID-19.

The pandemic plan sets out arrangements for protecting the community and minimising potential impacts of the coronavirus, as well as recovery afterwards. The plan ensures the government will continue to deliver essential services to the community. It outlines roles, responsibilities and actions to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from a pandemic, providing practical guidance and advice for government agencies, private businesses, the community, households and individuals. This plan also considers potential health, community, social and economic impacts, ranging from demands on the healthcare system, to pressures on workplaces, businesses and law and order, disruption to community events and gatherings, and demands on goods, services and supplies.

Sustained community transmission of the virus will signal an imminent pandemic, and the state government will continue to take the best advice from health authorities in assessing the situation here in Western Australia. The McGowan government is doing everything it can to ensure Western Australia is as prepared as possible for a pandemic situation. Already we have undertaken a suite of preparative measures, including several bans for work-related and school-related international travel; the establishment of COVID clinics, with plans to expand into more locations; and continuing to monitor workforce impacts. Good planning means we need to consider every scenario.

I understand there is considerable public concern about COVID-19 and want to reassure Western Australians that we are prepared and have the ability and capability to respond to and recover from a pandemic situation. We continue to look to Western Australians for their goodwill and cooperation over the coming months: continue to go about your ordinary business; pay attention to information from the Department of Health; and, if the situation changes, we will provide you timely advice on what to do.

I now table a copy of the plan.

[See paper [3253](#).]

POLICE — BRAVERY AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [12.04 pm]: Every day, members of the Western Australia Police Force put themselves at significant and personal risk by performing exceptional acts of bravery. Importantly and appropriately, these courageous officers, and civilians who put themselves at risk to assist them, were recognized at a ceremony held at the Police Academy in Joondalup on 5 March 2020. Thirteen police officers were recognized and awarded a Cross for Bravery for acts of conspicuous courage, whereby the officer placed themselves at risk of peril and at risk of significant personal injury or death; twelve officers were awarded a special commendation for performing an act of bravery; eight officers were recognised for meritorious conduct and devotion to duty under stressful conditions; and a further eight officers were recognised for carrying out acts that went far above the course of normal duty. Six civilians were acknowledged for the assistance they provided to our police officers by intervening in and responding to numerous difficult and dangerous situations.

The acts of these officers serve to remind us all just how dangerous an occupation policing can be. Officers were commended for acts that placed them at personal risk whilst fulfilling their duty to protect life and property. These acts included rescuing people from burning buildings, vehicles and aircraft; negotiating with armed and violent offenders and effecting arrests in dangerous circumstances; and taking on treacherous oceans and waterways to rescue people from drowning. Our officers’ bravery stretches across our vast state, from our metropolitan suburbs of Baldivis, Belmont, Glendalough, Karragullen, Maylands, Merriwa, North Beach, Port Kennedy, Rockingham and Stirling to our regional communities, including Albany, Broome, Collie, Geraldton, Lancelin, Kununurra and Mandurah.

Several of the officers involved sustained serious injury. I will detail a few of the incidents to give members further insight into the brave deeds of these celebrated officers and civilians. In 2004 at Glendalough, one officer placed

himself at extreme peril and risk of significant personal injury or death in the rescue of his partner trapped in a police vehicle that had become engulfed in flames on Mitchell Freeway. In 2014 at Maylands, while undertaking investigations into serious and organised crime syndicates, an officer put himself at significant physical risk whilst arresting a violent offender, sustaining serious injury. In 2017, in Rockingham, two officers placed themselves at extreme peril and risk of significant personal injury or death while apprehending a violent offender, with one of the officers struck in the head with a samurai sword, sustaining serious injury. In Collie, three officers and a civilian attended the scene of a homicide and successfully negotiated with an armed offender to bring him under arrest. In 2018 in Broome, three officers and a civilian placed themselves at extreme peril and risk of significant personal injury or death by entering the ocean to rescue two tourists in dangerous seas and treacherous water.

I am sure members will join me in congratulating all of the recipients of these well-deserved awards.

EMERGENCY SERVICES CADET CORPS AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.08 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about the outstanding contribution of the state's emergency services cadets and their mentors, who were recognised at the 2020 Emergency Services Cadet Corps Awards on 5 March.

This year, more than 2 200 students and 220 instructors participated in the statewide school-based program, which trains volunteer leaders of the future and is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Education. Cadets develop and learn leadership, teamwork and practical life skills, including first aid, radio communications, fire safety, rescue techniques, navigation and bushcraft.

I attended the award ceremony last week and was fortunate to have the opportunity to personally meet the recipients. It is fitting to acknowledge in this house their hard work. Tom Price Senior High School ESCC took out the Cadet Unit Achievement Award for fundraising, catering and providing support to people affected by bushfires and illness, including helping to raise \$12 000 for a young girl with leukaemia.

Last year, these young volunteers dedicated more than 3 000 hours to honing their emergency services skills. They also worked tirelessly with the Tom Price State Emergency Service to help prepare the community in the lead-up to tropical cyclone Damien last month.

Jordan McIntosh, from Bunbury's Grace Christian School, won the Cadet Achievement Award for his leadership and training skills and his commitment to encouraging fellow students to train with the Bunbury Bush Fire Brigade. Peter McClay, from the John Tonkin College education support unit in Mandurah, won the Instructor Achievement Award for his work helping young people with disabilities join the local marine rescue, State Emergency Service and volunteer fire services. Australind Senior High School was awarded the Host School Award, and the Emergency Services Brigade/Group/Unit Support Award went to Bridgetown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

I ask all members to join me in acknowledging all the cadets who have shown extraordinary dedication and commitment to emergency services. Volunteers are essential to building a safer and more resilient Western Australia and I hope that the cadets will continue to engage with their local bush fire brigade, volunteer fire and rescue service brigade, SES unit, fire and emergency service brigade and marine rescue group.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES COLLECTION

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.10 pm]: We live in an extraordinary country, with the oldest living culture. The traditional owners of this land have lived here for more than 50 000 years, and in Western Australia alone, more than 60 Aboriginal languages are spoken. English, however, is the standard language used in the education system, and there are very few books readily available in Aboriginal languages that reflect the continuing cultures of Western Australian communities. Regrettably, often vast disparities in educational achievement and literacy attainment persist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children, particularly those in regional and remote areas of the state where English is not necessarily a language used to share stories at home. There is a link between the lack of Aboriginal language books and this failure of literacy.

The importance of literacy cannot be overestimated. Literacy skills and educational achievement are directly linked to social, health and financial outcomes, and connection to language and culture are important foundations for lifelong learning. In the Kimberley alone, there are 40 languages. The State Library of Western Australia is a library for everyone, and it strongly believes that the rich and diverse stories, interests, ambitions and languages of everybody who lives here should be reflected and celebrated in its collections. The State Library also believes that all Western Australians should have the opportunity to read books and share stories in their own traditional languages. To that end, I would like to tell you today about the wonderful Aboriginal Languages collection that is now available at the State Library of Western Australia for the public to browse, read and borrow. The collection currently includes materials in traditional Aboriginal languages from four regions of the state, including the south west, goldfields, Western Desert and Pilbara, and it will continue to be developed into a comprehensive collection representing all

Western Australian regions. There are currently eight Noongar dialects represented in the collection and some materials are bilingual. There are books, CDs, DVDs, maps and more that can be requested and shared across the state via the Western Australian public library network of 232 libraries. It is hoped that this collection will engage Aboriginal Western Australians of all ages in recreational and educational reading and assist with sharing stories with friends and family in traditional languages. It is also hoped that the collection will inspire people to learn dialects. Together, we can keep Western Australian Aboriginal languages alive.

I finish by saying that I acknowledge particularly the member for Kimberley for her ongoing passion and inspiration with regard to the advocacy for the importance of Aboriginal languages in our state.

The SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is a very important matter for all of us to be cognisant of.

YAGAN SQUARE NYUMBI

Statement by Minister for Tourism

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [12.13 pm]: I rise to inform the house about a new Aboriginal cultural performance being staged in the city centre. Yagan Square Nyumbi is occurring in the heart of Perth city every Friday at 5.30 pm. At this free event, a different Aboriginal performance group performs each week, along with a traditional smoking ceremony. In Noongar language, “nyumbi” means “celebration dance”, and that is exactly what this event is; it is a celebration of the Aboriginal culture of our city and state. Yagan Square Nyumbi is a joint project between Tourism Western Australia and Development WA, with support from the City of Perth. By providing a free, scheduled Aboriginal performance in an iconic Perth location, the McGowan government is acknowledging the importance of Aboriginal tourism to the wider tourism industry and making it a key pillar of our marketing strategies.

Aboriginal tourism provides Western Australia with a unique point of difference to other holiday destinations, while at the same time creating an economic development and jobs creation platform for Aboriginal people. Research undertaken in 2016–17 shows that Aboriginal tourism contributes \$43.8 million and 339 full-time equivalent jobs to the state’s economy. We expect these numbers to grow dramatically over the coming years.

Yagan Square Nyumbi has so far been embraced by locals and visitors alike. The numbers attending the 45-minute performance each Friday night are increasing each week. Tour and coach companies are looking to include the event in their itineraries and add-on activities. Hotel concierges are embracing the event and sharing it with in-house guests, and locals are bringing their visiting friends and relatives into the city to experience it. The performers are not only entertaining, but also educating the crowds on local traditions through song and dance. The traditional smoking ceremony encourages crowd participation as they cleanse and purify their spirit, body and soul.

Yagan Square Nyumbi is a pilot initiative that will run through to the end of June this year. I urge all members to take the time to enjoy, learn and engage with this superb cultural event. The McGowan government is committed to working with Aboriginal people to deliver better social, economic, health and cultural outcomes. Tourism forms an integral part of this process and is a fantastic platform for the promotion of Aboriginal culture and the development of sustainable, meaningful employment for Aboriginal people across the state.

PEEL REGION SCHEME AMENDMENTS 044/41 AND 046/41 — NAMBEELUP NORTH INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Statement by Minister for Planning

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Planning) [12.15 pm]: I present today for tabling Peel region scheme amendment 044/41, which will facilitate the rezoning of lots 89 and 109, Readheads Road, Nambeelup, an area of 378 hectares, from the rural zone to the industrial zone; and Peel region scheme amendment 046/41, which will facilitate the rezoning of lot 221, Lakes Road, and parts of lot 400, Paterson Road, Nambeelup, a total of 201 hectares, also from the rural zone to the industrial zone. Together, the amendments will rezone 579 hectares for future industrial development to facilitate production, business and employment opportunities in the Peel region. The rezoned land will also accommodate serviced commercial development; segments of primary road; drainage areas; open space for remnant vegetation, wetlands and a segment of Nambeelup Brook; and ecological linkages.

For more than 22 years, state government strategic planning documents have identified an area at Nambeelup that includes the land that is subject to both amendments for a major industrial estate. More recently, these include the “Nambeelup Industrial Area District Structure Plan”, published in 2016, and the “South Metropolitan Peel Sub-regional Planning Framework”, published in 2018. The establishment of the Peel Business Park in Nambeelup is also identified as a key transformational project in the “Peel Regional Investment Blueprint”, a vision for 2050 produced by the Peel Development Commission in 2015.

In accordance with the statutory provisions for region scheme amendments, each amendment was advertised for three months. Fourteen submissions were received on amendment 044/46, comprising 12 with general comments, one with comments of support, and one with a comment of objection. Five submissions were received on

amendment 046/41. Two of these made no comment, two stated that no objection is raised and provided information, and one stated that no objection is raised and provided a range of comments and advice. For each amendment, copies of the submissions and the Western Australian Planning Commission's document titled "Report on Submissions and Hearings" are also tabled today.

I am pleased to now table the documentation for Peel region scheme amendments 044/41 and 046/41 and I commend both amendments to the house.

[See papers [3254](#) to [3257](#).]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [12.18 pm]: I rise to inform the house of International Women's Day, which took place at the weekend. International Women's Day is recognised globally on 8 March every year to acknowledge women's achievements and to highlight the work still to be done. This year's United Nations women's theme was generation equality, which asks us to reflect on how gender inequality affects women across the generations. This year also marks 100 years since legislation was passed to enable women to run for Parliament in Western Australia. Despite this, we can see from looking around the chamber today that our Parliament does not represent the Western Australian community. We have a lot of work still ahead of us to progress gender equality and I am proud that the McGowan government is taking action to close the gender gap.

Last week, in the lead-up to International Women's Day, I launched "Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality", the first plan of its kind in this state. Stronger Together sets out a long-term coordinated approach to addressing gender inequality over the next 10 years. The plan is accompanied by specific initiatives, including a target of 50 per cent women in the senior executive service, a trial of public sector reporting to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency and a commitment to examine opportunities to use procurement to support gender equality. Government alone cannot solve gender inequality; however, it is important that we provide real leadership to the rest of our community.

During the celebrations I met with many incredible women who are making vital contributions in their fields of endeavour, their communities and their families. I am proud of the work we are progressing as a government and I commend all the people in our community who are working together to make gender equality a reality so that WA is a place where every child can reach their potential.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Standing Orders Suspension — Withdrawal of Notice

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [12.20 pm]: I withdraw the notice of motion standing in my name with regard to business of the Assembly. In doing so, I highlight to the house that that, of course, means that the house will not sit beyond 7.00 pm this evening.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is strong support, Mr Speaker, and I am extremely pleased to have that strong support for these decisions that I make unilaterally in these troubled times!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Membership Change — Motion

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [12.21 pm]: I move —

That the member for Carine be discharged from the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee and the member for Vasse be appointed in his place.

In speaking to this important motion, but not to hold up the house, I congratulate the member for Carine on his re-ascendancy to the position of opposition Whip, a position that I of course held for over eight years.

Mr W.R. Marmion: With distinction!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Absolutely with distinction. I am waiting for the bust to be prepared! I am currently sitting with a reputable Western Australian artist for my portrait. I am sure that it will be an outstanding portraiture!

Ms M.M. Quirk: Is it a miniature?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It will be! The member for Girrawheen once again punctures my discourse!

I congratulate the member for Carine on his ascendancy once again to the position of opposition Whip, a position that is very important in this house.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: We have had some notable holders of the position of opposition Whip.

Mr D.A. Templeman: We have—outstanding! The late Ted Cunningham I think was opposition Whip for a previous Labor opposition.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: And the best ever member for Mandurah!

Mr D.A. Templeman: That goes without saying. I might allow the Minister for Police a personal inspection of my portrait when it is completed!

I also acknowledge that the member for Vasse will take the vacancy created by the member for Carine on the committee, and I ask that the house support this motion.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [12.23 pm]: I will not provide as extensive a contribution as the member for Mandurah, and I certainly have no insights into what may or may not be painted of him in the future! I congratulate the member for Carine on his elevation to the role of opposition Whip. I thank the member for Darling Range for her continued contribution to the state Parliamentary Liberal Party. She is now obviously very much focused on the constituency of Darling Range. I welcome the member for Vasse on to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee as well. With that, I look forward to the continued working relationship with my good friend the member for Carine.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Minister, I thought that they were building a gold statue of you!

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Bronze!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Only bronze!

Question put and passed.

ARTS AND CULTURE TRUST BILL 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Minister for Culture and the Arts)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.25 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2020. Most of the state's most iconic theatres, such as His Majesty's Theatre, are managed by the Perth Theatre Trust, known as the PTT. The Perth Theatre Trust has served this role for many years in accordance with the powers granted to it under the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979. However, the Perth Theatre Trust has been hindered by the limitations of that act. Although the act has done what it was designed to do, it has also restricted the Perth Theatre Trust's potential and prevented it from moving beyond the narrow role assigned to it, which is to manage theatres.

Successive governments over many years have identified the need for reform for the Perth Theatre Trust and the management of state cultural assets. This included the 2015 agency expenditure review and the earlier reviews conducted by the Public Sector Commission. The McGowan government initiated a number of reforms to ensure that the public sector is modern, high performing and maintains its ability to deliver future services to the community. The Perth Theatre Trust is part of the public sector and this is the perfect time for the Perth Theatre Trust to be included in the broader reform process. Although there have been some amendments to the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979 over the past 40 years, these amendments were not related to comprehensive and wideranging reforms needed for a Perth Theatre Trust to effectively meet current government or community needs.

The McGowan government has a vision of a Perth Theatre Trust that manages not only theatres, but also cultural centres and other valuable cultural assets—a vision that cannot be achieved with the Perth Theatre Trust in its current form. For this reason, this bill will completely replace the legislative framework under which the Perth Theatre Trust formerly operated. The Perth Theatre Trust will be transformed into a new statutory authority known as the Arts and Culture Trust. This new authority will have greater responsibilities, broader powers and more flexibility to manage, care for and develop cultural assets for our future generations.

Creation of a new and modern trust: The Arts and Culture Trust will be similar to the PTT in some regards. It will be a key government arts entity. It will be a statutory authority and a body corporate. It will be managed by a board. It will have a list of duties and the legal powers needed to carry them out. It will be accountable to the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the government and the Parliament. However, the trust will also have many important differences. The most important of these reforms relates to the trust's core functions. The trust's responsibilities will not be limited to theatres. It will have the power to manage all kinds of cultural venues, including outdoor spaces such as the Perth Cultural Centre. This will include state-owned assets assigned to the trust and potentially any privately owned assets that enter into partnership with it. The trust will also have a greater power to engage in business arrangements subject to the Treasurer's approval.

Many reforms in the bill relate to the board that will manage the trust. The new trust's board will consist of nine members, compared with the Perth Theatre Trust's eight members. This will make quorums and majority decisions easier to obtain. The bill will require board members to have specific skills and experience that relates to the trust's operations. It will also require board members to have different skills. This will ensure that the board has a broad spectrum of knowledge to draw upon. Moving to a skills-based board will no longer see almost half of the trustees nominated by the City of Perth. Although this made sense in the early days of the Perth Theatre Trust, it now manages theatres in Subiaco and Albany. The new trust will reach even further and potentially control assets across the whole state. This change is not a reflection on the City of Perth in any way; it simply reflects the fact that the management of the trust is a statewide concern, not just a concern for the City of Perth.

Reforms in the bill will increase the trust's accountability beyond the annual audits by the Auditor General to ensure its affairs will be transparent and beyond reproach. The trust will be subject to special safeguards regarding the use of information and the disclosure of conflicts of interest.

Increased partnership with arts organisations: An important provision in the bill will allow the government to declare a state-funded arts organisation to be a "resident company" for the purposes of the bill. This reform will provide clarity for the relationship that exists between these designated state-funded arts organisations and the trust.

Maximising commercial potential: The bill will also grant the trust with increased power to participate in commercial activities and business arrangements. This will provide the trust with the ability to optimise the potential of the assets it controls, including assets that are located near major commercial and tourism hubs. An example of this role involves attracting and contracting events, activities and commercial tenancies to enliven the Perth Cultural Centre, which will encourage people to visit both the Perth Cultural Centre and the resident cultural institutions—the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the State Library of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum. Place activation activities include short-term events, such as the annual Fringe Festival staged at the Urban Orchard in the Perth Cultural Centre, as well as permanent or temporary food and beverage outlets. By allowing the trust to capitalise on this potential, it will be able to maximise its resources and create flow-on benefits for local businesses around trust property. It will also help create much-needed jobs in the cultural tourism sector, along with the hospitality and retail sectors.

For accountability purposes, the bill requires the trust to obtain the approval of the minister and the Treasurer before entering into certain business arrangements beyond an agreed financial limit or class of arrangement. This will ensure that the power is used with appropriate checks and provides maximum benefit for trust operations. These business arrangements will give the trust the opportunity to increase the quantity and diversity of the performances on offer at its venues. This will also allow the trust to present international and national artists that would not come to Perth without the investment by the trust.

Declaration of places to be venues: The Perth Theatre Trust is currently restricted to managing the specific theatres vested in its care. The current legislative regime is restrictive and does not easily facilitate short-term events or opportunities that can arise within the cultural and artistic sector. To enable the new trust to hold artistic and cultural events to be enjoyed by the community, the bill will grant the minister with the power to declare any part of the state a venue if it is intended to be used partially or wholly as a place for cultural and artistic purposes for any duration of time that the minister thinks is appropriate. A declaration will enable the area to be used by the new trust to hold events and provide the trust with broad powers to manage and conduct those events. This reform will provide a long-overdue opportunity for the government, through the trust, to host cultural and artistic events anywhere in the state.

Consolidation of the state's cultural assets: Under the current legislative regime, arts and culture assets fall under the management of the state government, including the Perth Cultural Centre and the Sunset Heritage Precinct. There is a growing argument that many of these assets should be managed by an organisation that specialises in cultural asset management. For this reason, the bill will grant the government with the power to vest any of the state's artistic and cultural assets, including public spaces, under the control of the trust. This will provide a long-overdue opportunity for the government. It will give the state a mechanism that it will be able to use to consolidate cultural assets under a trust that is best placed to manage them, and then use those assets by hosting arts and cultural events to be enjoyed by the community and attract visitors to this state.

Accountability of the trust: As a statutory authority and part of the public service, the new trust will be accountable to the minister, the government and the Parliament, and will be required to comply with all legislation governing the public sector.

Protection of trust property: To ensure the trust has the ability to ensure the orderly operation of permanent and temporary trust venues, and recognising the broader remit of the new trust, the bill will also allow the Governor to make regulations on various operational matters regarding trust property. This will include management of venues, admission of people to trust property, the behaviour of people who visit trust property, consumption of liquor at trust venues, the imposition of fees by the trust, and parking management on trust land. These regulations can be enforced with fines and will provide the trust with a greater ability to manage and protect the assets vested in its care.

Transitional arrangements: This bill will transform the Perth Theatre Trust into the Arts and Culture Trust. The bill includes consequential amendments to many pieces of legislation. These amendments will remove references to the Perth Theatre Trust and replace them with references to the new trust where necessary. The bill also includes transitional provisions to allow an orderly handover of the Perth Theatre Trust's assets, liabilities and contractual obligations. This will ensure that the transition will not compromise any pre-existing matters or, importantly, the rights of employees. If the bill is unable to provide for a transitional matter, the Governor will have the power to make regulations to deal with that matter.

Conclusion: This bill provides a significant and long-overdue reform to the management of cultural assets in this state. It gives me great pleasure to be part of this reform. As the house knows, I value very highly art and culture. I believe this bill will provide great benefits to our state, both now and in the future. It will ensure that this government and future governments will protect and develop the cultural riches that the people of WA have entrusted to us. I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr A. Krsticevic**.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2018–19) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr B.S. Wyatt (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

Second Reading

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [12.39 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to charge the consolidated account the sum of \$372 378 963 for recurrent appropriation payments made during the financial year ended 30 June 2019, as shown in schedule 1 of the bill. The payments were made under the authority of section 27 of the Financial Management Act 2006. They reflect above-budget excess expenditures against appropriations and expenditures for which no appropriations were budgeted for the 2018–19 financial year. Details of the purposes and services of the funding for excesses and new items provided to agencies in 2018–19 were disclosed in appendix 7 of the *Annual Report on State Finances*, released on 27 September 2019 and tabled in this house on 15 October 2019. Although there is no statutory deadline for the introduction of supplementary funding bills, it is nevertheless good practice to deal with them in a timely manner.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr A. Krsticevic**.

APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2018–19) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr B.S. Wyatt (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

Second Reading

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [12.41 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to charge the consolidated account the sum of \$14 221 845 for capital payments made during the financial year ended 30 June 2019, as shown in schedule 1 of the bill. The payments were made under the authority of section 27 of the Financial Management Act 2006. They reflect above-budget expenditures against appropriations and capital expenditures for which no appropriations were budgeted for the 2018–19 financial year. Details of the purposes and services of the funding for excesses and new items provided to agencies in 2018–19 were disclosed in appendix 7 of the *Annual Report on State Finances*, released on 27 September 2019 and tabled in this house on 15 October 2019.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr A. Krsticevic**.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND AND LEVY COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr P. Papalia (Minister for Tourism)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [12.43 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill seeks to amend the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act 1990 to allow for the payment of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund levy by instalments and to make changes to the composition of the Building and Construction Industry Training Board and the length of service of board members. These amendments are part of the state government's response to the 2019 statutory review of the act announced on 5 December 2019 and follow on from the government's decision in 2018 to remove the resources sector's exemption from the levy. The review identified concerns that the act's requirement for project owners to pay up-front the full amount of the assessed levy prior to the commencement of construction work may affect the viability of large resources sector projects. The bill provides for an amendment to the act to allow project owners to pay the assessed levy in yearly instalments when the assessed levy is \$1 million or more, on a pro rata basis over the life of the construction work or over another period as agreed to by the minister. This amendment will apply to all construction work with an estimated value of \$500 million or more. The amendments associated with allowing payments by instalments have been aligned with the current provisions of the act and will require the payment of the first instalment before any construction work commences, and the application of a penalty if there is late payment of an instalment.

The bill adds two members to the Building and Construction Industry Training Board, enabling the appointment of one person with experience and/or expertise in mining construction work and one person with experience and/or expertise in petroleum construction work. This recognises that the resources sector is no longer excluded from the levy and will facilitate that sector's input into the Construction Training Fund's decision-making and information-gathering processes. By adding two members and increasing the size of the board from seven to nine members, the bill also increases the quorum of board meetings from four to five. The bill will also increase the quorum at board meetings from four to five. The bill also introduces a limit of 10 years' continuous service for the chairperson and members of the Building and Construction Industry Training Board. This reflects contemporary standards for board membership that are recommended by organisations recognised for providing guidance on corporate governance.

Further, if a person has not been appointed to fill the vacancy of a member whose term of office has expired, the bill seeks to limit the time that that member can continue in office. The current legislation does not provide a limit on how long a member could continue in office after the expiry of their term, which means that they could continue in office indefinitely until a new appointment is made. The amendment provides for a period of up to three months, which is consistent with other legislation addressing similar situations and again reflects good corporate governance. The associated explanatory memorandum contains further details on the amendments.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr A. Krsticevic**.

FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGISLATION REFORM BILL 2019*Third Reading*

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [12.46 pm]: On behalf of the Attorney General, I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

I would like to make a contribution to the third reading debate of this important bill. I understand other members may make a contribution as well. This has been a positive debate inasmuch as it can be on such a difficult subject, and I thank the members who made a contribution. I know other members have a real interest in this area and have been following the debate. They want to see the bill move swiftly through this house, understanding that there is opportunity for scrutiny of the legislation. I know members have an interest in this issue because on other occasions they have spoken in this house about domestic violence and they visit and support services in their electorates or participate in fundraising opportunities for those services. I thank them for that. Particularly, I know that members are interested in this issue because, like many in our community, they feel a real sense of urgency, as well as frustration, that the solutions to overcoming such significant levels of violence in our families are not more obvious.

I think that goes to the heart of the public sentiment after the death of Hannah Clarke and her children: How can this still be happening? How can such terrible, terrible murders still occur in our midst? Although there are some areas of the population in our state and our country where that violence is concentrated, it is also true that no suburbs and no communities are immune from this violence. People get frustrated; they want to know the answers, and I share that frustration. There is no substitution, though, for us to proceed, understanding what the evidence is telling us will be effective; working to make sure that we are unashamedly victim focused, which this bill certainly is; being centred on understanding the particular risks and times of real danger that people who experience domestic violence may be subject to; making sure that we have maximum levels of cooperation amongst all layers of

government, as well as service providers; and continue to work in reform that will enable us to be clearly centred in our approach on victim safety. I think we still have a long way to go, but this bill will take us a significant step forward on that journey. This legislation is responding to violence, trying to prevent it from happening and responding after it happens. Clearly, the other part of the equation is to send a message to our community that this violence is not acceptable in any form, at any time. We all have a role to play in sending that message.

I will speak briefly to some of the issues that came up in the debate. I addressed a couple of those in my second reading speech, but I want to reiterate some comments. First of all, a number of people, particularly the lead speaker for the opposition, talked about the need for this Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill to be supported by real resources of government and by a real commitment by government to effect change. I want to assure the member that that is the commitment of this government. I think we have demonstrated that by appointing a dedicated minister, whose focus is on addressing high levels of domestic violence. We took to the election a \$21 million commitment for a set of specific initiatives and to date we have committed \$53 million of new funding, which is on top of significant funding already spent and which I know members opposite are well aware of. I think this bill in itself demonstrates the level of cooperation across government agencies: the Department of Communities; Justice, of course; Health; Education; and also the WA Police Force, which is so often the first responder. The suite of legislation that this bill will amend—nine pieces of legislation—is testament to that.

I know that people here are aware of the commitments, but I will run through them briefly. Among the key initiatives that we are now implementing is the respectful relationships teaching support program in WA schools, in partnership with the Department of Education and Starick, one of the domestic violence services. It was with White Ribbon, but now Starick is doing most of that service delivery. We will build two women's refuges to add to the existing network. The member for Dawesville is aware that one of those services will be in the Peel region and the other one will be in Kwinana.

There will be a second residential behaviour change program for male perpetrators. This is an emerging area seeking understanding what are effective interventions for behaviour change. I wish we had all the answers to that but we are following that research and practice very closely not only around Australia—I think I made this comment before—but also internationally. It is difficult to track whether we know that perpetrators are changing their behaviour because, essentially, we know that only if they offend again, or we take their word for it or they are with the same partner and we take their partner's word for it. Therefore, it is very difficult to get a good evidence base for effective change; nevertheless, understanding how we bring men, particularly perpetrators, along in this journey to effect change is crucial. We have information, for instance, about opportunities in men's lives to think about effective change; for instance, when they are new parents. We have become aware of some trials in New South Wales that are working with some drug interventions for very violent offenders that might be worth following for not just domestic violence offenders, but also, generally, those in New South Wales prisons. We are aware of that work. Clearly, there is a demand for that work. There is public outcry calling for that sort of work to be done but we need to be, of course, effective in what we are doing. We have funded a second residential behaviour change program. Justice already does a fair bit of that work around the state.

We are establishing two family and domestic violence one-stop hubs. The opportunity for us to have alternative entry points for people to get advice and assistance is crucial if we want people to come forward to get help and feel comfortable seeking that help. At the moment, we expect most people to go to the police or a women's refuge. It is pretty obvious that large segments of the population do not feel comfortable going to either the police or a women's refuge or, quite frankly, to child protection officers. Some people in our community—some Aboriginal people, for instance—view those authorities with distrust. I am sorry about that and I wish it was not the case, but it is the case, so we need to make sure that we make the most of Aboriginal-controlled organisations through which people might feel more comfortable going to a medical service or a legal service to get some assistance. The hubs are an opportunity for people to use an alternative entry point to come forward and get some support when they might not be interested or ready to go to a refuge.

We did some examination of what occurs in Victoria. It has what it calls its Orange Doors. It has a program to set up over 20 of those and about 17 are up and running. We had a close look at how those hubs are running in Victoria and they will model for the two trials we have set up in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie.

We have increased our financial counselling services. People in this place are well aware that financial abuse can be a very real form of exercising control by monitoring and limiting the independence a victim might have, so it is important that we provide financial counselling and specialist services. I would like to thank those who have been involved in the financial toolkit that has been established by a number of chartered accountants and others by providing free resources online. If people are thinking about perhaps leaving their partner, free resources are available for them to go through a checklist and other resources. I thank them for doing that work.

We have also supported services to deliver culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal women and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds experiencing domestic violence. For the reasons I have just explained concerning Aboriginal people, we need to understand the circumstances in which the violence is occurring if we hope to overcome it. Quite a bit of work has been done already with CALD women and people coming forward

in CALD communities to disclose violence. Really understanding what that means in a cultural setting can greatly improve our ability to respond effectively. Essentially, the research shows that some women who come forward feel that they are not speaking out against the perpetrator but that they feel they are speaking out against the whole community. They feel that they are stepping outside the broader multicultural community, and that can be a real problem. It will be essential to provide good information and services that are culturally appropriate for those victims in order to interrupt the cycle of violence in those communities.

I am also very proud of the three-year program to improve screening rates for domestic violence during pregnancy. It was certainly shocking to me to learn that women who are pregnant are more likely to experience domestic violence while they are pregnant or just after they have given birth. Putting screening in place is important because of that and because midwives and perinatal services build up a relationship of trust with their clients, making disclosure more likely. I have spoken to families who have been to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and they have talked positively about the screening there. I have also seen some of the training programs and spoken to some of the women who were approached by the staff to make sure that they understood that support was available to them. The Minister for Health has raised at a federal level the opportunities for and importance of training and capacity building for GPs to understand what the risk factors are, how to approach this issue and how to link people into the services. We are not expecting them to have all the answers but they can refer people to specialist services that can support victims confront the violence that they have experienced.

The member for Hillarys raised a point about delivering training to frontline police officers. Importantly, we have made a budget commitment to deliver training to frontline police officers and we are updating the family violence code of practice for our police force. That work is being done now by a consulting group called Nous Group, which is a well-respected organisation. It is undertaking that work so that we can learn what work is being done in the police force and how we can update its family of violence code of practice and make sure that frontline police officers receive good training. The intention is to have not only the joint response teams that currently operate in a number of locations throughout the state, particularly in the metropolitan area, but also an increased capacity via frontline officers. Family and domestic violence is a huge part of their work. Although the numbers have gone down slightly over the past couple of years, we do not know whether that is because people are disclosing less or more—it ebbs and flows—but, on average, the police receive about a thousand domestic violence calls a week. It is a big part of their work.

I will address a couple of elements raised about the amendments to the bill. I refer in particular to the extensive contribution made by the member for Hillarys. The member raised the new offence of suffocation and strangulation, which will be section 298 of the Criminal Code. The member asked why this provision does not include as an element lack of consent. I think the member for Hillarys is well aware that the reason for that is that we do not want victims to be expected to give evidence in order to satisfy an offence under the Criminal Code. That is obvious. However, that is only one reason that the victim is not required to give evidence. It is true that not including a lack of consent as an element also provides a protection for victims of domestic violence from being coerced to recant evidence and means that the prosecution of the offence will continue even when a victim becomes reluctant to continue prosecuting the case.

There are two elements there that I think are important. Firstly, the prosecution will not necessarily be required to call a victim to prove the offence if it is witnessed, because only the victim can say that they did not consent. Secondly, lack of consent is not an element of this offence, as this conduct is so inherently dangerous. I think it is an obvious point that, as a matter of policy, a person should not be able to consent to a life-threatening act of that nature. This offence recognises the very severe potential consequences of suffocation and strangulation from a medical point of view. The frequency of this conduct will be taken into account in the family violence context, even though it will be a broad offence under these amended provisions. There are aggravated penalties for when these types of offences occur in the family violence context. Importantly, we have recognised the significance of that type of behaviour as an indicator of future extreme violence, particularly homicide.

For those members who are interested in this subject, the Sexual Assault Resource Centre—SARC—and the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services brought out some United States experts to provide some training on and raise awareness of these issues. We had a really interesting roundtable meeting in my office. Essentially, a national centre in the US now advocates for law reform in this area in the different states and it also advocates on this issue for good practice for first responders. There is a good summary of this in the ABC's *Law Report*, which members can download as a podcast. That podcast gives a good summary of the issues that confront people who experience this terrible abuse, including some of the legal issues and the issues faced by first responders, such as the need to ask the right questions, and also the need for medical examiners to be aware of some of the risk factors that go along with attempted strangulation or suffocation. The injuries might not be externally obvious but there can be internal damage, and it is important that we recognise that. Not requiring consent for the offence of suffocation and strangulation is consistent with section 304 of the Criminal Code, which does not require a lack of consent for the act of endangering life to be unlawful. Hopefully, that clarifies all those issues.

Similar to employers paying paid leave for victims of domestic violence, creating this offence in itself creates an awareness and an understanding more generally in our community of what exactly is going on with this sort of offence. We have found that providing paid leave for domestic violence for employees created a conversation in

the workplace. We have been very surprised at the take-up of that type of paid leave in the public sector. It shows that there was definitely a need for that type of support for public sector employees. Also, as I said, it has created, if you like, a safe space for people to come forward and say that they are experiencing this sort of abuse. They can come forward and get help and do not need to be embarrassed or feel they need to justify having time off or seeking assistance. Recently, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency provided figures showing that well over 50 per cent of private sector employers are now giving paid leave for people experiencing domestic violence, and we are grateful for that. The connection I make to the strangulation offence is that by creating this offence we start to send a message that people need to be on the lookout for this and that people can come forward if they experience this. It is a risk factor that people need to be aware of. We need to start to take this sort of abuse seriously and not to minimise it and expect that it will go away; in fact, all the evidence is to the contrary.

The bill also creates the persistent family violence offence. Again, this is important to the maturity of our legal system in understanding the particular dynamics of domestic violence; that is, by lowering the detail of evidence needed to establish this pattern of behaviour and that it needs to be called to account and interrupted.

During the debate a question was raised about proposed subsection 300(7) and what each juror will need to be satisfied of in relation to a persistent family violence offence. At least three acts of family violence will need to have been committed, and those offences are listed in proposed section 299(1). This matter was discussed in some detail in consideration in detail and the member for Hillarys correctly clarified that it may, and often will likely, be that a charge will contain more than three acts of family violence. The effect of this provision is that each individual juror must be satisfied that at least three acts of family violence have occurred, but jurors may reach different conclusions as to which three acts will be made out in the evidence. Jurors do not have to all agree on the same three acts for that offence to be satisfied. This provision is consistent with existing section 321A in relation to persistent child sex offences. When I have been describing what is being done in the bill in relation to the new offence, it has been useful to say that there is already precedence in understanding the nature of these offences. Not only are these offences so traumatic for victims that it can be difficult for them to remember the details, but at times the offences become so normalised that people are not able to properly establish the date, time and location of each offence. But, of course, the court needs to be satisfied that the offences took place.

A question could also be raised about why the offence of persistent family violence is restricted to intimate partners. Again, this recognises that domestic violence within an intimate partner relationship is a distinct form of violence, often characterised by power and control, and is the most common and pervasive form of family violence. People who are grappling with this point need to try to understand why family violence is different from other forms of aggression and violence in our community and how strong the links are to the manifestation of other forms of violence. Our understanding of this is growing, but it would be fair to say that we still have a way to go.

The member for Mount Lawley referred to an article Jess Hill, an Australian journalist, had written; however, I urge people, if they are interested, to look at Jess Hill's book titled *See What You Made Me Do: Power, Control and Domestic Abuse*. From my reading of the book, it provides a very good summary not only of the debate in Australia at the moment and an understanding of the urgency of the issue—people are aware of that—but also of the different elements to how domestic violence occurs and what happens particularly with perpetrators of domestic violence. I think that she has summarised that very well in her book. She has little patience with some of those who have critiqued the campaign for more urgent action on domestic violence and she talks about the family law system in ways that we should probably all make ourselves aware of. I know that is a very difficult area to venture into, but, apart from that, I think it is worth reading. Her analysis of what is occurring in the policy debate and her understanding of what is happening at the individual offender level is worth reading.

Understanding that domestic violence occurs in particular circumstances and has a particular dynamic is going to be essential if we hope to overcome it. The particular offence of persistent family violence really goes to the heart of that. The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety might also shed further light on the particular issues that face groups of people, that might then prompt an adequate response to adequately recognise those issues in the future. If we really want to get to the heart of this sort of abuse, we need to continue to hear from people who are affected by it, and to have open ears to understand their experiences and to try to be centred on the victims' experiences rather than the cacophony of commentary we often hear, around domestic violence in particular. It can be a difficult one to distinguish, but I think it is an important one.

Similarly, the offence of serial family violence offender declaration is an acknowledgement that there are some patterns of behaviour that so far, whether it has been convictions or time served, have probably not surprisingly resulted in changed behaviour. These offenders are high-risk offenders and we need to put in effective mechanisms to protect not only the people in their intimate circle but also those at risk of becoming victims of their aggression and violence in the future. Serial family violence offender declarations will give the courts a default opportunity to make sure that, during sentencing, community safety is a primary consideration for the court when placing offenders on community orders, for instance. It will give us additional layers of oversight of offenders who receive suspended prison terms or community-based orders if ordered by the court. Community corrections will be responsible for providing reports and assessing the risk to the courts.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Parliamentary Secretary) [1.17 pm]: I rise also to make a contribution to the third reading of this important reforming legislation, the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019. I want to express my thanks for the contributions of all members in this chamber. It is clear that this is an issue that everyone wants to tackle and everyone wants to see some improvement in, although we may have different views as to how to achieve that. I also want to congratulate the lead ministers on this, the Attorney General and the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. This is a reform package across nine pieces of legislation and six ministers. It is a huge achievement getting reform across two ministerial portfolios, let alone across six ministers and nine individual pieces of legislation. This has been a really thorough, robust and considered process, as are most processes undertaken by the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, which are very thoughtful and consultative. It is fair to say that although all stakeholders may not have got every single thing that they wanted, I urge all stakeholders in this area to get behind this bill. This is a once-in-a-generation chance to make significant legal reform in this area, so I urge everyone to get behind all aspects of the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019.

Members have highlighted a number of areas of the bill, including the two new offences in the Criminal Code, particularly the offence relating to strangulation and suffocation. Members who have already spoken have articulated very well why this needs to be scheduled as a specific offence. There is very strong international evidence that non-lethal strangulation is a precursor to significant abuses and homicide. There is also a range of physical and mental impacts on the survivor, going well beyond the actual incident of non-lethal strangulation. One of the stats I have seen in the published data is that women can be up to 37 times more likely to be murdered at the hands of an intimate partner after having suffered non-lethal strangulation. It is a red flag, and there are now significant penalties in the system for it, including up to seven years' imprisonment in aggravated circumstances.

Western Australia will also become only the second state to create the offence of persistent family violence. This recognises patterns of behaviour for which there is currently very little capacity in the system to address. It will enable the courts to identify serial family violence offenders. It is an approach that requires the system to acknowledge a pattern of behaviour over a period of time and to acknowledge that the context of family and domestic violence can cover many, many years. For survivors of family and domestic violence, remembering the exact times, dates and locations of abuse and offences is often difficult, if not impossible. This is a package that supports survivors of family and domestic violence, and that is very important to note.

Electronic monitoring to enable GPS location tracking is also very important, not just for the monitoring of offenders, but also to provide some assurance and a sense of safety to survivors and their children. This is something that the Labor Party floated in opposition that the then government needed to do, but it was roundly rejected by the previous government. I think the previous government's record in this area is woeful and incredibly poor. It sat on the Law Reform Commission's report for a number of years. In the previous government's dying days, it threw something into the Parliament to say that it was doing something.

The Bail Act will be significantly improved so that victims cannot be coerced into providing surety for their assailant, and so that family violence evidence and expert information will be admissible in criminal proceedings. There have been a number of really heinous cases of violence against women and children that have been preceded by numerous reports to police of assaults or alleged incidents that were never recorded. Had those incidents been recorded and police had access to those records prior to the further incident, we may well have seen better outcomes for some of those victims, including very small children. Police are now required to record every single alleged incident of family violence. This will also help form the basis upon which someone can be deemed a serial family violence offender. We acknowledge that it will require more of police, but we need to restore confidence in the police that many people in the community do not have, particularly the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal women. We need to give them confidence that they will be taken seriously and dealt with compassionately by the police and, in fact, all government agencies. This is an important step towards achieving that.

The Restraining Orders Act will also undergo significant reform, and I am pleased that the opposition has indicated that it is very much in support of that. We have all heard of incidents in which restraining orders have failed catastrophically. We have to provide better security and safety for women and children. Thankfully, I have no concept of what it is like to fear for not only my own life but for those of my children. To fear for one's children is an ongoing trauma that no woman should ever experience. I have no conception of how terrifying it must be for women in custody arrangements to have to hand over their children to a father that they know is violent, in situations in which they cannot put restraining orders or court orders in place to protect their children. We have to do better.

There has been a lot of discussion about, "Well there's balance in the system, and we see restraining orders being abused by angry women, taking them out against men." There is a kind of victim culture around restraining orders. I say that when the majority of victims are women and children and a number of them already have restraining orders in place, then there is a serious imbalance in the system. It is important to acknowledge that, and that is what we are doing with this legislation.

This is a very robust and significant piece of legislative reform, one of a number of moving pieces that the government has implemented. We have done more in this area in recent history than any government in this state, and I am really

proud to be part of that. I want to acknowledge the member for Armadale for his work on this issue when in opposition, particularly with regard to the drafting of “Saori’s Law”; most people will remember that, but there are so many new horrors every year that women are subjected to that each one seems to be forgotten as a new one emerges. I do not ever want to forget Saori and her poor babies, and the most appalling circumstances under which she died.

This is an issue that is very close to the government’s heart and one on which we want to see genuine and real change. The member for Armadale in his contribution outlined that we can provide the best legal framework and the best services, and do our bit as a government to make sure that there are multiple entry points to intersect with the system. We can make sure that the experience of survivors, when they interact with every point of the system, is a good experience and one that will help them on their journey out of violence in their lives. We can do that. We can provide the legislation to help keep people safer. We can provide the framework for punitive measures. But ultimately, it is a community responsibility, and the community has to change.

There is often the call, “What are we doing? What’s the government doing?” Well, we are doing our heavy lifting on this. I say back to many members of the community, “What are you doing? What are you doing to make sure we are all safe?” In my own electorate there has been one homicide of a woman in the last 12 months, and very close to my electorate, a few streets from my house, a woman, her mother and her three babies were murdered in their own home. What are we all doing to make these changes, and what are men doing? What are men doing to change and to keep each other accountable? It is not just about the law keeping them accountable; it is about other men keeping men accountable for how they behave, because ultimately the vast majority of these crimes are inflicted upon women and children by men. That is a fact; the numbers do not lie. So what are they doing? What are we doing as a culture when power and control over women seems to be an increasing norm?

What are we doing? We need to look very carefully at that. I have a teenage daughter and a son. I try to address most problems by sinking into them, reading as much as I can and hoping that I come up with a few answers. There is a lot of research around girls and the figures are frightening. By the time girls reach 13 or 15 years of age, between 30 and 40 per cent have been sexually assaulted. That is a shocking figure. By the time girls are aged 13 or 15 years, the vast majority of them have been asked by boys, their peers, for nudes. The response is always directed towards the girls. We turn to our girls and say, “Don’t take them and don’t send them.” At what do we pivot and focus all our attention on men and boys and say, “This is not acceptable”? At what point do we do that? We have to start doing that. We have to start focusing our attention on the boys, who are inherently good boys, because there is a normalisation of this behaviour. The pressure that girls come under from an early age by boys is frightening, and it builds a culture of entitlement and demand—“I ask, you give, and there are consequences if you don’t.” We have to work together to change that. If we do not, it will get worse.

Dr A.D. Buti: There was a survey about three or four years ago that surveyed teenage boys and girls, and there seemed to be an acceptance that a boy hitting a girl was acceptable. That was the view of both girls and boys.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, it is just part of life. It is part of the discourse and that is the problem. It has become entrenched early on as part of the discourse between the sexes. Women accept a certain standard of behaviour because boys are allowed to continue to get away with it. We have to stop it. The teaching of respectful relationships in schools is so important and we have to do it at home. We also have to ensure that our girls are economically independent. I genuinely believe that economic independence is the key to unlocking so much inequality for girls. The best thing that I can do for my daughter is ensure that she is economically independent. When I say that to her, her eyes glaze over—“What?” She is 13-year-old girl and it sounds so boring because it has the word “economic” in it and it does not involve a smartphone or Snapchat. Perhaps it would work if I Snapchatted that message; that is it. Since I have earned a wage, I have had—I will not call it a secret account—my own quiet account. It has been called the eff-off account! I have it in case I need to get out of there and there have been times when I have. The advice I give to all my friends is that they have to have their own economic resources to escape a bad situation. All these things form part of the picture, and I am really pleased to be part of a government that is genuinely driving legislative and community change. But we have to start doing the heavy lifting out there in the community. We can be outraged, devastated and appalled every time there is another incident, but what are we doing about it? What are members doing as members of the community to stop this from happening and to identify and support those people?

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [1.33 pm]: I, too, rise to speak on the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019. I note that this omnibus bill amends the Criminal Code, the Sentencing Act 1995, the Sentence Administration Act 2003, the Bail Act 1982, the Restraining Orders Act 1997, the Police Act 1892, the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008, the Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004 and the Evidence Act 1906. As the member for Morley said, our Attorney General and Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence deserve great praise for amending so many acts to deliver focused legislation that addresses one of the major social ills in our community. They have been very thorough and capable in delivering legislation that will take us forward in that space, hold perpetrators to account, deliver safety for victims and provide a responsive justice system that places family violence as a criminal offence. It is the first time that family violence will be contained in the Criminal Code as a criminal offence. I suppose that illustrates how important it is that we recognise that violence against an intimate partner is violence. It is not

acceptable. It is not something that happens in relationships behind closed doors. It is violence and it should be treated as such in a community such as ours in which we view perpetrating violence against anyone as a crime. This legislation also improves the Restraining Orders Act 1997 and, in doing so, makes it less traumatic for victims to obtain protection from family violence.

One of the really important aspects of this legislation is that it is victim focused. The intent of the legislation is to ensure that people are no longer victims, but survivors. Further, it will show people that they are believed and that we share their concerns. As something that they find frightening, unacceptable and dangerous, we as policymakers, legislators and members of Parliament in the Western Australian Parliament say to them that they are right to say that it is unacceptable behaviour. The bill contains a new standalone offence, which will serve as a key indicator of domestic violence. The key indicator that says that a person is at great risk is the new standalone offence of strangulation, which has been discussed in this Parliament. What is so important in terms of using this indicator as an appropriate criminal offence is that if a person has been subject to an episode of strangulation, the odds of homicide increase more than seven times and it is more likely that the person will be mortally wounded, have their safety further compromised or be killed. Each week in Australia, a woman is murdered by her partner; every two minutes the police are called to a domestic violence matter; and every day, 12 women are hospitalised as a result of domestic violence. It is sad that we have to address this issue in this Parliament, but it is a great success of this Parliament that we are addressing it when, for so many years, family domestic violence was seen as happening behind closed doors between two people in a relationship and it was not discussed. The many campaigners over many years who have stood tall for women and other people in our community who have found themselves vulnerable and subject to family, domestic, personal and intimate violence need to be congratulated. I am sure there is more to do. This government certainly is committed to doing everything it can to prevent domestic, personal and intimate violence.

I appreciate the opposition's support, member for Hillarys. I listened to the member for Hillarys' speech and read his speech again before I stood up today. His speech was well thought out, not only in the technical aspects of understanding the bill, but also in expressing his empathy, compassion and passion for this area. Bipartisan support on this issue is absolutely vital. That is why we were all so proud and deeply moved when Rosie Batty was awarded Australian of the Year. I have told the house this story before. On that day, I was at a community function and stood with a person who is a leader in our community. He had previously been a police officer. His comment was, "I'm just not sure why she would have won that; there's really nothing you can do about domestic violence." I remember being really struck by that comment knowing he had been a police officer. I am very hopeful that police officers no longer feel that this is sort of a lost cause—something that just happens and that we cannot respond to. The fact that all sides of Parliament have worked together on this bill is testament to the fact that times have changed. We believe that tools are available to combat domestic violence. I believe that when a person says, "We are still investigating this murder to find out what may have pushed him to commit such a hideous crime"—as occurred in Queensland—the whole community is appalled and says as one voice that in no way can we blame the victim of this horrendous and terrible crime.

Through this legislation, we in this place are treating family violence offenders as the serious criminals that they are. This is an omnibus bill that covers a wide range of areas over a series of portfolios. We are not just changing the legislation; we are changing how organisations deliver around this legislation. We are modernising the law. We are increasing protections for victims. We are giving appropriate judicial responses. We are making sure that proper charges are laid and convictions obtained.

I understand that the community consultation that has been engaged in since this bill was tabled has led to clarifications and improvements that have been accepted by the government, and those amendments to the bill were passed last night after consideration in detail.

This legislation introduces the new offence of persistent family violence. I understand that was based on a 2014 report from the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. This will ensure that perpetrators are civilly charged and required to defend their violence, without requiring a traumatised victim to remember the specific sequence of events of each particular crime. A person commits persistent family violence if they do an act of violence on three or more occasions over a period not exceeding 10 years. I note the question that the member for Hillarys asked during the debate last night. I found that quite an interesting aspect of how a person can be found guilty beyond reasonable doubt. The Attorney General said —

I ask the rhetorical question: what does each juror need to be satisfied of? Section 300(7) of the Criminal Code simply provides that jurors do not have to agree on the same acts making up the offence.

That is a very innovative change to the judicial system. It requires the court or the jury to be satisfied that the accused committed three acts of family violence—they are prescribed offences, clearly. However, each member of the jury might individually decide that the person is guilty beyond reasonable doubt of having committed three acts of violence, or each member of the jury might rely on different acts. That is telling when we talk about persistent violence and its impact, because when we are dealing with behaviour that is insidious and ongoing, we need to provide flexibility to the courts.

This bill will also, when it becomes law, amend the Sentencing Act 1995 and the Sentence Administration Act 2003. The changes to the Sentencing Act will allow a court to declare a person a serial family violence offender. The onus will be placed on the person to apply to have the declaration removed after 10 years. That provides the capacity for a spent conviction. It is not uncommon in other jurisdictions to require people who have committed serious offences to apply for their conviction to be spent after 10 years. That goes again to the whole focus of this Parliament in upholding the fact that these are serious and critical offences. A person will be declared a serial family violence offender if they have committed three prescribed offences or two indictable offences within a 10-year period. I understand that the offence does not need to have been committed against just one person; it may have been committed in different relationships. I understand also that Western Australia is the first Australian jurisdiction to legislate that a person can be declared a serial family violence offender. All those things are critical to ensuring community-led opposition to domestic violence.

The Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence talked about the fact that the approaches to family and domestic violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities are nuanced or somewhat different. However, it is important to make clear the serious consequences for people who perpetrate violence against women in personal intimate relationships. Newly arrived Australians in culturally and linguistically diverse communities hold Australian law in high regard. Many of those people have come to Australia to find prosperity and a better future for themselves and their children. They come as working migrants, as humanitarian refugees, or as a person in a relationship. They come because they see the standard of living in Australia as something they want to aspire to, but in many cases they also come for safety from countries that have conflict. When they arrive, they understand that there will be differences in the Australian community. Some are just cultural differences, such as how people celebrate, food, traditions, language and aspects of behaviour—how people say hello may be different from how they say hello. Any of those things can be put down to cultural differences and those do not have to be adhered to. However, when the differences are legal and are prescribed laws that are very defined and capable of being explained, members of those communities will uphold those laws. Many of them have come to Australia because they want to enjoy the benefits of Australia's civil society. It is important that there be consequences for someone who is a serious offender. Equally, we also have to recognise the impact that will have on that person and their family in terms of being able to work and operate in the community. One trigger or issue for people acting in a violent manner and taking out their anger on their family or intimate partner is the expectation they have of themselves of being able to provide for their family through work. If someone has come to Australia as a refugee with an expectation that they will be able to prosper and provide for their family but is suddenly confronted by employment and financial difficulties, that will have an impact on their behaviour and their behaviour to the people they, in fact, are committed to providing for. That can be undermined by family violence orders because there is no doubt that such an order will show up on someone's police check. I do not want it not to be there. However, I want to ensure that we run a comprehensive program in the community around behaviour and talk to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, particularly those newly arrived to Australia, so they understand that this is taken very seriously in Australia and they understand the consequences of that behaviour. If people think they have a right to that kind of behaviour, they need to seek help, talk to their community and change that.

I work with an amazing young woman called Elizabeth Lang, who works with the southern Sudanese community on family and domestic violence issues. She has said that in a collective culture such as the southern Sudanese community, the community can impact the behaviour of individuals. It is important to shift not just the minds and opinions of individuals, but also the mind of the community. That has happened very strongly in those communities and there are many good advocates. This legislation will reinforce that, but people need to be made aware of that so they know the effect their behaviour will have, not just upon them, but also on many of the responsibilities that they want to carry out in the community.

I refer to the Sentencing Administration Act. I understand that electronic monitoring will be considered, but it will not be the default position. As the Attorney General said, electronic monitoring is an additional layer of security on top of the existing conditions imposed on offenders in the community by judicial officers. Changes to the Bail Act will elevate breaching of family violence restraining orders to a seriousness that it deserves. Amendments to the Restraining Orders Act will enable shuttle mediation. Those were the words of the member for Hillarys. I am not sure that shuttle mediation is the language of the legislation. As I understand it, it will allow for more flexibility to get a restraining order and have it adhered to.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: It is a colloquial term used by the legal profession to describe that sort of conferencing in different rooms.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: So they go into one room and then out to another?

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: The person doing the shuttling is the mediator—the registrar.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: It seems like a very wise way of trying to arrange for things to occur.

To finish off, I want to briefly talk about some things occurring in the community I represent. I have already done some of that, but I want to congratulate the women's refugees in the electorate of Mirrabooka and the general area

of the City of Stirling. I think the City of Stirling is the last remaining council in the whole of Western Australia that delivers a domestic violence refuge. It does that exceptionally well. Its workers are on a local government award and enterprise bargaining agreement, which means that their pay and conditions reflect their responsibilities and the work that they do. That is excellent, and I urge the City of Stirling to continue to provide that vital service to our community. It is a very valued service. It provides great outreach to keep people in the home in addition to having people in the refuge. The refuge is quite old, with a dormitory-style arrangement. These days, much more of a hub approach would be taken. I congratulate the government on increasing the number of domestic violence refuges in our community.

Jessica Carter was a young woman who was valued by the City of Stirling. She worked for the Department of Health and worked quite closely with the City of Stirling. She was employed to develop liaisons with Aboriginal people. On 9 September 2019, Jessica Carter organised and took photos at a Balga Boodja health walk with the health department, the Heart Foundation, and many community organisations. Participants walked from the Wadjuk Northside Aboriginal Community Centre in Balga, around the school and back. One week later, Jessica Carter was killed by her husband. It was a great shock to our community and a terrible event. I worked with Jessica on an Aboriginal community garden at Balga Senior High School. Jessica was well loved by many in the community. On Friday, 6 December, another walk called “Walking for Jessica” was held for the Balga Boodja, which is a social inclusion program. The flyer for the event states —

Jessica, a colleague, friend, daughter, sister, aunty, community member and an enthusiastic and charismatic emerging leader for the Aboriginal community, whose life was taken by domestic violence.

...

In these 16 Days of Activism in WA to Stop Violence Against Women

We walk for Jessica and all our sisters whose lives, potential and dreams have been tragically cut short.

Jessica did not deserve to die at the hands of her husband. She had so much potential to give our community. It was one of the most distressing things for many in our community and many of them turned out on Friday, 6 December—representatives of the police, the City of Stirling, the health department and many community agencies—to remember that every one of the women we lose a week at the hands of an intimate partner has an important story and a history that should never have been cut short. This legislation is about addressing that, but we are doing many more things to achieve that. We have other key initiatives.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1203.]

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR — SHARON WOOD-KENNEY

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) [2.00 pm]: Members, on behalf of the member for Joondalup, I would like to welcome as a guest in the chamber this afternoon Ms Sharon Wood-Kenney, a recent inductee to the Western Australian Women’s Hall of Fame for community efforts in the electorate of Joondalup. Congratulations!

[Applause.]

ACTING SPEAKER

Appointment — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) [2.00 pm]: I advise members that, as a consequence of his appointment as Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA, the member for Moore is released from the office of Acting Speaker. Today, I have appointed the member for Vasse as an Acting Speaker for the remainder of the present session. I am sure the member for Vasse will be very strict on people acknowledging the Chair when they move about.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CORONAVIRUS — STATE ECONOMY

118. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

Given the Premier’s unwillingness or inability to outline the potential economic impacts of coronavirus, can he confirm that the Prime Minister is indicating a potential impact worse than the global financial crisis and that former Reserve Bank board member, Warwick McKibbin, has indicated a potential worst-case scenario of eight per cent being wiped from gross domestic product?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I have said from the very beginning, back at the start of February, that this coronavirus issue could have a dramatic effect on the Western Australian economy. As I advised members yesterday, when the Prime Minister called me on the Saturday morning of 1 February, I immediately convened a range of industry roundtables with representatives

from tourism, international education, mining, energy and agriculture to talk to those industries and their representative bodies about the potential impacts on Western Australia. I then ensured the issues they raised with me were immediately taken up with the federal government in writing to ensure that those issues were resolved around port access and student visas. I also recommended to the federal government a major tourism advertising campaign to secure tourists to holiday at home. Then, within a week, we launched a \$13 million aviation and tourism advertising campaign. In coming days, the tourism minister will expand upon that campaign, which is designed to ensure that Western Australians take the opportunity to holiday here in Western Australia.

We cannot run away from this. This will potentially have a dramatic impact on the Western Australian economy. I think it is already having an impact, particularly in the areas of retail and hospitality, in terms of consumer spend and the like across the Western Australian economy. That is why every single day I encourage Western Australians to continue to spend and support their local businesses. I comment on this on every single occasion. I urge people to do so and not be frightened of supporting their local businesses.

In relation to the potential impact on Australia or Western Australia, I think it will be more significant than the global financial crisis. In fact, I think it will be seriously more significant than the global financial crisis. That is why, currently, in our budget preparations, the Treasurer, the Expenditure Review Committee, cabinet and I are considering all options. As I outlined to the house yesterday, we have worked extremely hard over the last three years to get our budget position back into shape and we have secured surpluses across the forward estimates and, indeed, a surplus in this financial year—a massive effort to turn it around. We received considerable criticism over that, particularly from the Liberal Party. But we have done that to ensure that we have capacity for times like now. That is a sign of a government that plans for the future.

CORONAVIRUS — STATE ECONOMY

119. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. The Prime Minister is expected to roll out a \$10 billion stimulus package this week and Steven Marshall in South Australia has already rolled out a \$350 million stimulus package, so why has it taken the Premier and his government weeks to roll out a broad-based stimulus package for Western Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Because of our good financial management, we rolled out a series of initiatives late last year and early this year that are stimulus measures. I will explain them again. There is a \$220 million additional housing spend comprising \$150 million of additional money for public housing and a \$72 million spend in particular on homeless services, with common-ground facilities. We then expanded the loosening of the Keystart loan scheme to allow borrowers to more easily access Keystart loans. That is the first point. The second point is that there is a \$200 million school maintenance budget spend for every single school across Western Australia, based upon need. There is a \$90 million spend on hospital maintenance, again based on need. There are payroll tax cuts in two tranches, one that has already kicked in and one scheduled to kick in on 1 January next year, as well as the stamp duty cut designed to support off-the-plan multistorey dwellings that the industry called for. On top of that are the TAFE fee cuts to 34 courses, which has seen a massive expansion in the number of people enrolling in TAFE.

They are the things we have done in the last couple of months. We understand that we need to do more and we will. Yesterday, I started work with the transport minister on the new rail manufacturing facility. All these things are creating jobs. Five new rail lines will be underway this year. We have the biggest road-building project across Australia. We have contacted the commonwealth about supporting the regional road safety program, which is designed to save lives and create jobs all over regional Western Australia. All these things are stimulus measures, are targeted and make a difference. The opposition has not noticed these things. They do not seem to realise, despite me repeating them to them day in and day out, what has been done in the last couple of months. We can do those things because we carefully husbanded the resources of the state to ensure we can do these things in times of difficulty. If only that approach had been taken over the eight and a half years of the Liberal–National government. They blew the budget, put up land tax three times, and removed scheduled payroll tax cuts and stamp duty cuts when they were in office, as well as blowing debt by \$40 billion. They have no right to criticise.

CORONAVIRUS — HEALTH SYSTEM RESPONSE

120. Ms S.E. WINTON to the Minister for Health:

On behalf of the member for Bunbury, I welcome the Bunbury–Leschenault Rotary Club, which is in the public gallery with us today.

I refer to the state government's response to COVID-19.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the state government is increasing the testing capacity for those who may be at risk?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the federal government's funding for further health measures will build on the work already undertaken by WA's health services?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for the question; it is a very important one, because in addition to the work the McGowan government is doing to support local businesses and jobs in the community, we are muscling up in relation to our health services to make sure we are in a position to meet the challenges that COVID-19 represents. We all know about the work that goes on in making sure that our doctors and nurses on the front line have the resources they need to do their jobs. An important element of what they do is to collect swab samples so that patients can be tested for the coronavirus.

Today we announced that significant resourcing capacity has been put into our PathWest facilities to make sure that we have the resources sitting behind the doctors and nurses to test those patients who are coming in. Today we announced the establishment of eight metropolitan PathWest collection centres dedicated exclusively to COVID-19 specimen collection from patients who have been referred by their general practitioner for testing. This is in addition to our current 29 regional collection centres that are currently testing for COVID-19. Patients with GP referrals can attend their nearest collection centre located at either Nedlands, Osborne Park, Mandurah, Belmont, West Leederville, Kelmscott, Jandakot or Fremantle. As I said, patients from regional Western Australia with a GP referral will be able to attend one of the 29 collection centres that are already operating. The collection centre staff will collect samples to test for COVID-19 and provide information about the straightforward ways that an individual can help to contain the community spread of the disease. Our collection centres and testing regimes are now returning results between 48 and 72 hours later, but we cannot underestimate how much pressure they are under. We are testing specimens from around 750 patients a day, so we have decided to also increase our laboratory capacity. New facilities will be established by the end of this week at Fiona Stanley Hospital so that by the end of March we will have a capacity to test over 1 500 specimens a day. That means that we can continue to get results back to patients as quickly as possible to ensure that those patients who are at that point probably self-isolating can get back to work, back to caring for their family and back to normal life. It is important to make sure that we get that turnaround happening.

In addition, we know that a lot of people cannot get to a collection centre or a PathWest laboratory. We are starting to increase our mobile collection services. This means that those patients who are recommended to PathWest as being immobile for either physical reasons or having to domicile at home because they do not have the transport capacity will have a mobile collection service meet them in their home to collect the specimen. This is really important for those patients who are domiciled in their homes and are inactive.

We have implemented three important initiatives. We are establishing eight new PathWest collection centres dedicated to testing for COVID-19, we are boosting the number of laboratories that will be able to test for the virus and we are expanding our mobile COVID-19 teams within PathWest. This comes on top of our COVID-19 clinics that were opened yesterday and are located at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital. Yesterday, around 800 patients came along and we tested over 400 of those patients who met the criteria of either having just travelled from overseas, having been exposed to someone with a positive diagnosis or suspecting that they have been exposed to someone with a positive diagnosis. This is all about muscling up and putting in place plans to ensure that the WA government is doing its best to protect people from COVID-19.

CORONAVIRUS — SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION**121. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Premier:**

I refer to small businesses that are starting to run out of supplies from China and are starting to lay off staff. What is the Premier doing to help these small businesses and their staff to weather the crisis other than saying, “Don’t panic and stay calm”?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Clearly, some of the panic buying that we have seen across the community has been unnecessary and unseemly. I would encourage all citizens engaged in that sort of conduct to stop and desist. It is not the Western Australian way. It is not the Australian way to engage in that sort of conduct. Our country has been through many traumatic events and I urge all Australians to act with the dignity, respect and appropriateness that these sorts of occasions require. We are working, as I have said repeatedly, with the federal government to ensure that sufficient supplies are available. When it comes to the issue that I assume the member is referring to around toilet paper, rice and such things, factories around the country are working around the clock to ensure that they are provided to the people of Western Australia and Australia more generally.

Panic buying is not appropriate. This is not a time for panic. This is a time for calmness and considered responses on the part of everyone—politicians, government officials and consumers alike. I urge everyone to act in that way. I once again urge the state opposition to stop politicising this issue and to act in a constructive way.

CORONAVIRUS — SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION

122. Mr D.C. NALDER to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Premier, my question was about the supply chain disruption that businesses are facing out there. Why is the Premier waiting for weeks to stimulate the economy given that damage is being done now to small businesses and jobs, especially casual jobs?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I outlined before, the best part of a billion dollars' worth of measures has been put in place in the last couple of months on the back of good financial management, which has allowed us to do that. Had the previous government, in the good economic times in 2010 and thereabouts, not blown the budget, we would have greater capacity. But over the last three years we have taken the state from a \$2.5 billion deficit to a \$2.5 billion surplus. We are the only state in Australia to be driving down debt. That is what this government has done. That has given us the capacity to respond, but we are going to respond in a considered, reasonable and rational way. That is what we will do. I will go to the Council of Australian Governments tomorrow and the next day to meet with the other states and we will announce further responses in the coming weeks.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bateman! You have asked your question.

Mr M. McGOWAN: But as I have said, we have announced a major housing stimulus package, a major maintenance stimulus package for schools and hospitals and we have cut payroll tax twice. Remember, member, the previous government put up payroll tax and it put up land tax three times. We cut payroll tax and we cut stamp duty. We have done that just in the last few months to support Western Australia. But the best thing that Western Australians can do is to continue to support our businesses. I encourage us all to do that. Scaremongering by the Liberal Party is not helping the situation. I urge its members to stop this ridiculous scaremongering and the politicising of this issue.

RESOURCES SECTOR

123. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to support our resources sector, guide our economy and create jobs. Can the Premier outline to the house how the government is working with the oil and gas sector to provide more opportunities for local businesses and supporting them in securing contracts for work undertaken by major resource companies?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Pilbara for the question. He is a tireless advocate for the Pilbara. I was pleased to have worked with the member for Pilbara to take up the fight for the Council of Australian Governments' meeting to be held in the Pilbara. I am pleased that the commonwealth government has agreed with our suggestion. It is a great coup for the Pilbara and the first time that COAG has ever been held in regional Western Australia. I am looking forward to showing the Prime Minister, the Premiers, the Chief Ministers and some of the bureaucrats the Pilbara. I have a strong suspicion that a lot of them have never been there. I am looking forward to showing them Port Hedland and hopefully Karratha and Newman as well.

Since coming to government, we have worked closely with the resources industry to achieve outcomes. We want to ensure that our successful world-leading mining, oil and gas sectors continue to create jobs. This morning, I held a major roundtable with industry again to discuss the issue of coronavirus. I urged the industry this morning not to lay off people during this time. Western Australia will come out of it. It is important that the mining, resources and energy sectors continue to have a strong workforce for when the coronavirus issue is over.

I urged them this morning to keep their workforces in place and intact and to keep people employed. We want to maximise opportunities for businesses. We established the LNG taskforce with Woodside, Chevron, Shell, Santos, Inpex, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and UnionsWA. As a consequence, the establishment of the Future Energy Exports Cooperative Research Centre has now been allocated to Western Australia. As part of that CRC we are planning on establishing the LNG Futures Facility. It has been on the Infrastructure Australia priority list and we will put \$10 million towards it. That is a small-scale LNG facility based in Kwinana to allow for the testing of new technologies and the like. We have also established the LNG Operator Skills Framework. That provides for the standardisation of training for people in the industry to work anywhere in Australia or around the world. It is an important issue that the workforce will very much appreciate.

Today I announced a significant initiative as a consequence of the LNG jobs taskforce, which I chair, that will directly benefit small to medium-sized enterprises in Western Australia. I want to outline this to the chamber. For the first time ever, Chevron, Woodside, Shell and Santos will all be publishing their forward work plans. This will give small to medium-sized enterprises a look ahead at the work these major companies will be contracting out over the next two years. Essentially, these major companies will be opening their books for small to medium-sized businesses. This will provide transparency and certainty for suppliers. It will give small to medium-sized businesses more time to prepare and gear up to tender for contracts, and it gives those businesses the best opportunity to win contracts for major oil and

gas works. Through this, we expect to see more competition among suppliers and better relationships between the majors and businesses in the supply chain. These major companies usually keep these two-year forward works plans private. These companies, which are competitors, normally keep them close to their chest, but by working collaboratively we have reached an outcome whereby all those companies have the confidence to turn their cards face up. That could happen only through collaboration. This will mean that the forward work plans will be made available to small to medium-sized enterprises in Western Australia so that they can look at what is coming and prepare themselves for that. This is a massive win for small to medium-sized enterprises in Western Australia. This has never been done before. As a consequence of a collaborative approach by the LNG taskforce it is now happening for industry in our state.

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) BILL 2020

124. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to a decision that the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council made on 4 March to a request that the minister withdraw the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 and consult more appropriately. Will the minister withdraw the bill, as requested by the local government sector?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. No, we will not. The government came to power with a specific promise and a specific election commitment, and that was that we believe puppy farming is an abhorrent practice that we want to stamp out and ensure is not allowed to continue in Western Australia. Over the last year and a bit, we have had extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the WALGAs of the world and a range of others, about our election commitment. We want to stop puppy farming in Western Australia. We want to make sure that inappropriate, cruel practices to canines are ruled out.

The SPEAKER: Minister, face the Chair.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We will make sure that when we bring on the legislation for debate—we have now second read it into Parliament—we will put forward the reasons that we believe it is an important policy position. The member and his party will decide whether or not they support bringing an end to this practice or whether they will endorse it. We will continue to have discussions with the various stakeholders. I am aware that there are concerns from Dogs West, for example, and others, but I want to assure members of this: we made an election commitment —

Mr V.A. Catania: You're a cat lover, aren't you?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What was that?

Mr V.A. Catania: You're a cat lover.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We made an election commitment that we took to the election and, unless I am wrong, we were reasonably accepted as a government. We have had extensive consultation. In fact, I have to tell members that the consultation on this policy position included nearly 5 000 responses from across Western Australia and the sector. In our view, we are proposing a series of reasonable measures to ensure that we will address the issue of puppy farming in Western Australia. We will ensure that we protect the interests of puppies and, of course, the production, or the birthing, of puppies so that when people in Western Australia purchase a puppy, they will have assurances about the origins of that pup and a greater understanding that when they invest money in a pet, they will indeed get what they paid for. That is why a registration system makes sense. It makes sense to put in place measures so that we can ensure a pup can be tracked from birth and, ultimately, to its death. That is the principle of the legislation and we stand by it. We will keep having discussions with the stakeholders—we are not afraid to do that—but we made an election commitment and we will deliver on it.

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) BILL 2020

125. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Local Government:

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister now concede that he did not consult properly before introducing the bill —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I do not know whether it is rubbish because I cannot hear it. The member will start again.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Does the minister concede that he did not consult properly before introducing the bill; and will the minister now consult with the local government sector, traditional custodians and the wider community, as requested by WALGA?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I will continue to consult but the principle remains. We made an election commitment that is focused on stopping an abhorrent practice that sees cruelty to our pups and dogs occur in Western Australia. We will make sure that this legislation is explained and I look forward to the debate. We also know that many thousands of dog lovers out there love their pets, and they will want to know why the opposition opposes this so vehemently and why it does not want to see the practice of puppy farming stamped out. They will be asking the opposition and others that same question.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just a bit of quiet and it will go away quickly.

Mr D.A. Templeman: We have not heard from the Liberal Party yet. We know where the new Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA stands. He savagely defeated the member for North West Central in the highly contested deputy leader ranks. How many votes did you get? Your own! That's all you got.

The SPEAKER: Sit. Down boy! Minister, you will get to the end of this answer.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I am getting there.

The SPEAKER: Is this act three or four?

Mr D.A. Templeman: I will get there, Mr Speaker.

I assure people of this: I recognise the concerns of the local government through WALGA and I acknowledge some of the other concerns that have been raised, but I say very specifically that this was an election commitment. The consultation has been absolutely extensive and the responses have been some of the largest for any consultation on any bill or any proposal in the recent history of the Parliament. We will do it. We will deliver a bill and debate it in this place and the other place, and if the opposition's mates in the other place decide to defeat it, be it on your heads because that will be an example of the opposition supporting the continuing practice of puppy farming in Western Australia.

STATE ECONOMY

126. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Treasurer:

Before I ask my question, I would like to acknowledge the students from Rossmoyne Senior High School from the member for Riverton's electorate and also those students who came from the member for Jandakot's electorate and my electorate.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting business and the local economy through measures such as its cuts to payroll tax, its rebates on stamp duty, its cuts to TAFE fees, its boost to Keystart, and its record investment in Metronet, road infrastructure and tourism.

- (1) Can the Treasurer update the house on the current state of the Western Australian economy and how it compares with what was left by the Barnett–Harvey Liberal–National government?
- (2) Can the Treasurer advise the house whether he is aware of anyone who is trying to undermine confidence with false and uninformed claims?

The SPEAKER: Did you say “seek advice”—to give an opinion?

Mr T.J. HEALY: No.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member?

Mr T.J. HEALY: I can repeat the question—the final part.

The SPEAKER: No, just the final part, please.

Mr T.J. HEALY: Can the Treasurer inform the house.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.J. HEALY: Can he advise the house whether he is aware of anyone trying to undermine confidence with false and uninformed claims?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to answer that very good question from the member for Southern River.

- (1)–(2) I often think back, because I still am scarred by the trauma of 2017, at the first briefing I received from Treasury not long after becoming Treasurer. The former government had left me —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Apparently the shadow Treasurer said it was a fake—a fake deficit. I assure him that the \$2.5 billion operating deficit that was left to me, the gross state product contraction that was left to me and the record debt levels that were left to me by the former Liberal–National government were real. I make this point: had coronavirus, which came unexpectedly out of nowhere, hit us in 2017, we in Western Australia would have been economic sitting ducks. We would have had no capacity whatsoever to respond to this global event that is having an impact on every government around the globe. That is because of the arrogance of the former government—I said this a lot in opposition—that had the audacity to think that it could take the capacity of governments into the future. That is what it did. That is why the Premier talks about the effort of this government in ensuring that we have a balance sheet that is able to respond to emerging shocks. We have that now.

This morning I was speaking to another very senior Liberal minister in the commonwealth government. I am pleased to say that the state government and the federal government are working very, very closely together because we understand the importance of a unified message, a unified response to this economic event. What we are seeing in the event now, with minimal capacity for monetary response, is clearly there needs to be a government response as well. We are working, as the Premier said, very, very closely with the commonwealth government.

We have outlined—indeed, the member for Southern River in that very good question outlined—a range of initiatives that we have already done. But I just want to make this point: this is something that all political leaders need to be part of. That includes the opposition. Some people out there may think, incorrectly, that when the opposition says something, it knows what it is talking about. That means that the opposition also has to calibrate its language and calibrate its activities. In its desperation to critique, criticise and complain, it is unhelpful and it is also not supporting our state and our nation for the opposition to go out screaming, “Recession”, when no recession exists. It does not help for the opposition to make public speeches, screaming, “Recession”, when no recession exists. The opposition needs to reflect upon its role in this as well, because the community is looking to us all.

We will, as the Premier has said, continue to work with the commonwealth government. We will roll out the stimulus measures we have already announced and we will have more to say in the very near future. However, one thing I know when I speak to members of the business community and, indeed, on a regular basis, with senior members of the commonwealth government, is they want to see better behaviour and better language from the opposition than they have been seeing. I know that every Western Australian is keen to see from this place a leadership that is certainly not being shown by the current opposition.

CORONAVIRUS — COVID-19 CLINICS — NORTHERN SUBURBS

127. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Premier:

Why have dedicated COVID-19 clinics not been established in the northern suburbs of Perth to service the people of Joondalup, Hillarys, Wanneroo, Burns Beach, Kingsley and surrounds, or is this just another example of the Premier and his government being weeks late as identified by the Australian Medical Association?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Once again, the opposition is showing that it likes to politicise and to scaremonger. This is not a time for that. It is not a time for this sort of behaviour. I urge the opposition to start showing a little bit of maturity about these matters. Yesterday we opened three COVID clinics—one at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, one at Fiona Stanley Hospital and one at Royal Perth Hospital. In the first answer today, the Minister for Health said, and we have been saying now for probably about a week, that we will be rolling out more across the suburbs and into regional WA over time. But, obviously, there are big efforts to get the COVID clinics underway and we are doing it as quickly as we can.

We are also working with the commonwealth. As I said, on Saturday I had a good conversation with the Prime Minister about these matters about the cost-sharing arrangement. I note the commonwealth has announced funding for these sorts of purposes today and I welcome that. I want to see a bipartisan approach on these matters. I am working hand in glove with the Prime Minister. The health minister is working hand in glove with Greg Hunt. The Treasurer is working hand in glove with Josh Frydenberg on all these matters. That is what we are doing as a government. We do not need this nitpicking and politicising, and trying to score a cheap point by getting an article in some community newspaper to demonstrate its worth, which appears to be what the opposition is doing.

CORONAVIRUS — COVID-19 CLINICS — NORTHERN SUBURBS

128. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. I appreciate that the Premier said that he would be establishing dedicated COVID clinics in the regions over time. Can the Premier tell us exactly when we will see those clinics established in Peel, Bunbury, the south west region and other major regional centres?

The SPEAKER: That is not a supplementary.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I do not hate you, member for Southern River, but I call you to order for the first time. Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time.

You were diverting away. You were talking about metro and then all of a sudden you were going into the regions. Can you rephrase that question?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Of course, Mr Speaker. I note the Premier’s comments in relation to the question stated that the government will be setting up further clinics in time. Can the Premier provide us with more specifics as to when that might be the case?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As required and as soon as possible; that is what we are doing, like every state in the commonwealth is doing. The Minister for Health put out a press release earlier this morning, expanding the PathWest collection centres—

dedicated COVID-19 specimen collection. I note that he said yesterday—I am sure that he is correct—we have far better capacity and a far better health system in Australia and Western Australia than virtually anywhere in the world to deal with these issues. He outlined yesterday that the United States appears to have one laboratory that can deal with these matters for a population of 350 million people. We are rolling out, as the minister indicated today, a range of PathWest collection centres to deal with these matters. But I urge the opposition again—you did it yesterday, you are doing it every day; this shocking politicisation—to grow up! Act maturely. Honestly, as I pointed out yesterday, the opposition is acting so immaturity. Grow up and act like adults. Stop politicising this matter. This is what the opposition said yesterday: because the Premier hasn't put out enough press releases, people are panic buying toilet paper in supermarkets. That was yesterday's argument. The day before, the argument from the Liberal Party was this: the government is only advertising on radio, in print, online and on TV; why is it not advertising on the back of buses? The opposition is looking everywhere.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It actually is not funny. This behaviour is shocking. Stop being so immature, grow up and be constructive and supportive and a little bit bipartisan for once.

REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

129. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the record number of job-creating infrastructure projects and initiatives that the McGowan Labor government has secured on the latest Infrastructure Australia priority list, including the regional road safety program.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how the regional road safety program would not only improve safety on country roads but also create jobs and support business?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house the reasons that the federal government should join with the state in funding the program and help deliver this important road safety initiative?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Bunbury for that question. Not only do we have a record number of contracts out there—both Metronet and road projects—but we are also working with Infrastructure Australia to get more projects rolled out into the future. This year, as the member highlighted, there is a record number of Western Australian projects on the national list—23 projects. These include transport and water projects across government. We have been doing the work to get those projects noticed nationally. That is what we have been doing, unlike the previous government, which did not do the work to get those projects on the national agenda.

One of the most pleasing results of this year's list was the regional road safety program, which has now been recognised as a national priority. We see this as a significant priority for spending in Western Australia, and we have raised this project with the federal government over the past year and in more recent months. We see it as part of what we believe will be a great economic stimulus package for Western Australia. This spending can happen now; it can be rolled out now. We have the approvals, we have the contractors in place, and we can go out and spend more money in regional Western Australia, making our roads safer. We will see greater employment in regional WA. We will see small businesses supported by the fact that there will be more workers out there, rolling out this program.

Ms L. Mettam: What's the priority?

The SPEAKER: My priority is to call you to order for the first time, member for Vasse.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is great to hear from the member for Vasse. Does she support shutting down the railcar manufacturing industry?

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

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

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the third time, member for Vasse. You are not setting a good example.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Vasse does not support regional road safety, members. We know that. She does not support regional road safety. We want to make it a priority, and we have made it a priority.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, do you want to go home early? Just tell me, and I will send you on your way.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the member for Vasse wants to interject, does she support her leader's comments on the railcar manufacturing industry? One more comment. Does she support her leader's comments on the railcar manufacturing industry?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: She is not answering now, members. Does she support railcar manufacturing in WA? She does not support railcar manufacturing, just like her leader did not in what would be one of the worst presentations on *Business News* this morning, as I understand it. We will have more to come on some of the Leader of the Opposition's comments in relation to *Business News* this morning.

In relation to road safety, we are working really well with the commonwealth government and engaging with federal ministers, unlike the previous government, which did not do the work, did not do the business cases and did not get projects on the list. We are doing the work, and we believe this project will not only save lives but also create jobs and provide economic stimulus throughout Western Australia.

WESTERN POWER — BLACKOUT COMPENSATION — GERALDTON

130. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the spate of long-term power blackouts in the Geraldton region, and I thank the minister for attending the forum there last week. Will the minister follow the lead of the previous government, which in 2012 made a special order that Western Power double outage compensation to \$160 to help struggling families inconvenienced by extensive electricity dropouts?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

I was pleased to go to Geraldton the other day; it was a very engaging audience. I was also pleased to be able to speak personally to a number of the attendees at the event afterwards. Of course, I was also pleased, at the invitation of Hon Darren West and Hon Laurie Graham, to meet with the Mayor and CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton beforehand. We had a great discussion about working together. I was very pleased with the response from the mayor that, since I went up to Mullewa recently, they had found Western Power to be much more engaged in providing support to their questions and challenges in Geraldton, and I am pleased that I was able to pass that information back to the Western Power staff who were in Geraldton for the meeting convened by the council.

I am not quite sure when the member says that his government doubled the outage compensation. It is true that Western Power sometimes pays more than \$80 to people affected by extended outages, but that is a discretionary position for Western Power. As the member has pointed out in the media, there has not been an increase in the \$80 figure since the last time Labor was in government, and as I assured the audience the other day, we are considering that, and I look forward to meeting with Western Power in the next couple of weeks to further consider our options around that.

I have to make something clear to people: that payment is made out of the income of Western Power. Western Power's only income is from the users of the electricity system. This is something that the shadow Treasurer does not always understand. None of the costs and expenses of Western Power is paid by the budget of Western Australia; they are paid by the energy consumers of Western Australia. At the moment several million dollars—I do not have the figure right in front of me—has been paid out as compensation for unplanned outages. If there is to be an increase in that compensation, or payment, it will have to come from other users of the electricity system. There is a balance to be drawn which is, I imagine, why the former government did not increase the \$80 payment over the eight and a half years it was in power.

WESTERN POWER — BLACKOUT COMPENSATION — GERALDTON

131. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. After telling the energy forum last week that he would consider increasing the outage compensation payments across the board, when will the minister be able to tell people whether he will be able to assist those who are doing it tough because of these blackouts?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

I thank the member for the question. There are actually two issues there. The first one is the question of the people who are suffering because of blackouts. I appreciate that the member joined us for that evening, and I have listened to his comments on radio about how much he thought it was a good event. He was very complimentary to me on radio, and I thank him for that! It was very generous of him to be so kind to me on the radio; I was very surprised.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No, the member for Geraldton.

We have a program of work, as I outlined, for reliability in the Geraldton area. I outlined a whole range of options. I was also very interested in the individuals who had specific issues. I suggested to them that they talk to Synergy, because there may be alternative products already in the market that will help them with the issues they were describing. In respect of the question of the \$80 payment, in my first answer I said: in the next couple of weeks.

HIGHWAY TO HELL — PERTH FESTIVAL 2020**132. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's success in securing world-class events for WA that bring more visitors to the state and support the local economy. Can the minister outline to the house how the overwhelmingly successful *Highway to Hell* event provided not only a once-in-a-generation event for Western Australians, but also a boost for businesses in my electorate?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I am very pleased to respond to the member for Bicton's question. Every now and then in cultural history there is an event that captures the imagination of the population, and there is no doubt that the *Highway to Hell* event captured the imagination of Western Australians; there is no doubt about that. I think it demonstrates how we, as Western Australians, should never be hesitant or reluctant to celebrate our Western Australian stories. The Bon Scott and AC/DC story that was encapsulated by the *Highway to Hell* event is a great demonstration of the way in which a unique Western Australian cultural story can attract people of all backgrounds, tastes and experiences, from all parts of Australia and Western Australia, and some international visitors, and we should be very proud of that. There is no doubt that it exceeded expectations. For those of us who were there, I was at the Canning Bridge quarter watching the streaming numbers of people, of all ages, coming across Canning Bridge. There were people at Tompkins Park who gathered for the world record attempt. We now, thankfully and happily, are the world record holders here in Perth for the —

The SPEAKER: May I interject? The member for Murray–Wellington and I are world record holders, so I just thought I would let the member know.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There you are, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker is part of the biggest air guitar ensemble in which over 3 500 people put us into the *Guinness World Records* under the tuition of the “ginger assassin”, who is a teacher from the member for Swan Hills' electorate up in Ellenbrook. The benefits to the Western Australian community and the businesses along the *Highway to Hell*—the stretch of Canning Highway—was immeasurable. There was a huge response from the local businesses along there and massive responses from people, posting their interpretation of their experiences. A big shout out to those at the Perth Festival. This was a Perth Festival event, supported very strongly by the Western Australian Tourism Commission. The Minister for Tourism has now signed an agreement with the Perth Festival so that there will be a signature event. We want to congratulate and acknowledge all the emergency services personnel and the police who were part of it. Main Roads and the Public Transport Authority did a tremendous job. Quite frankly, I think David Hines said it a few days before that they were wondering what exactly was going to happen, because this event has not happened on this scale or at this level of uniqueness before.

Again, people responded brilliantly. In these testing and challenging times it really is important to reflect on what can be achieved when we all come together and when we share a unique story that is our Western Australian story and that we acknowledge the tremendous contribution that culture and art activities can and do play in the economy of Western Australia. We also acknowledge that we should never be ashamed of telling the world our Western Australian stories.

I have to tell members that on *The Project* on Channel 10 a few days before there was a bit of ridicule about this event. I tell members that we proved them wrong. We are proud of Western Australia. We are proud of our creative artists. There were over 1 000 artists included in the event, including a massive sausage roll! All those things demonstrated that we should be very proud that we can peak during these events and that they will attract lots and lots of people. They will be great for business, and they will demonstrate an ongoing pride in what we can produce in Western Australia, going forward, in the creative industries.

CORONAVIRUS — FRONTLINE EMERGENCY SERVICES

133. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Premier:

If coronavirus results in emergency services frontline personnel being quarantined, including professional firefighters and ambulance paramedics, what is the state government's plan to mitigate this impact and ensure that these essential services are maintained?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. This morning we released the “Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan”, which details responses in a range of areas. Clearly, as I outlined to the house yesterday, as events develop and if people are required to self-isolate, agencies will look to bring people from non-frontline roles into frontline roles to deal with whatever issues are out there. But I do think that we need to plan. We need to be aware that those are the sorts of responses that we need to put in place, but I am confident that all Western Australians understand that this is a serious situation and that we all need to work together to deal with what confronts us.

CORONAVIRUS — FRONTLINE EMERGENCY SERVICES

134. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. Page 5 of the “Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan” acknowledges the problem, but has the Premier or any of his ministers held meetings with the head of St John Ambulance WA and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner to finalise a business continuity plan in the event that their employees are unable to deliver frontline emergency services?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The Minister for Health has met with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the head of St John Ambulance WA. The Minister for Emergency Services has met with the commissioner for emergency services recently. Last week, I chaired a meeting of the security and emergency coordinating committee of cabinet, and, indeed, the commissioner for emergency services was there. I have met with the Commissioner of Police, and I had a long conversation with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Col Blanch, on Sunday about the ways of managing the situation. Essentially, it is a difficult situation. What we need to do is make sure that we approach it with a calm and rational manner, whether it is rostering arrangements, whether it is bringing people from back-office functions into frontline areas; that is the way these things are managed when one of these crises hit. I am sure that the Western Australian public sector and Western Australian public understand that that is the way calm, responsible government operates, and that is the Western Australian spirit. That is the Western Australian spirit to deal with these matters. We are a resilient people, and we are good people. This is the way that we respond to these crises. This is a serious matter, but Western Australia has been through a lot of crises in its time, and our people have risen to the challenge. I was thinking about it before. We have been through some dramatic economic and social events. We have been through wars in our time. We have risen to the challenge, and we will rise to this challenge and make sure that we deal with it in the Western Australian way, which is calm, considered, rational and responsible.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.

NATIVE TIMBER INDUSTRY*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [2.56 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following motion to be debated forthwith —

That this house calls on the Premier to intervene on the Minister for Forestry’s decision to cut access to available timber, creating uncertainty for WA’s native timber industry, which supports more than 800 jobs, at a time our state economy is in need of stability and stimulus.

Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [2.56 pm]: I move —

To insert after “forthwith” —

, subject to the debate being limited to 10 minutes for government members and 10 minutes for non-government members

Amendment put and passed.

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended

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

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Motion

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [2.57 pm]: I move the motion.

We heard the Premier yesterday and on the radio this morning pushing for calm, and how all his ministers are lining up and looking for economic opportunities to add stimulus to the economy to be able to support businesses and to give certainty to what is happening in the terrible time that our state is going through. He even said today that it was in the WA spirit to do so. However, we heard today that one minister in the Premier’s line-up is going in the other direction. The Minister for Forestry is putting uncertainty into the native timber sector in Western Australia when he does not need to do so, and his answer during question time said so.

Let us put a little bit of light on what processes we have in place as to the nature of the decision that he has made. In this place, we all know that we have the forest management plan 2014–2023. It is the second one that has been put in place, and there is a process. The forest management plan defines what forest is available to harvest and to support the businesses that are in that industry. The plan defines it. It is a process that we go through. In fact, the next forest management plan will start in January 2024. Within six months or so, that process will start, and we

will engage and talk about the nature of the resource that is there. In fact, the response that I got back from the Minister for Environment today is that he is adhering to all the normal practices. The forest management plan comes under the Minister for Environment's portfolio, but he needs to consult with the Minister for Forestry as the plan is developed. That plan is accepted as an established plan. It is industry supported. It is generally supported by both sides of the house. It defines what will happen in our state forest, and what is available for harvest—managing all the interests, including the important biodiversity of our forest. It is also science based, which is very important.

The native forest industry largely harvests jarrah and karri, and, to a lesser extent, marri. It is given certain access to the resource. There are three different sorts of logs in the karri log profile. The first is old-growth forest. We know that old-growth logging is not happening. No-one accesses old growth. If old-growth forest is identified, perhaps by someone in the private sector, it is taken out of the harvest mix. Indeed, as the minister well knows, the Forest Products Commission self-identifies a lot of old-growth forest and takes it out of the mix. We do not touch old-growth forest. The second is regrowth forest, which is largely where our harvesting activities occur. The third is two-tier karri, which is a product of the harvesting regime that occurred in the 1940s and 1950s, and which is also available for harvest.

The SPEAKER: Members, if you want to have a meeting, go outside, please.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The point I am making is that two segments of the karri forest are identified in the forest management plan and in the harvest plan for each particular year as being available for the native forest harvest. They are regrowth forest and two-tier forest. That is defined. In other words, the people in the sector know what coupes are coming up. They know the area of those coupes. They know the grades and the number of cubic metres of logs that are available. Some of those are regrowth and some are two tier. However, for whatever reason, the Minister for Forestry has made the decision that for the term of the 2020 forest harvest plan, the industry will no longer be able to harvest two-tier karri. The minister's response yesterday shed no light on that reason whatsoever. The minister did not say it was his decision or someone else's decision. In fact, the letter that the minister wrote to the Forest Industries Federation of Western Australia—very carefully worded, I might add—states, and I will quote a couple of paragraphs —

The Forest Products Commission ... has advised me that the required native timber volumes under the FMP can be sourced without harvesting two-tier karri areas during the period of the 2020 harvest plan.

Given that the FPC can meet its customers' demands without harvesting in two-tier areas, the FPC will not harvest in those areas over the course of this year.

Why would the minister make that statement? Why would the minister cut out a segment of the resource that is available for industry? The minister did not write that he took advice about this matter. His office has put pressure on the agency that it needs to find some way of capitulating to the greens in the community—who are becoming increasingly important to the Labor Party as we head towards the next election—and I am sure also to a bunch of his backbenchers.

Companies have made fairly significant investments in the forestry industry. The minister touched on this yesterday. I fully support the investment by Parkside Group in the Greenbushes mill, Nannup Timber Processing, and the Manjimup processing centre. Parkside is a significant player. It has a history in forestry, and from all accounts it will do a particularly good job. Other timber millers in Western Australia have also made substantial investments. We would think that people who make an investment in the forest industry in Western Australia would want the ground rules to be stable. They would want stability in their access to the resource. That is provided by the forest management plan. That is the anchor point that states what is available and what can be harvested. The forest management plan is a bit like a state agreement. It provides security of tenure—something on which people can bank their investment. We know the government's position on state agreements. The government does not break state agreements, because that would create a sovereign risk issue. What about the poor timber millers in the south west, when the minister has suddenly broken ranks with the established settings for what will be available for harvest for their particular mills? From what I can understand, the minister has taken out about 9 000 hectares of karri forest that otherwise would have been available to those mills. I have added up that that could be anything between 37 000 cubic metres and 40 000 cubic metres of timber. That is not insignificant by any stretch of the imagination. This minister made that decision. That decision will apply for the duration of the 2020 harvest. In March next year, there will be an election. What will happen when we get to the end of that term? What sort of political stuff will be going on in Western Australia as we approach the end of this minister's self-prescribed shutdown of a sector of the harvest that otherwise would be available to the mills? There will be pressure to take out the native timber industry in Western Australia.

Mr W.R. Marmion interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: That is a good question, member for Nedlands. It would be interesting to know whether the minister took it to cabinet. I would have thought a decision like this should have had the backing of cabinet, because it is significant, and comes at a time when industry needs certainty. What is the impact of this decision? The first thing is that there is no transparency. The minister had made a decision out of the blue to take out a segment of the timber resource that otherwise would be available. I know that some of the coupes in the two-tier karri forest have

large logs. Some mills like and are tooled up to take large logs. I agree with the minister that in the future, we will be going into small log lines. Many of the new mills, in particular Parkside, are tooled up for that; however, some are not and would like to access the large logs that will come from those coupes.

The next issue is the 2020–21 harvest plan. That will not suddenly appear on 1 January next year. The 2020–21 plan will need to be worked on before that. Will the 2020–21 plan take into account the minister's decision to cut a segment of the available harvest in 2020? That is creating uncertainty, at a time when businesses in Western Australia do not need uncertainty. That plan sits with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. It is its decision. However, the minister has to be consulted on the outcome of that. The industry is asking: Has the minister directed the DBCA? What will the 2020–21 plan look like? Under what authority did the minister make that decision? Was it made under the authority of cabinet? Maybe not. I know for sure that it was not made with the support of the sector. The minister has not engaged with the sector—or maybe he has. It will be interesting to see what the minister has to say about that. The angst that this is causing goes quite deep. What advice is the minister giving the Forest Products Commission about these new settings? That is creating uncertainty as we move towards the election and the 2020–21 harvest plan. People are making investment decisions at a time of uncertainty. The Premier met today with the resources industry and the small business sector. The Treasurer has espoused a bunch of things that might be done to provide stimulus to the economy. However, one minister is going the other way and is against supporting the small business sector in Western Australia. One group is really happy. The greens in my electorate are jumping up and down and having a field day: "You beauty! We've nailed it! We've got the first step. Now let's go for the next step." That is their agenda. They will take this as a first hit. They will then go the next step and seek to take out some more of the resource. They are thinking this is not temporary. They are thinking they have made some inroads into the game.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Forestry) [3.07 pm]: Many of the issues that have been raised in this motion were canvassed yesterday in question time. There is nothing new in what the member for Warren–Blackwood had to say. The motion is based on several fundamental misapprehensions. The motion states in part —

That this house calls on the Premier to intervene on the Minister for Forestry's decision to cut access to available timber ...

We have not reduced access to any timber volumes. The forest management plan set out volumes of timber that will be made available. I am advised by the Forest Products Commission that we are able to meet the volume demand from industry without needing to harvest in the two-tier area.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood! You were heard in silence. I expect the same for the minister.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I listened to the member in silence. I expect him to do the same.

The premise of the question is that we have cut access to available timber. That is simply not correct. The second point the member made in his motion is that we are creating uncertainty in the industry. In the last couple of months, we have seen some of the most positive improvements in the native timber industry in the south west for more than a decade. Parkside Timber, a formidable company, has come to Western Australia and made significant investments in the timber industry in WA. It purchased Nannup Timber Processing and Auswest Timber's Greenbushes mill. Those two timber mills were in danger of closing. Parkside, a family company with 70 years in the business, has looked at what is on offer here in Western Australia and how this government manages the timber industry, and is significantly investing. In December, the ABC reported that Parkside's plan was to invest \$10 million in those mills. It is not only investing in those two mills, but also reopening the Manjimup processing centre. The member for Warren–Blackwood was the Minister for Forestry, and so was his leader.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, this is not show and tell.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Parkside has come to Western Australia and made significant investments because it had confidence that this government supports the ongoing native forest industry. For the member to say that we are undermining confidence is simply not true. As I said in question time yesterday, when Mr Robert Tapiolas was over here to make the announcement at the Greenbushes site, he told me that the way we run the Forest Products Commission in Western Australia should be the model for elsewhere in Australia.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The member is undermining an industry that has a very bright future here in Western Australia. Some things he has said today go to that. The member said that this decision will take out 9 000 hectares. Of course it will not. It is not anywhere near that much. We have advised industry that there will be no harvesting of two-tier forest in the harvest plan for 2020. My advice is that will impact on 150 hectares of two-tier forest. The member was talking about 9 000 hectares! For whatever reason, the member is trying to hype this issue up into something that it is not.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The Leader of the Nationals WA should not —

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr D.J. KELLY: The Leader of the National Party was the Minister for Forestry from, I think, 2014 to 2017. Nothing positive happened in forestry for the eight and a half years that members opposite were in government.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time. You had an opportunity to talk before and you did not.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Listen, I do not think you should be attacking people at the moment, members.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The member for North West Central —

Mr V.A. Catania: You were a great white dope when it came to fisheries. Now you're deadwood when it comes to forestry!

Mr D.J. KELLY: I am glad you raise that, member for North West Central.

The SPEAKER: I know you want to be relevant, so I will call you to order, member for North West Central.

Mr D.J. KELLY: I am glad that the member for North West Central has found his voice.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the second time, member for North West Central.

Mr D.J. KELLY: There was a bit of mirth on this side when the member for Carine lost the deputy leadership of the Liberal Party to the member —

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I do not know how this is relevant.

The SPEAKER: You do not have to know, but the minister has a right to reply.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.J. KELLY: There was some interest on the side of the house when the member for Carine lost the deputy leadership —

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am just curious to know how the member for Carine's circumstances are relevant to the debate.

Mr D.A. Templeman: He's talking about pruning!

The SPEAKER: I like that quote—talking about pruning. The minister will get back to the point.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.J. KELLY: Just taking the interjection from the member for North West Central, there was some interest on this side of the house when the member for Carine lost the deputy leadership of the Liberal Party —

The SPEAKER: No. Minister, can you get back to the point please.

Mr D.J. KELLY: There is some discussion of the numbers here. It is very interesting that the member for North West Central lost the deputy leadership of the National Party to the member for Moore.

The SPEAKER: Minister, I will sit you down if you do not get back to the point.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Excuse me, I have just told him to get back to the point. Do you want me to call all of you to order?

Mr D.J. KELLY: Quite frankly, some of the arguments put forward by the National Party are hilarious. I noticed that when the member for Warren-Blackwood was talking about this issue, members of the Liberal Party were chirping in. It would be interesting to hear what the Liberal Party thinks of this issue. Do its members support the decision that we have made? The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party was chirping in, but did not have the courage to get on his feet and express a —

Mr W.R. Marmion interjected.

The SPEAKER: Well, you interjected then, member for Nedlands. I call you to order. Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr D.J. KELLY: As I said, in the eight and a half years of the previous government, nothing positive happened in the native forest timber industry. We saw mill closure after mill closure and a total lack of confidence in the industry. The softwood plantation continued to decline and there was nothing but excuses from those opposite about the future of this industry.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr D.J. KELLY: If the Leader of the Opposition has something to say, why does she not get up and make a contribution?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Excuse me!

Mr D.J. KELLY: She has nothing to say on this issue. She generally gets the issues wrong. We have given some really positive news to the native timber industry here in Western Australia. For the first time in over a decade, we have significant investment in the native timber industry.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr D.J. KELLY: The number of jobs is growing. Parkside has boosted its numbers. Did the member for Warren–Blackwood know that? It has reopened the processing centre in Manjimup. Does the member for Warren–Blackwood know how long the processing centre in Manjimup was closed?

Mr D.T. Redman: I don't know, but I have a rough idea.

Mr D.J. KELLY: It was a long time. That is exactly right.

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair, minister.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The whole basis of the motion is wrong. We have not cut access to available timber. We are honouring the requirements of the forest management plan, contrary to what the member is suggesting. It is a decision for only 2020. What happens beyond that will be a decision in a further harvest plan by the FPC. The new forest management plan will be negotiated through the Minister for Environment in the same way that other forest management plans have been negotiated.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr D.J. KELLY: If members opposite want to secure jobs and confidence in this industry, they will be forward-thinking and embrace new technology. They will support Parkside and not undermine the industry.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (18)

Mr I.C. Blayney	Dr D.J. Honey	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr P.A. Katsambanis	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr P.J. Rundle
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Ms L. Mettam	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	
Mrs A.K. Hayden	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	

Noes (38)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms J. Farrer	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms R. Saffioti	
Mr T.J. Healy	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms A. Sanderson	

Pair

Mr K.M. O'Donnell

Mr P.C. Tinley

Question thus negated.

FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGISLATION REFORM BILL 2019*Third Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms S.E. Winton): Member for Armadale, you are champing at the bit!

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [3.23 pm]: I had to obey my Whip and I did not want to bring the debate to a conclusion before it should be.

I also stand to contribute to the third reading debate on this very important legislation before the house. During the second reading debate, a number of people mentioned the terrible murder of Hannah Clarke and her three young children. In my contribution last night, I talked about how one woman a week is murdered in a domestic and family violence scenario and we need to keep the spotlight on them. The member for Morley indicated that in 2018, a mother, her three children and a grandmother were murdered near her electorate. It seems that that has gone out of people's minds very easily and we are not thinking about that. It was a horrific murder of Mara Harvey, three-and-a-half-year-old Charlotte and twins, Alice and Beatrix, and 73-year-old grandmother Beverley Ann Quinn. That was an absolutely horrific murder, as tragic and as awful as the Clarke murder in Brisbane. We must be careful not to just move on. We must keep remembering the tragic scenario and the number of victims as a result of domestic and family violence.

Given Bedford is in the member for Maylands' electorate, she went to the funeral of Mara Harvey and her three children and their grandmother, Mara's mother. The member for Maylands said it was very sad to see the coffins, especially the three little white coffins carrying the three children aged under three and a half. We cannot just move on and forget these murders. We must remember them, implant them in our conscience and use them as a catalyst and motivation to ensure that we continue to do what we can to reduce the scourge of domestic and family violence. The Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill before the house seeks to play a part in this.

As the member for Morley mentioned, and I mentioned last night, legislative reform in this area can provide a certain framework and seek to achieve certain objectives, but, of course, it cannot be the whole solution. All Australian states enacted domestic and family violence laws in the 1980s and 1990s. Western Australia's first piece of legislation in this area was the Restraining Orders Act 1997. Interestingly, if we surveyed the legislation in this area, we would see that most family and domestic violence legislative regimes across the country include objectives that this legislation seeks to achieve. The Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019 amends nine separate acts and covers six ministerial portfolios. It covers all major areas, which can be seen as the objectives—for example, ensuring that perpetrators of family violence are held to account, keeping victims of family violence safe, ensuring a responsive justice system and improving the Restraining Orders Act, which, as I said, was our first piece of legislation in this area in 1997. Interestingly, the Restraining Orders Act 1997 did not initially include an objective clause. Its second reading speech stated that the first three matters were the primary consideration—that is, to protect the applicant from personal violence; secondly, to prevent behaviour that could reasonably be expected to cause fear that the applicant would suffer personal violence; and, thirdly, the welfare of the children.

Most legislation across Australia over the 1980s and 1990s includes objectives that seek to do various things, such as ensuring, facilitating and maximising the safety and protection of persons, including children, who fear or experience family violence or are exposed to it; reducing or preventing family violence and the exposure of children to the offence of family violence; ensuring that people who use family violence accept responsibility for their conduct or promoting the accountability of those who use family violence for their actions; enacting provisions that are consistent with certain principles underlining the declaration on the elimination of violence against women and with the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Children; providing special police powers of arrest, detention and searching in connection with issues; serving and enforcing protection orders; and, further, protecting persons suffering or witnessing family violence in the giving of evidence and protection of identity. The bill that is before the house seeks to achieve many of those objectives found in various pieces of legislation across Australia. This bill is significant and comprehensive because it seeks to do many things. It is gratifying that the opposition has indicated its strong support, hopefully, for this bill that has been carefully crafted by the Attorney General and the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. As I mentioned yesterday, one has to take a whole-of-government approach to tackle family and domestic violence. This bill is very important in setting up the legislative regime that will seek to help victims of family and domestic violence, protect people from being the subject of family and domestic violence, provide appropriate support to victims and ensure that the justice system responds in an appropriate manner. They are very important things, but as mentioned by the member for Morley in her contribution before question time, we have to change attitudes. There is the debate: "Well, what about men? They are victims of domestic family violence." Yes, they are, but the overwhelming majority of victims of family and domestic violence are female. We can play around with the definitions of what constitutes family violence or domestic violence, but in intimate relationships, there is no doubt that women are overwhelmingly the victims of violence. Often, when we enlarge it to include all family violence statistics in which men are victims, the cases often involve a father and a son, two brothers, or an uncle and a nephew and so forth, which are different relationships from an intimate relationship between two partners; that is very important to note.

Education is necessary to change attitudes. This government went to the last election promising many things in this area. We promised that we would administer specifically for the prevention of family and domestic violence because it is important to not only instigate policy in this area, but also coordinate policy across the various portfolios. We cannot act in silos. That has been the problem with past ministers who have thought of doing X and Y when the issues are interconnected across portfolios. One of the main areas to focus on is education. That is why it is important that the various arms of government that are responsible for education work together. Of course, that would involve not only the Minister for Education, but also ministers from other portfolios, such as the Minister for Women's Interests. Education might also be important with regard to how women are treated in regional areas. That policy needs to be coordinated. A legislative framework is incredibly important and something that Parliament can do; we are here to legislate, and that is fine, but as mentioned by others, including the member for Morley before question time, the key in the end is to change attitudes. We need to educate those people who engage in violence that it is just not tolerated or acceptable. The more we can do in that field, the better it will be for everyone.

In conclusion, we need to provide support services. In the minister's third reading speech, she mentioned the various services that this government has instigated since its election in 2017, which are in accordance with the policies that Labor took to the election. That is very important to note, as are the addition of two refuges—one in Mandurah and the other in Kwinana—and a new Communicare Breathing Space behavioural change centre. Where is that going up, minister?

Ms S.F. McGurk: It will be in Maylands.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That centre in Maylands is very important, because if we are seeking to prevent and reduce family and domestic violence, we need to work on the perpetrators.

In concluding my remarks, members of this house have been very supportive of an event that has been going on for five years called the Ride Against Domestic Violence. This year is its fifth anniversary and members who have been involved have included the former member for Darling Range, Tony Simpson; the members for Bateman and Dawesville; the Minister for Health; and me. We have all ridden in that event and we have had great support from the members for Vasse, Bunbury and Mandurah and the member for Fremantle, who is also the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

Ms S.F. McGurk: I came along and drank coffee.

Dr A.D. BUTI: She did indeed. The member for Perth's support has also been very important because we have been finishing at Parliament House. One year we finished in the electorate of Victoria Park, so the Treasurer, the member for Victoria Park, also supported us. During those five years, we have provided financial assistance to about seven or eight refuges and raised in excess of \$270 000, which is a good contribution. This year is the fifth anniversary and I am more than happy for members of Parliament to donate to the cause. I am sure that I will see the members for Dawesville and Mandurah there, but I have to talk to the member for Mandurah because we are not going through his electorate this time. I am sure he will be involved in one way or another. Anyone else who may wish to be involved is welcome. We are supporting a new refuge this year that I think is in the member for Belmont's electorate. I will let her know a bit more about that later.

The legislation that is before the house is fantastic. It is really heartwarming to see it receive support from both sides. We have to tackle this issue in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, which is what this bill seeks to do.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [3.37 pm]: I want to speak about the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019 as the member for Mandurah. It is important to make a contribution on this bill at the third reading stage. It is also important that we acknowledge the contributions that have been made during both the second reading and the consideration in detail stages with the interrogation, if you like, of the Attorney General. I want to acknowledge not only the member for Hillarys for his support of this bill, but also the bipartisan way in which this bill has been approached. We are all aware that family and domestic violence is an issue that has ongoing concerns within our community. I am particularly aware of the statistics on family and domestic violence in my constituency in the Peel region. I am pleased to report to the house on two key things. The first is the response by the McGowan government since coming to power in 2017 and the impact of its election commitments and the policies and programs that have been implemented and focused on. They are having and will continue to have an important impact on my community.

The McGowan government made a specific election commitment to deliver a new women's therapeutic refuge to my community. For over 30 years, Pat Thomas House, now renamed OVIS Community Services, has done a remarkable job in providing emergency responses to children and women escaping family and domestic violence in the region. Over that 30-year history there have been some remarkable people, some of whom I have got to know personally. Some have passed on, including the late Blanche Kyneur, who, for a number of years, not only was a City of Mandurah councillor with whom I served on the City of Mandurah council, but also worked at Pat Thomas House. She passed away in the early 2000s. Her contribution as a staff member and her advocacy on the serious issue of family and domestic violence was remarkable and admirable, and she left a great legacy. Over a long time, the

administrative staff of Pat Thomas House have worked diligently to ensure that they not only respond to support women, children and families impacted by family and domestic violence, but also advocate for the issue more broadly. I am very pleased that we, as a government, will deliver a second refuge. In many respects it is sad, because we do not want refuges. We want women and children to live in Western Australian communities without the threat of financial, physical and other abuses. However, the sad reality is that we need it and I am proud that we will deliver it. Very soon we will commence the construction of that new therapeutic centre. It will be based upon leading-edge approaches to addressing family and domestic violence. I am very proud that it will be delivered by a Labor government, because for over 30 years we have had only the one women's refuge in Mandurah. I look forward to the entity of the new service—Pat Thomas House, now OVIS Community Services—working collaboratively with government to make sure that we continue to always focus on women, children and other people who will need those services in the future.

I listened very intently to the member for Morley and appreciated her comments. One of the things she asked was: what are we all doing? I proudly say that people in the Peel region are doing some remarkable, leading-edge stuff, particularly in embracing community support for taking a whole-of-community approach to this appalling issue that faces Western Australian and Australian communities. Peel Says No to Violence is a strong network of organisations and individuals that is absolutely focused on working together as a community to address this serious problem. I am very pleased that all local members of Parliament are part of that. The members for Murray–Wellington, Dawesville and I are committed to and part of that network because we recognise that the only way to do deal with this is with good, strong leadership and advocacy and by continuing to talk about this issue and highlight it as one that affects many people in our communities. I am very pleased that our government, upon coming to power, appointed the state's first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. I acknowledge the member for Fremantle for the tremendous leadership she has shown in this area since being appointed minister and for delivering the government's policy on this important issue. I congratulate the minister and member for Fremantle because I cannot think of anyone better to deliver the state government's policies and objectives. I am very proud to serve in cabinet with her, as we all work toward addressing this issue.

I also put on record my acknowledgement of the new chief executive officer of OVIS, formerly known as Pat Thomas House, Ms Dawn Smith. That organisation has gone through a restructure, or repositioning, if you like, and has been renamed OVIS Community Services. I acknowledge the former executive officer, Jill Robinson. Jill had been with Pat Thomas House for a long time. I acknowledge the work Jill put in because she did a tremendous job. I also acknowledge the staff members she worked with, both present and past.

I acknowledge the important commitments the Labor government made upon coming to power in 2017, including a commitment to Allambee Counselling in Mandurah. No previous governments had committed to fund that counselling service, particularly for children affected by family and domestic violence. In the lead-up to the last election, the Labor party committed, through the member for Murray–Wellington and I, that if we were elected, we would provide more than \$1 million over four years to Allambee Counselling in Mandurah because we knew that the ongoing support for children impacted by family and domestic violence was crucial. The impact can be catastrophic and leave ongoing scars. That was an important commitment that we made and we are now delivering on it. I again thank the member for Fremantle for her understanding of why that election commitment and promise was important.

In looking forward, and in the spirit of this bill, which, of course, adds further to the government's commitment to address this insidious issue that faces communities throughout WA, I put on record my acknowledgement of the many people who have worked on it over the last 30-plus years that I have been living in Mandurah, including the work of past and present board members, staff and volunteers at Pat Thomas House, because they have done a remarkable job. I also very much look forward to the new therapeutic service that will be in operation next year. The construction will start very soon. I thank the tremendous effort and work of those who are committed to Peel Says No to Violence. In October last year, the minister addressed the Peel Says No to Violence march as the guest speaker. If members want to look at a model for how a community can respond to this issue, in the flavour of the comments of the member for Morley, I say look at Peel and what it has achieved as a community by working together with the first responders, be they medical, police or emergency services. Look at what we have been doing in Peel, because it is an excellent model that other communities might look to in order to address this issue as a whole community. It requires government resources and we now have those and we are getting more with the new service, but it is also about changing the culture and people's mindset. A number of speakers at the second reading stage, and also during the interrogation of the Attorney General during the consideration in detail stage, understood that this was a collective effort that must be sustained. I take note of the comments some members made about making sure that good men call out appalling behaviour. That is a responsibility of all men, old and young. I was very impressed when Rhys Williams, the then new Mayor of Mandurah, also addressed the Peel Says No to Violence silent march in October 2018, the year he was elected. As a young man, he talked about the importance of young men calling out behaviour that they know is wrong among people in their network. I thought that was a very powerful message because it is important that it comes from young men, and older men—all men—because it will make a clear difference in the culture that exists among some people around the state.

I am proud of what we are doing in Peel and Mandurah. I am proud of the McGowan government's commitment to this serious issue. We have already got a track record on it and we call upon the community to continue that hard work. As I said, if members want to look at a model that is working well, look at the Peel Says No to Violence model that my community has been embracing, advocating for and taking action on for a couple of years now.

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [3.49 pm]: I rise to support the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019. When I came into Parliament in 2013, I outlined in my maiden speech that I was raising 13 children. Four of those children belonged to my sister, who died at the hands of a domestic violence perpetrator, and I ended up being their carer. It has taken me a long time to understand how the law works, but as the years progressed, I stood up in Parliament again on 7 September 2016 and spoke about domestic violence and the devastating long-term effects it has on the victims, families and the wider community. These effects may not be visible immediately or in the short term, but, later on down the track, exposure to domestic violence shows. There are children who witness domestic violence on an almost daily basis and they grow up seeing this as the norm.

In the Kimberley, where I come from and where I represent the people who live there, more than 40 different languages are spoken. Sometimes we find it very hard because there is no funding to provide interpreting services that should be in place to support some of our women. For a lot of women in domestic violence relationships, English is maybe their third or their seventh language, so they are not able to access a lot of information. Over the years I have been mainly concerned and partly annoyed that even though the court system exists, it does not really support some of our women. Due to the remoteness up in the Kimberley, counselling and nurturing is not available and the cycle of domestic violence continues—it continues today. Due to fear, many children leave home when acts of domestic violence occur. That results in many young children being on the streets. They try to support themselves and that often can be the reason so many young children get involved in crime. This is how I believe the court system is failing victims, and the victims include those children.

Many women suffer domestic violence in silence. Those who speak English as a second language can be the most at risk because they are unaware of the support that is available for them. I know many victims of domestic violence throughout the Kimberley who fit into that category. It is so sad in this day and age that those support systems are not there to support our women. I am talking here about Indigenous women. I would like to make that a focus so it is clear and available. There should be an interpreting system that accommodates those women to address some of the issues that they face when they go to court. The process needs to be broken down so they understand what domestic violence is all about, what it does and how it can affect the children. I am talking here about Indigenous women.

In the Kimberley there are other women, aside from Indigenous women, who are subject to this sort of abuse. One case in particular is very disturbing and it has disturbed me for some time. I will not name her or the town in the Kimberley that she is from, but she is a lady who met her Australian husband in her home country. She came back to Australia with him and had two children. He had an affair and left her. She could not speak English and she did not have any identity—maybe that is because the man did not want to give her an identity. She was left with no money. On top of that, her husband got custody of the two children. He remarried and the two children were encouraged to call the new wife “mum”. What happened to that woman, the mother of those children? She started drinking and would get drunk and pass out on the street because she felt she had nothing left to live for. She was regularly sexually and physically abused. Later on, when her husband, who still resided in the same town, passed away, the two children left town with the new wife. This mum, their biological mother, lost all contact with them. She does not know where they moved to. She is a victim who did not know where to go for help or support.

This is a very sad case. All the time we see women coming from countries overseas and marrying Australian men, but when they are battered, they do not know where to go to ask for help or support. In the particular case I am referring to, Aboriginal women who work at the women's refuge ended up taking her in. She was not Aboriginal but they took care of her and tried to get her all the support they could. First of all, she had to be identified—she did not have any of that—to help her get an income. For some of these women, especially those who do not belong to this country, it takes a great deal of courage to leave violent relationships. It is for that reason that I say the court system has failed these women. Restraining orders are only good for those who abide by them. The repercussions for breaching them, and the restraining orders themselves, are not strong enough, but the repercussions for the person who took out the order can be tragic. Sometimes people ask, “Why can't I own the house that I live in, because at least that way I will get some support through the court system to help me and my children?” They are some of the difficult questions that people in the Kimberley ask.

One thing I would like to say is that I am proud that the Labor government has taken this stance on family and domestic violence. I am very proud of the minister who has taken on that challenge. I think there will be some laws put in place to support our women. I speak very strongly about domestic violence because a number of Indigenous women find the system of court trials very challenging and difficult. As I said before, in the Kimberley there are 40 different language groups. I could read them all out or I have a map that shows where all these places are and the different languages that are spoken. This is why we need support. We need funding to support not only Indigenous women who find it very difficult, but also women who come into the Kimberley as partners of some men who are quite brutal in their relationships, especially with the children involved. That is all I will say for now.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms S.E. Winton): Member for Kimberley, would you like to table that for the rest of today's sitting?

Ms J. FARRER: Yes, I would love to table that map, because it is a very important issue. Once again, thank you.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.58 pm]: I am pleased to make a very short contribution today as part of the third reading of the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019. I would like to touch on something that the member for Kimberley just raised around the courage to leave. It takes an enormous amount of courage for women to actually leave situations of family and domestic violence. I have met with many, many people right across my electorate, from all walks of life, who have sadly been victims of domestic violence. The courage that they show when they take these really dangerous steps to leave is absolutely remarkable.

In fact, one situation really stays with me. When I was doorknocking as a candidate in part of my electorate, a woman answered the door and she was whispering to me because her husband was asleep on the couch right near the door. She was whispering that she was terrified; she was actually shaking as she articulated to me the horrors of her daily existence. I gave her my personal mobile phone number and said, "I implore you to call me and I can find help for you." Eventually she did seek help, but it took her a long time. She came to see me once I became a member of Parliament, but it took her more than 18 months to leave, for the same reason as so many other women—she did not have the financial means to leave, and when she tried to reach out to women's refuges, there simply were no beds available. I find that absolutely heartbreaking and, on many levels, quite unforgivable. We simply need to do more for women.

What I cannot stand is the attitude that seems to persist in our community: "Why doesn't she just leave, especially when there are kids involved?" I put something different to people: "Why doesn't he just stop inflicting violence upon those whom he pretends to love?" This victim blaming that seems to permeate every element of our community is quite disgusting.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

CORONAVIRUS — REGIONAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Motion

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [4.02 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Labor McGowan government's failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services, including its response to the growing threat of COVID-19.

Apologies for the confusion; there are two very similar motions on the books, and this one in particular weaves in a more current issue in relation to COVID-19 and the government's response, but this is not an issue in terms of regional health and mental health that we have not canvassed in this place previously.

I understand that the Minister for Health is in a meeting. He has extended me the courtesy of advising me that he will be in the chamber shortly, so the first five minutes of my presentation will not go directly to the concerns that I would like to raise, because there are things I would like him to be able to respond to. I will spend a little time outlining why we have brought this motion to the house and why we think it is important to canvass more broadly, over the course of the next three hours, some of the issues that are concerning to our members in regional Western Australia.

We have a consistent and persistent team in this house and in the other place raising issues in relation to regional health. Unfortunately, we see this government failing on a number of fronts when it comes to mental health services and regional health services. One cannot help but think that the issues we raise fall on deaf ears. There are many platitudes provided in this place; the minister is always very understanding when it comes to responding in the house, but then, as time has gone on in this term of government, with Premier McGowan at the head of the Labor government, we have really started to see the wheels fall off in parts of regional Western Australia, and that is becoming very distressing.

It is inconvenient for many in this place to acknowledge that a system that is so fundamental to the state government's provision of services is failing those communities, because it really does not fit with the narrative that the government is trying to sell—that everything is going well; there are currently a few challenges, but, by and large, over the last three years, it has done a great job. That is what the Premier and the Minister for Health and others out there are peddling to the community.

I think this government has lost its way, particularly in regional health. I think it has forgotten that the government's most important job is the equitable provision of essential services to the people of Western Australia—not just regional Australia, but all the people of Western Australia. Arguably, the provision of health, education, power and water are the most important things that the government can provide, and we in regional WA know that these things determine whether a family or a business will stay and invest or pack up and leave. We consistently get feedback from community members that if the health system in their community is not up to scratch, the education system cannot provide for their children, they cannot access tertiary education or training, or they do not have a reliable power source—issues that the members for Geraldton and Moore have canvassed over the past couple

of weeks—it puts a handbrake on businesses, in particular. Residents and households are saying, “How come we are second-rate citizens in this place? How come we are not getting reliable services?” The member for Roe has consistently raised issues around the provision of water, particularly in areas of his electorate, and there are people facing real and serious concerns about their access to a very fundamental and essential service.

I think the government has lost its way because it is so focused on the one big, shiny project that it committed to at the last election—Metronet. That is being done at the peril of being able to deliver these most important services, and there cannot be anything more important than health. When you have your health, everything seems to be going well. The moment you actually do not have it, and you cannot access a doctor or the system is letting you down because you do not have access to any primary healthcare or emergency facilities or services, things start to get very serious for you and your family. That has a flow-on economic impact.

The previous Liberal–National government never lost sight of that. We never lost sight of the fact that we needed to look after health, education, power and water. Our government, over eight years, made significant investments in those things. Members have heard me speak previously about the investment we made in health, in both metropolitan and regional areas. When people go to the openings of some of the health facilities we have now, or any public forum where they are talking about health investment as the tail end of the investment that we made as a government, WA Country Health Service will openly acknowledge that the investment that the previous government made was the biggest in the state’s history. Staff from the country health service look a little harried and under pressure, because it has been a big program of works for them to deliver. I make absolutely no apology for that. We knew, when we embarked on the program of investment right across the state, from the Kimberley down to Albany, right through the goldfields and into the wheatbelt, that we were doing something unprecedented. We knew that it would at least lift those services to a base on which we could build to make sure that people felt valued in their communities, and understood that the government paid attention.

We invested significantly in health and education. We invested significantly in power infrastructure, poles and wires, right across the south west interconnected system. There was unprecedented investment in poles and wires because when we came to government, they had been left to rot—poles were literally hanging on the wires. That was an extraordinary investment on our behalf, but do not forget we also did it in the north west, where we invested in underground power in communities that are prone to cyclonic conditions, which meant that when we did have cyclones, as we recently have, those communities did not lose power and their businesses could ramp back up. Everything was back on track far faster than before, and that cost money, but it was a priority and an essential service that we invested in.

Dr D.J. Honey: Something we were consistently criticised for.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Absolutely, consistently criticised for the investment that was made and the return on investment, but I can tell members that when they go up there now and talk to the communities, although there have been devastating results from those cyclones and there is lots of debris and rubbish, they can imagine what would have happened if they had still had power above ground, with all that flying around after the most recent cyclones. We never lost sight of that. I think this government has lost sight of doing that because it is bewitched by this Metronet project, which it needs to be able to show it has delivered before March 2021.

In education, I think the record of this government is well known and understood. It came to government and made a series of very cruel cuts, particularly in regional areas, not all of which have been rectified, but most of which were rectified by the federal government. We still see some issues with the provision of education right across regional WA. The government has been forced to back down, and, again, it has let people down on essential service provision.

In health, this government had such a good base to start from with investment right through the wheatbelt and in our hospitals in the north west, the goldfields and the great southern. We made a significant change to the way health services were delivered across the state. But as I said, after the last three years, we are now at a point at which numerous complaints and concerns are being raised by people that have not been put on the agenda or are being left out. They feel like they do not matter.

In contrast to the previous government’s significant investment in regional health, we now have a government that is having to deal with a crisis—through no fault of its own. I am not pretending that anyone could have foreseen that we were going to be dealing with COVID-19. But that is going to add another layer of pressure, and, certainly, the complexities for delivering and managing that through the health system in regional Western Australia has started to be canvassed in this place. It is entirely appropriate for the opposition and the Nationals WA to raise concerns in this place. This is the place where we can ask questions, where ministers are on the record and where clarity can be sought about information that is being provided from multiple sources. I do not think that there is anything wrong with us asking questions and raising concerns about the way this government is dealing with coronavirus and how we respond to it.

We all acknowledge that we must be reasonable and measured in our response, and we all acknowledge that it will require resources, it will stretch staff and it will stretch our system. But I do not, for one minute, support the outrage

about or the insinuation that has been part of question time and the debates that we have had already in the last day and a half that we are not permitted to ask those questions. Members opposite have very short memories and are quite hypocritical. We dealt with some very sensitive debates in the last term of government, and there was no hesitation from those on the benches on that side at that point to fully politicise and make the most of those opportunities when they had them. I do not think any of the questions we have asked have been unreasonable, and I think that we do need to have that clarity, and this is a good place to have that aired.

In terms of this debate, I do not want that emergency response to eclipse the health issues that we still have running in regional Western Australia. We do not want that to be left on the backburner or to become an excuse for not dealing with some of those concerns. We will not be brushing them under the carpet, because, although we are preparing to deal with the coronavirus, we are also dealing with some really serious issues in our communities that we have been raising for some time. Therefore, there will be no leave pass on that front. This government needs to get back to delivering those essential services. It needs to put aside some of its shiny election commitments to make sure that those essential services are delivered. That is what every good state government should be doing at this point—being in lock step with the federal government and making sure that it is delivering those essential services.

The Premier's commentary in this place has been around being confident and positive and inciting our Australian ability and resilience to respond to a crisis in times of war. Things like that are all very nice, but it is not a plan, and we should not be criticised for critically analysing some of the statements. Having looked at the "Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan", I am also none the wiser as to some of the questions we have raised about how things are actually going to roll out. From the public's perspective, I am not sure whether that answers the questions people raise with me as a member of Parliament.

The level of preparedness, particularly in regional Western Australia, concerns us. Having read over that plan, I am still not clear on how we are going to deal with this issue, particularly in regional Western Australia. I would like the minister to expand on his commentary from yesterday about the discussions he has been having with St John Ambulance WA. I am seriously concerned that we are reliant on volunteers, who, whilst they are under the umbrella of St John—I know that Michelle Fyfe has been in the media saying that they are standing ready and willing to step in—will also be impacted. At that level, when volunteers are interacting with people to provide emergency functions and non-urgent functions in our regions, what happens if those volunteers are stretched to the limit or they are not available because they have had to self-isolate? Evidently, we are going to see a ramp-up in numbers, which will spread right across our regions. I cannot imagine that our volunteer workforce is not going to be impacted by that. We would like to see that addressed more fully. I concede that we raised this issue in question time yesterday, and that perhaps that was not the forum for the minister to deliver a long-winded answer. We appreciate that, but today we have that opportunity for a response.

We have seen in the media the announcement that 29 regional collection centres will be available for COVID-19 testing. That is quite a comprehensive list from a regional perspective. The centres are already in existence and no new ones are included. But the kicker for me is that the statement reads —

Patients in regional Western Australia with a GP referral can attend one of the 29 collection centres that are testing for COVID-19.

...

Attendees at the collection centres must have a GP referral.

I have some concerns, because that assumes that people have access to a GP. One of the things that we have been doing is assessing the lack of GPs in our communities. Over the course of the last couple of months of 2019, we surveyed all our local governments in regional Western Australia, and we had a very good response rate. There are communities that do not have medical centres or nursing posts. There is a lack of doctors. Some communities have had no doctor for a considerable amount of time. If people do not have access to a doctor, or they do have a doctor but they cannot get access to them because they are in a place like Exmouth or anywhere else in regional WA where the waitlist is two to three weeks sometimes, what will that mean in terms of being able to be dealt with in a timely fashion?

I will go through some of those findings. Statewide, seven out of the 75 respondents said that they had been without a GP for more than a year. I will not go into the costs; I have raised the costs of attracting and retaining doctors in people's communities in other debates. This is about where we see a real challenge region by region. Out of the 63 local governments in the Agricultural Region, six respondents did not have a GP when they completed the survey. Five of those respondents have been without a GP for more than a year. One respondent stated that they had been without a GP for less than six months. The south west region is a very attractive place to live and work, so we are doing pretty well down in the south west—there was no surprise there. In the mining and pastoral region, out of the 27 local governments contacted, there were 15 responses. Two respondents did not have a GP or had been without a GP for more than a year. One of the issues raised in correspondence prior to the survey was doctor availability, because most areas are covered by a local GP or fly in, fly out clinics, which makes it difficult for patients to see their GP in a timely manner. I presume that timeliness in relation to coronavirus testing is something that is critically important.

I welcome the fact that we have PathWest facilities and that the minister has identified places that are in existence already in regional areas, but we all know that there are many smaller communities where people are unable to access public transport or do not have transport of their own. How are they planning for that? How do we plan to transport them if they present with those symptoms? That is a concern, because we will come back to relying on St John Ambulance for non-urgent patient transfers, which I presume will be called into play if required. Those statistics alone really create some challenges. In going from there to not having a doctor at all, distance and access issues become the next problem. Out of 91 local governments, 21 respondents advised that they had no medical centre at all. Therefore, there is nowhere for those people to present in their local community. Out of those respondents, 16 had very limited hours, including the Shire of Cue, which had a doctor visiting only once a fortnight, and 42 shires said they had a nursing post and that those nurses worked part-time in their communities, with some areas having only one day of coverage a week. In the Shire of Coorow, a doctor visits for 0.5 days a week. In the Shire of Wandering, in my electorate, 120 kilometres south east of Perth, there is absolutely no health service at all. There are some challenges in how we can make these services more accessible. This is not a new argument. We talked about this when we talked about palliative care services and voluntary assisted dying. It is a perennial issue for regional health services. It becomes more and more difficult the further people get out from Perth, particularly into the north of our state and the goldfields, and in remote communities. I am not sure that we have had any great clarity about how that will work.

I would like to put on the record one of the things that the Nationals have talked about in advance of the next state election. That is the creation of a rural health commissioner. That would be modelled on the National Rural Health Commissioner. It would also be based on the process under which the Commissioner for Children and Young People operates. The commissioner would report directly to the Parliament; provide an independent analysis of the provision of services; work with all stakeholders across the state, and with federal jurisdictions, in which there are complex interactions; provide an independent examination of legislation and administration; and provide a place for people to talk about population and public health policy development outside of government. The Nationals believe that is critically important. It would add to the health portfolio, which is a complex and difficult area in which to work. From a federal perspective, from all accounts it has certainly been beneficial.

I remain concerned that we do not have infrastructural resilience in our regional health services. We are not keeping an eye on people who are already disadvantaged in the lack of medical services by distance and by limited transport options. If the minister were able to provide assurance and greater detail about these matters, that would assist the community to better understand and to heed the warnings that are coming from the government not to panic in this situation. The provision of clear information about how that will work in our communities will go a long way towards allaying some of their fears.

Before my colleagues speak about the issues in their own electorates, I want to briefly turn to an issue that is of concern to me in the Central Wheatbelt. That is mental health services and suicide pre and postvention services in the region. This issue is serious. I do not want to exaggerate the situation. However, over the last few months, people working in both the government and non-government sector have reached out to me. They are at breaking point. I do not want to reveal or break any confidences. The people who have contacted me, particularly from within government, have done that because they know me from their local community. They have done that only as a last resort, because they are feeling very exposed and very concerned about the welfare of their colleagues. In December 2019, we asked a question in the upper house of this Parliament to ascertain the staffing levels in and around leave, service levels, and some of the challenges that are facing the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service. I have to say that it is most telling that between 2017 and 2018, 1 548 patients accessed the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service. In 2018–19, that number increased to 1 952. That is an increase of 400 patients in one year. Sadly, since Christmas, six people in the region have completed suicide. The majority of those suicides have been in two very close locations. I recall a similar situation some years ago in Narrogin. It is devastating, no matter where it happens, for the families, the communities, the first responders and all those who are touched. Obviously the people involved in managing those situations are predominantly in the mental health services in the region and the non-government organisations that provide wraparound services for the families and the community.

Anecdotally, I am told that the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service is the most under-funded of the services provided by the Western Australian Country Health Service. I am told also that currently, almost half of the Aboriginal mental health team is on stress leave, and the other half is on leave. I am told more broadly that a number of staff have resigned due to stress, or are on stress leave. To quote one staff member, they are coping, but it is far from ideal. Minister, internally there is a belief that the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service team is considered to be a psychological risk and the workplace is not safe. That is not a good space for that service to be in when it is supposed to be providing critical support to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

I also point to the challenges and significant pressure being faced by the not-for-profit organisations in the sector, particularly in the provision of mental health support, respite, and suicide bereavement. The wheatbelt has a community organisation called Share and Care. People who have been in the wheatbelt over the last 20 years would know the CEO, Carol Jones. Carol is synonymous with the provision of community services delivery for people who are at their most vulnerable. Share and Care is the first port of call for many facing challenging circumstances

in their lives, whether it is financial counselling; refuge from domestic violence; child support and refuge; emergency relief, either food or financial; home care and support for the aged; or mental health support. Share and Care is a mainstay in our community. Carol is a wonderful individual. She has a fantastic board and executive team, and a very dedicated workforce and volunteers. I have to say my office would be absolutely lost without Share and Care. Whenever people who fall into those categories come into my office, we have no hesitation in referring them to that service.

I want to give members some sobering statistics from Share and Care's 2018–19 annual report. It had 2 953 client contacts for its mental health support service, 4 842 client contacts for its mental health mobile respite service, and 226 client contacts for its suicide bereavement service. The suicide bereavement service, which is a postvention service to support families and communities to recover after a suicide, is wholly funded by Share and Care. It has been trying—without luck—to attract funding from the Mental Health Commission, the WA Country Health Service and the federal government. It has been unable to source what I think would be an insignificant amount of funding out of the total health budget. It provides an important service in our community. It was instrumental in assisting in the recovery after the cluster of suicides in Narrogin. It provides services to the families and others who have been impacted, for as long as they are needed, and in some cases for years, because, as we know, completion of suicide is often repeated in families. The people impacted are often people with multi-generational disadvantage and other complex needs. This is an organisation that I trust and feel most confident is able to deliver those services.

Mr R.H. Cook: What is the name of the organisation?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Share and Care. It has written to all and sundry to try to access funding. I urge the minister to consider that. I would love to see that in this year's budget. It would make an enormous difference for not only Share and Care, but also the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service if they were well resourced and could work together. It would certainly result in a much better outcome and help reduce some of the horrifying statistics that we have seen in both the government's numbers and through their own contacts. Those organisations are at crisis point. As I have said, I do not want to exaggerate it, but it takes a lot for people to raise these issues with their local member, especially when they are fearful that it will have ramifications for their jobs. They are passionate about making sure that they can provide support for vulnerable people when they most need it. On behalf of the staff and providers who make up this important service in the wheatbelt, and who are doing the very best that they can, I ask that the minister please intervene and provide some support and feedback from the minister's office and the department, and hopefully even some additional resources.

With that, I will leave it to the remainder of my team to talk through some of the other issues across regional Western Australia that we are dealing with. As I have said, although we acknowledge that the coronavirus is putting added pressure on our entire government, not just at the state level but also at the federal level, we do not want some of these significant issues swept aside or put on the backburner. It is the state government's responsibility to deliver essential services. Health is undoubtedly one of those. We do not want to drop the ball and let down people in regional Western Australia. One of the first things that people report back to us when they are making decisions about whether to leave their community is that they do not trust the health system and cannot get the access that they need and deserve. We want to make sure that cannot be used as an argument for people to leave regional Western Australia. Many things can be done to keep people in our regional communities. However, if we do not get the basics right and build on the wonderful investment that we made when we were in government throughout the state, we will let down the people of regional Western Australia.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [4.30 pm]: I back up the Leader of the Nationals WA's motion that this house condemns the McGowan Labor government's failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services, including its response to the growing threat of COVID-19. I will speak about COVID-19 very shortly, but I want to say to the minister and those opposite that this government often says it is the regional party and that it has the most regional members. It is quite bizarre that we have to keep talking about the shortfalls in regional health, regional education and the like. I have been reminded very often about those regional members. I hope some of them survive the next election, but I fear that there will be a few casualties.

Regardless of that, I want to continue the point the member for Central Wheatbelt made about the fantastic investment of royalties for regions money in health projects. Over the last two or three years I have trailed along behind Hon Darren West as he has opened the Williams Health Centre, Narrogin Hospital, Katanning Hospital and many others. To his credit, he generally acknowledges me and sometimes gives me the opportunity to speak about the value of those infrastructure investments, which have been a great bonus to our communities. It is up to the minister to follow on from that infrastructure investment and put the right people in place to back it up. That is something I would like the minister to think about.

I will briefly speak about the coronavirus in our regional areas. I agree to some extent with what the minister and the Premier have been saying in the last couple of days—that we need to keep a level head about these things and progress in a methodical way without creating any sort of panic. However, I want to quote the head of the Australian Medical Association, Andrew Miller. Yesterday, about the specialist coronavirus testing clinics being

set up in Perth but not in the regions, he said that the message is to not panic, but be prepared, and that he is sure that people in the regions are used to that because they are used to things that they have to plan for because no-one is going to come and bail them out. I think that pretty much sums up what we quite often face in the regions. We have to look after ourselves and do that little bit extra. I am looking forward to the minister clarifying a few things for me about testing in the regions, such as telehealth. I saw a mention of that in the pandemic plan today. I would like to hear how he visualises that working. Talking about the likes of Albany in the great southern, my parents live down there and I was talking to them this morning. They are around 83 years of age and I worry for them. They are probably going to have to be quarantined on their own for the next six months the way it is going. Part of the reason is the cruise ships that are coming in. I want to know what the minister's plan is for cruise ships. There are articles saying that it is fantastic that Esperance and Albany are getting more cruise ships. The reason for that is that Singapore and other Asian countries do not want to accept them. The worry for me is the minister's plan when 20 people walk off the ship at Albany. Will they be tested? If they are, where will they go? Will they go to Albany Hospital or back onto the ship? What are the minister's plans? What are the minister's plans for my parents and the many others at St Ives Albany Retirement Village or many of the other aged-care villages in Albany?

Ms M.J. Davies: And Geraldton.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. Geraldton as well. I think I saw something about that today. That will be interesting. Our smaller regional clinics are a real concern. What are the plans for telehealth and Skype? Some towns just have a small clinic with no hospital. What will the recommendations be there? Yesterday I heard from one of my constituents who lives in a small town. She is on welfare and is struggling for income. She can get into the larger regional town only once a fortnight and is struggling to get a lot of the supplies that we all know are running out. People like that are calling our electorate office and our electorate office has had to go above and beyond the call of normal duty and help her out with a few supplies. Those are examples of what is happening out there that really concern me.

Putting that aside, I would like to go on to the issue of mental health, which the member for Central Wheatbelt talked about. The statistics are really concerning. An extra 400 people in the wheatbelt region have registered as mental health patients, which is nearly a 20 per cent increase. That really worries me. Exactly the same thing is happening in my electorate of Roe. A lot of issues are coming from our doctors and our mental health practitioners—where we have them. That is something that I want to point out. Our mental health practitioners are available at irregular intervals and the staff turnover is very high. I would love to see the minister really focus on that. I have heard of the potential closure of the mental health unit at Narrogin Hospital, which I think is a massive backwards step in regional mental health treatment. Last Saturday at the Wagin Woolorama, one of my constituents spoke to me. She is a mother whose son has issues, and they are struggling to find anyone who he can see. They have gone to Albany, but they live 250-odd kilometres away from Albany, so that is pretty difficult. I think a psychologist is in Katanning about once a month. There is absolutely no continuity. The Anglicare counsellor has to cover an area from Narrogin through to Ravensthorpe, which is about 400 or 500 kilometres. As far as I am concerned, that is not acceptable. Another example is a friend who was committed to the Katanning Hospital emergency department because there was no mental health unit or support for her during a mental health breakdown. She was unable to care for herself or her children and ended up having to be admitted to hospital. The problem is that people cannot always go to Albany if they are 200 or 300 kilometres away. If they go there and see a person once, but cannot go back for another month, that is not acceptable. Another thing I would like to point out is, as the minister knows, a lot of mental health issues originate from meth usage and other drugs. I have been talking to my wife about this. It is quite interesting that if parents have a child who is a meth addict, they will want them to end up in prison, because they will have access to rehabilitation in prison and the corrective services. They get free rehabilitation; whereas if they are outside that system, it can cost up to \$14 000 a fortnight or they have to be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for subsidised centres. I think it is a bit of a sad indictment on our society that parents want their children to go to prison to rectify the situation when a structure should be set up. That is certainly a real problem with our society and what is happening in the regions.

Another example is the number of times ambulances, which would normally attend Narrogin Hospital, are turned away because there is no emergency department mental health person on roster. My concern is with what will happen when the Northam Health Service shuts for renovations. I believe mental health patients were meant to go to Narrogin or Perth. It would be interesting if the minister could enlighten us on what will happen there.

Further to the mental health services, I would like to point out that the WA Country Health Service has a large part to play. In some examples I have seen, WACHS has said that both the difficulty of accessing the support needed for mental illnesses and the greater visibility and stigma of these issues in rural areas are challenges for our rural Australians. I certainly agree with that scenario and that is why WACHS needs to address the issues. The member for Central Wheatbelt pointed out that there are 400 extra mental health patients in the wheatbelt and an unfortunate number of suicides. The Mental Health Commission pointed out nine action areas in its document "Mental Health 2020: Making It Personal and Everybody's Business: Reforming Western Australia's Mental Health System", being good planning, services working together, a good home, getting help early, specific populations, justice, preventing suicide, maintaining a sustainable workforce and a high quality system. They are the areas the Mental Health

Commission is focussing on. It also said that services will be increased in regional and remote areas and it is looking for specific improvements for people in remote and regional WA. I am looking forward to the minister telling us what are those service increases and what we have to look forward to in regional WA.

Finally, I would like to go back to *Hansard* of 7 August 2019, when I spoke about the infrastructure that the Liberal–National government put in place in conjunction with the WA Country Health Service and the Southern Inland Health Initiative, on which \$565 million was spent. I quoted the minister from 2010 when he said, “Let’s put the right people in the right places.” The *Hansard* of 7 August 2019 states that the health minister said —

The issues of depression, psychosis and anxiety are pretty critical in both the metropolitan area and in regional WA. It is an important issue. Although we have focused on physical diseases in the main in this debate so far, I do not think we should stray away from the fact that those conditions have a serious impact in both regional Western Australia and the metropolitan area.

I am very keen to know what the minister will do in that respect. As I said, mental health is a real issue in our regions, and we are certainly very concerned. The closure of these mental health units and obviously the Northam hospital renovations will create quite a difficulty throughout the central wheatbelt–Northam–great southern area. Let us hope some solutions will come forth from the minister.

I would like to now point out a few other things that have been happening in the electorate of Roe. I refer to the closure of the paediatric diabetes clinic in Esperance, which has been established for many years for children with diabetes. It was established following community fundraising and support from the then local GP. This service involves a specialist multidisciplinary team from Perth Children’s Hospital flying to Esperance four times a year to review children with diabetes and their families. A visiting doctor also reviews children who require medical review for other endocrine issues. The clinics are held at the Esperance Hospital. Over 2019, the numbers reduced. Unfortunately, it was decided that this service should be discontinued, and the last clinic was held on 14 February. Now families are being offered appointments at Perth Children’s Hospital, but that clinic was very important to the people of Esperance. I doubt those people will travel 700 kilometres from Esperance to Perth Children’s Hospital. They are not the sort of families that have that mobility, and it is not that easy for them. I worry that now the health of their children will suffer because they do not have the transport mobility or the finances to get to Perth to access that service.

I would like to point out a couple of other things in the last few minutes I have, such as the oncology unit at Narrogin Hospital, which Hon Darren West opened on 19 October last year. It is certainly something that I am looking forward to. I have been kept informed about it by one of the minister’s staff, who is very good at communicating about the oncology unit, but it has been closed for some time now and I am looking forward to hearing what is going on there. The dialysis service in Narrogin is another one and the Katanning maternity wing remains unopened. As we know, we cannot attract an obstetrician or an anaesthetist to Katanning. It would be a real feather in the minister’s cap if he could somehow come forth with an obstetrician and anaesthetic help there. The community of Katanning is very much looking forward to the minister coming up with the commitment that he made in opposition.

Mr R.H. Cook: I’ll channel Kim Hames!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is it. The minister is certainly well aware of it. He knows we have a very multicultural community in Katanning, who are not always able to travel those distances. Upward of a dozen or so births occur in Katanning. That would be a fantastic result. I would be more than happy for the minister to take credit for it. That would not be a problem with me whatsoever. As the minister knows, we have often talked about Katanning Hospital. On a positive note, in the last few months I have noticed a decrease in the number of complaints by people on social media and the like. I want to give credit to the minister, the likes of Geraldine Ennis and the staff at the hospital. Provision of more doctors has helped out there. I spoke to a couple of doctors at the Woolorama on the weekend as they walked pass the Nationals’ stand and they said things had really settled down due to having a couple of locals on the weekend emergency roster and others coming in from elsewhere.

That is probably a short summary of some of the issues in my electorate. I am certainly very worried about mental health and about the paediatric diabetes clinic closure in Esperance. However, I think the focus for me is that the previous Liberal–National government certainly put the infrastructure in place and now it is time for the minister to focus on getting the right people in place, especially for mental health.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [4.49 pm]: I will also make some comments on the motion moved by the Leader of the National Party —

That this house condemns the Labor McGowan government’s failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services, including its response to the growing threats of COVID-19.

Like a number of my colleagues, the issues that we raise do not change a lot because the same issues are out there. As the Leader of the Nationals WA mentioned, when we were in government significant investments were made in regional Western Australia as far as health goes. I always choke a little bit when the banter about Peel Health Campus goes on between the Minister for Health and the member for Dawesville. The minister talks about the lack

of investment by the previous government and I then rattle off all the investments that we made on those hospitals that the minister is now opening. I find it a little hard to take some of those challenges when a significant amount of work was done on not only the bricks and mortar of those facilities, but also the services that are provided.

I have had some conversations with people from the Shire of Boyup Brook, which essentially spends a significant amount of funds on a doctor and their facilities. I make the point that during the Southern Inland Health Initiative, significant investments were made to get those services into the regions. That subsidy has dropped away substantially and, with that, the doctors go back to where they came from. The fear is that as those resources roll back so too will the services that those communities greatly need. A big focus of what I want to talk about is the mental health space. I am getting increasing demands and commentary in this space. It is not an issue that I have been strong on historically, but I have made an effort to engage in it and appreciate that these things that exist, often unseen and behind the scenes, have a substantial impact, and I refer to a conversation that I had with the Minister for Child Protection last night. They are issues that go right to the heart and are very challenging. When we were in government these things were a challenge. Nevertheless, we have to do what we can to deliver the services to help people wherever they might be.

It is interesting to read about some of the high-level statistics in the mental health space. Across our nation, eight Australians a day take their life; that is one person every three hours. As I read it, males are three times more likely to take their life, particularly those from country towns. The regions are a hotspot. I understand that figure is higher than the national road toll—significant indeed. One in five Australians in the 16 to 85-year-old bracket experience some form of mental illness in any year; that is 3.2 million people—again, not insignificant. Tragically, one-third of all suicides are from the age bracket of 15 to 24 years. I touch on the point here that the hotspots are in the youth space, the male space and the regional space. That is the entry point into one of the issues I want to raise today in my contribution. The figures that I have just talked about do not include attempted suicides. Once we roll the number for attempted suicide into that space, the figures get significant and scary indeed.

Before I get on to my agenda, I recently heard of a statistic. On the long weekend, we had some friends down in Denmark. A couple from Denmark, John and Katherine Shapland, have what is essentially a memorabilia museum from the various wars. I would encourage the Minister for Defence Issues to have a look at it one day. Although it took a while to get me there because I wondered what I was going to see, I thought it was absolutely outstanding. I was blown away.

Mr R.H. Cook: You wanted to be convinced.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I did, and like many others I took some friends there. They had to be convinced as well but when they left they said it had blown them away. It is a little private collection in Denmark that can be visited by ringing up the owners; they do not take busloads of visitors. It is very impressive. Katherine told me of one statistic. During the Afghanistan war, 42 or 43 soldiers from the Australian contingent were killed. Since the soldiers have returned home, 500 have committed suicide. That statistic blew me away. That involved a special set of circumstances that we will probably never quite understand, but it highlights the level of depression, anxiety and mental illness that sits in our community and plays out very hard.

This Sunday, I have the chance to launch and open the Black Dog Ride. A mob from Denmark do it every year. All the bikes come out in their colours and they have a fantastic time riding around parts of the south coast. It is a very small but important local effort to raise funds, much of which goes into training others in the community on the early identification of mental health issues and how to pass on those skills to make sure that we have some level of cover for those who might be doing it a little tough.

Education and early intervention is really important in the mental health space. I want touch on something that the minister knows about: the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program. It addresses those aspects of mental illness in terms of youth, regions and males. It is a program that the previous government funded and supported into the last election campaign for the Peel region. As I understand it, the Peel region is funded from 2018 to 2020 by the Mental Health Commission. It was a commitment going into the 2017 election and one that has been shown to have good effect and will probably go on to be supported by certainly the local members down there. On the back of that, a general practitioner down south has also piloted a 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program in the Warren-Blackwood region. It has been massively supported by schools, local governments, community members and doctors, to the point that the Shire of Manjimup has put in, I think, \$20 000 towards the program. It has seen the importance of the program. The Shire of Nannup is putting in \$5 000. I have received second-hand information that a couple of schools are putting in resources. They are all putting in resources because the program effectively would have finished at the end of the last calendar year.

I had hoped that the minister, on the back of a grievance and my engagement with him, might have considered some sort of bridging funding for a period to maintain capacity, particularly in that period until the necessary reviews are undertaken to inform the resourcing decision. That would have been a good thing to do but unfortunately it was not to be. I make the point that on the back of those services being retracted, significant investments have been made by the people who should not be making investments in that space. We should not expect our shires to

be kicking into a youth mental health support program. We should not expect our schools to be kicking into a 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program. That is the challenge. The service is still happening, albeit not to the levels it once was. I still have a lot of commentary coming from doctors in the region and letters of support from doctors and schools in the area. I have letters of support from practitioners who are working in that space. They see the value of what was in place down there because it effectively covered a gap in the market. This service fills a gap in the market, it is targeted and it covers and supports a whole range of groups for a relatively modest amount.

The proposed budget for the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program in the Warren–Blackwood region, which was put to government, is about \$137 000 to \$141 000 a year. It is not a significant amount of resource, yet the touchpoints for 2017 were substantial. The pilot project conducted in 2017 involved 127 year 10 students who attended tier 1 of the program. Of those students, 17 per cent were concerned about their mental health, 89 per cent felt they had a better understanding of mental health issues after the presentation and seven per cent reached out for help on the day. Tier 1 is wellbeing and awareness in the schools, with a local ambassador taking up an awareness-type approach. Tier 2 stepped that up. In the 2017 trial, 77 students participated in the tier 2 workshops, of which 69 per cent learnt new information about mental illness from the workshops, 88 per cent reported gaining knowledge of the tools to help with emotional distress, and 71 per cent reported feeling better able to cope with stress and anxiety after the workshops. Tier 3 is about moving to intervention and direct support services and involved 67 young people being referred to their GP for individual services. Of those, 287 face-to-face appointments were booked with a psychologist and 100 per cent of participants had goal-based mental health treatment plans. For a relatively modest investment of \$137 000, its touchpoints go substantially into the community, but particularly into the community where it is needed.

Early intervention gives people an understanding of the challenges of mental health and gives them choices so that when they move into later stages of their lives, particularly in the workplace, they will be armed with the tools that they need to deal with the risks they face. Isolation is a big thing in regional areas, and youth isolation is dialled up in that space. I cannot advocate enough for this program. Often people come to us from a particular group or they have a particular interest, but this information is coming from a wide variety of sources, including from schools, shires, practitioners and people who are impacted by mental illness right across the board in the Warren–Blackwood region in my electorate, particularly the west part. I strongly encourage the government to support that program. The government knows all too well what is happening in the Peel region. The Peel region is a hot spot. When I was a minister, it had a high level of unemployment and there were ensuing risks from that.

I mentioned at the beginning that a lot of schools and private citizens have come to me with very tragic situations that we try to lend support to as local members. The Margaret River tragedy of not long ago is still playing out with people impacted by that trauma. Again, although it is hard to measure and see, it is there nevertheless. Having appropriate responses, go-to points and a level of awareness among the community helps communities through those challenging times. The member for Roe—it might have been the Leader of the Nationals WA—mentioned that all these things are happening and that it seems to be elevated now. Schools are talking about people pulling knives on people, meth issues are playing out and, as the member for Roe said, people prefer their kids to be in jail because that is the safest place for them. It seems to be dialling up. I think that is generally reflecting the economy, or where the economy has been. When the economy is better, everyone is working and engaged and we do not seem to have those sorts of issues. However, as the economy comes off the boil, a lot of those social issues and the problems that come with it surface and therefore pressure is brought to bear on the services required to manage it. The regional areas are the areas that we in the Nationals are passionate about. We want to see, if not direct services, some innovative ideas brought to the table about how we might meet those challenges. Telehealth services was one of the strategies we introduced in our term and that has been supported by this government.

Another issue I will talk about is the Mt Barker hospital. Pleasingly, the minister looked at Plantagenet Hospital and in his commentary to the people when he was there, recognised that it was in significant need of an upgrade.

Mr R.H. Cook: It's a nice little fixer-upper.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: a nice number coming through the budget would be really good, minister.

Dr D.J. Honey: It hasn't been upgraded since I was born there!

Mr R.H. Cook: It's not that old!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: So it has not been upgraded for a long time, minister!

It is not very far from Albany—just half an hour—but it services Frankland River, Cranbrook and other communities to the north. It deals with road trauma and its operating footprint makes a play in a number of areas.

On the day the minister visited, I did not get a chance to express well enough the history of Mt Barker hospital and where the funding for its facilities has come from. It has had a massive injection of support from the local community. I will just go through a few of these. The hospital's west wing comprises Banksia Lodge for permanent-care residents; Langton, which is specifically for dementia residents; and the hospice. Alongside the west wing is Overton for permanent residents not requiring high care. Overton was opened in 1996 as a residential

aged-care facility, replacing Redman House—that was a great-uncle of mine on my father’s side who left a significant amount of money to the community—and accommodates 15 frail-aged residents at a cost of \$1.65 million. Langton opened in 2005 as an eight-bed dementia-specific unit at a cost of \$1.4 million. Langton and Overton were driven and funded by Plantagenet Village Homes utilising its own funds and grants and was handed over to WA Country Health Service only after the implementation of the multipurpose service model. It is a significant investment from the local community to get the facilities they want in the community. On the back of that, it deserves attention now when some upgrades are needed. The original hospice housed in the existing building was driven and part-funded by the community hospice committee. The building was demolished to make way for Langton and a new hospice was incorporated into the building works. The sunlounge attached to Banksia and Langton was driven and funded by Mount Barker Lions Club. Again, the key point is that Mt Barker’s hospital has benefited greatly from community input and funding and has a lot of support from the community. Given its local backing, I therefore argue that it should be supported in the coming state budget. Although a lot of health and mental health issues come across my electorate, the key issues are the mental health issue in the Warren–Blackwood region, targeting youth and schools, and providing early intervention, which is often a difficult investment to make but is critical to those long-term issues. The Productivity Commission report talks about mental health costing the community \$500 million a day across our nation. I hope that the Mt Barker hospital fits into the state budget and funding is provided in addition to the significant investments that we made. Investment into that sector makes a big difference to people who live in regional Western Australia. It is something that they deserve and that is their right.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [5.07 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to join my friends in the Nationals WA, on behalf of the Liberal Party, to condemn the McGowan government’s failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services. Important contributions have been made thus far by the Leader of the National Party and the members for Roe and Warren–Blackwood. I recently realised that the member for Warren–Blackwood and I share a number of community services that service the Peel region that touch, I suspect, the northern part of the member’s district. The member has spoken at length in this place, and raised with the Minister for Health the issue of GP Down South. That organisation services not only the member’s district, but also my district of Mandurah and Murray–Wellington, all the way down. Recently I had the opportunity when the Parliamentary Liberal Party was enjoying the sights and sounds of Bunbury during our parliamentary summer conference, to meet with GP Down South, which raised some very important issues with us. At the moment, GP Down South has heard nothing from the member for Bunbury. As is his wont in this place, he continues to be mute on regional health investment by this government, or the lack thereof. I find that fascinating because Bunbury hospital needs an advocate who can stand up in this chamber and fight for that community. Unfortunately, that is not happening.

Mr D.T. Punch interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I look forward to it. The member talks a lot but he does not do much else. I look forward to seeing some action from him at some point in time but the reality is that the real investment in Bunbury comes from the Liberal–National government. That is the only way anyone will see any investment in Bunbury. It is one of those hospitals that is in desperate need. The member for Bunbury probably will not realise this because he has disengaged from his community, but, unfortunately, emergency access targets at Bunbury hospital have continued to deteriorate while he has been in office. I find that very, very disappointing. According to the most recently published Department of Health statistics, the “Western Australia Emergency Access Target Performance Monthly Report”, the Bunbury hospital continues, unfortunately, to deteriorate and there is a blowout of cases in the four-hour rule. Of course, that is a concern. I imagine the good people of Bunbury, who continue to see large numbers of people attending the emergency department, would hope to have a hospital that is well-resourced to respond accordingly to the needs of that community. But, of course, what we have seen from this government is that it has continued to gut health investment in Western Australia, and, unfortunately, that is acute in regional Western Australia.

I had the good fortune while serving as the Parliamentary Liberal Party’s spokesperson for health to visit a number of regional sites in 2019: Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany, in particular. I have to say that the theme running through that more recently is that the government has failed to invest in regional communities, especially in health and mental health. The contributions by our friends in the National Party have reflected the concerns across the community; that is, they know that there simply has not been enough investment by this government. That stands in stark contrast to what occurred under the previous Liberal–National government. There was not a hospital or health clinic that did not have some sense of investment at the very least, the vast majority by far. We have had significant investments in the regions in the Albany Health Campus, Busselton Health Campus, Kalgoorlie Health Campus, Esperance Hospital, Laverton Hospital, Exmouth Multipurpose Service, a number of Aboriginal health clinics, the North West Health Initiative, a \$41 million investment in the Onslow Hospital, the Southern Inland Health Initiative and a significant amount of money invested in the eastern goldfields for dialysis services and in the wheatbelt. There was a real sense that the Liberal–National government actually cared about the regions. It was not just all talk and hot air, which is what we are going to hear from the member for Bunbury whenever it is that his party lets him speak. We, in fact, put dollars in where it mattered most. It was an investment in our communities who deserved it.

When I had the good fortune recently to visit Derby and Kununurra I found that there was an appreciation among public servants and health services in particular that their services are really first class and at a world leading standard in areas that would otherwise be considered too far away from the capital. But those investments were made only because the Liberal–National government realised that it was important to invest in those communities, because when we have a strong regional Western Australia, we have a strong Western Australia and that when our regions thrive, all of the state thrives.

The motion that has been moved today is absolutely accurate in condemning the lack of investment by the current Labor government, which I suspect is on borrowed time with 367 days left until the next election. I suspect that is particularly concerning for the member for Bunbury as he counts down and polishes off his CV because he knows his seat is under threat, especially when health issues in his community are so acute and we have heard so little from him. I do not understand how he can suggest that. I do not understand how he can sit here in silence. I would argue that complicit in the member for Bunbury's silence is an endorsement of his failure to stand up and represent his community. I find that disappointing. But I am sure the good people of Bunbury will remember that and make sure their voices are heard at the next election.

Mr A. Krsticevic: He wants to be a minister.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: That is right, member for Carine. It is interesting to see in all the commentary that the member for Bunbury wants to be the next minister. I am sure the member for Bunbury is a very capable individual given he has been fed and watered by the Liberal and National Parties in a regional development commission for so long. I would be interested to see what his contribution would be like as a minister. I hope that he would speak loudly around the cabinet table, because at the moment we hear little from him in this chamber.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I thought this motion was about health and mental health and not the merits of the member for Bunbury.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Bunbury. Point taken, but it is not actually a point of order. Member for Dawesville, I encourage you not to keep asking the member for Bunbury to speak while you are on your feet.

Debate Resumed

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, the problem is that we have to ask the member for Bunbury questions because otherwise he will not talk; we do not hear from him.

Mr W.J. Johnston: At least when he speaks he makes sense, unlike you.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate the contribution of the member for Cannington; I always do. I have to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this is an important motion moved by the National Party. Of course what is confronting us at the moment in Western Australia and globally is an impending threat from coronavirus.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I realise a minister of the cabinet wants to howl down the opposition while we talk about a globally significant threat —

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: I cannot hear what the member for Dawesville is saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Quite right, member for Moore. That is a point of order. Minister, please do not yell across the chamber.

Debate Resumed

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: They do protest too much I suspect.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr W.J. Johnston: He asked me a question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, he did not. He is just making a speech and you should not be calling back my request for you to be quiet, should you? Go ahead, member for Dawesville.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr D.T. Punch interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bunbury, that is not helpful.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that. The Leader of the National Party, the member for Central Wheatbelt, raised concerns about coronavirus and what impact that might have across Western Australia. Of course, we had the media release from the Minister for Health and the Premier today, which noted that as part of the “Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan”, which has been updated, at page 15, states —

People living in close communities, such as prisons, nursing homes and boarding homes may also be more vulnerable, as may people living in remote communities, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

I suspect that “remote and regional” comes into that, of course. We know that it is going to be very difficult to provide a response to coronavirus in regional Western Australia. That is a fact, I suppose, and the nature of what the government is dealing with and facing now. All of us in this place would be concerned that a number of regional communities across Western Australia are internationally exposed through airports and ports. I think the member for Roe raised the issue that cruise ships visit ports in certain regional centres. Internationally, exposed cities are going to be facing their own unique challenge. To the best of my recollection, there is an intensive care unit in Albany and two high dependency units in regional Western Australia, including one that the government recently invested in. What is concerning is that if a patient in the regions needs to go into an ICU, they will probably have to be transferred to Perth to be dealt with. The Liberal and National Parties have asked questions about dedicated COVID-19 clinics in the regions and would like to understand what that will look like. I appreciate that the Premier said on Gareth Parker’s radio program today that they will be rolled out in time. The Premier said the same thing today—in time. The problem with those sorts of comments is that people want to have more certainty about to what “in time” looks like. I, of course, realise that this is an evolving situation. The minister said yesterday that there are a lot of unknowns, but the problem is we want a very well-resourced health system to deal with this. No-one could have anticipated at the end of 2019 that this would occur, but we want to make sure that the health system is in good shape.

The nature of the issue and the core of the motion moved by the National Party today is that we have significant concerns, shared by both the Liberal and National Parties, about the lack of investment in our state’s health and mental health services. I look forward to understanding a bit more about specific parts of the WA government’s pandemic plan and what that might mean for regional Western Australia. At the moment, I note there are some challenges here for local governments, which are responsible for emergency management arrangements, particularly in remote Aboriginal communities. That is an obvious concern for us and is an obvious concern raised by the Prime Minister as well. We know that in Aboriginal communities there are high levels of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and that is a concern were a remote community to become infected. Someone suggested that entire communities might have to move at some point if there is an outbreak. These are logistical matters and I am interested to know what they will look like once plans are put together. That comes back to the central theme of the motion: we want to make sure that our state’s health system is properly resourced. But that simply is not the case. We have seen a reduction in funding for our state’s health system from this government, and it has had a very real impact on regional Western Australia in particular. When the Liberal Party had a winter parliamentary conference in Kalgoorlie, it became very obvious that GP shortages are an issue there. It is an issue when people are waiting weeks to get a GP referral. I do not know what that would look like in a city like Kalgoorlie with an issue like coronavirus. I hope that we start to see more of the federal government-funded COVID-19 clinics being rolled out in regional Western Australia.

Mental health concerns have been raised as part of this motion, and I would like to very quickly touch on an article by Hannah Cross that appeared in the *National Indigenous Times*, headed “EXCLUSIVE: Yamatji people taking lives at seven times national rate, new statistics show”, dated 6 March 2020. I refer to a couple of aspects of this article, because it goes to the concern I have about regional mental health and what that means for Aboriginal communities in the regions. That is something that we have spoken about at length in this place. We already know that the suicide rate per 100 000 for First Nations people in this country is almost twice that of non-Aboriginal Australians. The article reports that recent data has shown that the Yamatji people of Western Australia are amongst the most vulnerable and at-risk communities when it comes to suicide, and now have one of the highest rates of suicide per 100 000 people. According to the article, Yamatji people now have a suicide rate almost double that of the Kimberley, and the Kimberley suicide rate is already significantly higher than the Western Australian and Australian averages. The article goes on to suggest that, unfortunately, although the minister has made multiple announcements in relation to health services at Geraldton, for example, the Aboriginal medical services that service those areas have sought more funding to ensure that they can provide outreach to vulnerable families, but they have not seen any money flow through from the Labor government.

My concern is that there is not really a proportional funding level for what is occurring at the moment in our regions. There is not, member for Bunbury. When you have —

Mr D.T. Punch: I just coughed!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Okay, I appreciate that, although I am not sure if I should be worried that the member for Bunbury coughed! Thankfully he is not on the front bench, where it could be more impactful! I apologise that I interpreted the member for Bunbury’s cough otherwise!

The concern I have is that there is not a proportional amount of funding. If people have acute mental health issues in our regions, I would hope that the government would fund it accordingly, but according to this article and to the people I have spoken to in regional Western Australia, particularly in the midwest and the Kimberley, there simply is not enough funding. At the moment, there is one part-time psychologist for the entire Murchison–Gascoyne region. When I was up in Derby and Kununurra in early February, it became obvious that there is also only one psychologist there providing culturally appropriate services for those communities. We would want to see more prioritisation for those areas and those mental health concerns in regional Western Australia, if there is such an acute issue. I find that a bit disappointing, and that is absolutely why I stand in support of this motion, because I would expect any government to put more money into responding to those issues.

Of course, there were recommendations set down by the coroner as part of the coroner's inquest, and that has now gone nearly 57 weeks without a response from the government. There were 42 recommendations set out by Coroner Fogliani, who suggested a range of measures in Western Australia to help respond to 12 suicides and one suicide or misadventure in the Kimberley region by children or young people. There were a range of recommendations there. The government told Aboriginal communities that it would have a response by September or October last year; then it said it would have a response by the end of 2019. We are now in March 2020 and we still do not have a response. I find that fundamentally unacceptable. From the reports I hear and the people I speak to, the issue certainly has not gone away in the Kimberley region and, if anything, concerns about mental health and suicide-related matters in the Kimberley are as acute as ever, if not getting worse. That is a real concern of mine. In Kununurra I spoke to someone who had lost 12 nieces and nephews to suicide. We need a real focus from the government into regional mental health services, particularly culturally appropriate mental health services, but unfortunately that has not been forthcoming. I appreciate that at times the government's only defence is that the opposition is trying to politicise an issue. This is not the opposition politicising the issue; this is many communities and service groups saying this. There are issues in the midwest and north west, all the way through to our most remote communities. They deserve a proper response to their mental health concerns.

The member for Central Wheatbelt pointed out the potential impact that coronavirus could have there. When we add that, it is another layer of concern. These are already pre-existing issues. Nationals WA members have articulated very well in local articles, in their communities and in this place, the shortages of GPs and other issues. If we add to that the complexities of coronavirus and the complexities of deteriorating mental health concerns, we have very, very difficult circumstances in those communities. We are lucky that there are Liberal and National members in this place to stand up and fight for them. I fear what would happen if regional Western Australia did not have a voice in this Parliament, because at the moment, regional Labor Party members say nothing. I look forward to hopefully hearing from some of them soon, because they too often remind us that Labor is the largest rural representative in this place.

I made a commitment to keep my contribution as tight as possible for my colleagues, but I would just like to point out one region in particular, the Peel region, which I have the privilege of representing. The government has recently announced that there would be delays in relation to Peel hospital. I appreciate that COVID-19 is an added complexity. My concern is that if only the government had got on with the job and invested in the hospital years ago, when it should have, we would not be stuck with this problem now. With that, I endorse the motion.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA) [5.26 pm]: I would like to make a contribution to this motion, and join in with the member for Roe, the member for Central Wheatbelt and the member for Dawesville in condemning the McGowan government's failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services, including its response to the growing threat of COVID-19.

I will start off by talking a bit about an area that has been touched on very briefly. I will talk a bit more about emergency medical services, such as St John Ambulance. The COVID-19 virus will put an extreme amount of pressure on this locally staffed volunteer ambulance system that operates throughout the state. I ask the minister what planning is taking place to ensure that the volunteers at St John are equipped to deal with the spread of COVID-19, and what talks are taking place between St John and the government to that effect. I also ask what investments the minister would be making to safeguard our scarce volunteer numbers, which we in the country desperately rely upon. This is very, very important in country areas, because the first response we hear is that you go to either a fever clinic, a major hospital or the GP. Many people in my electorate do not have an emergency centre they can go to and oftentimes they do not have GPs.

I have highlighted before the extremely difficult situation in the electorate of Moore with regard to sourcing GPs. There are currently vacancies for full-time GPs advertised in Dongara, Northampton, Three Springs, Dalwallinu, Gingin, Jurien Bay and Toodyay. In Geraldton, which services many of those people if there is no local doctor, there is a shortage of nine doctors at the moment—nine full-time jobs advertised on the Rural Health West website. I lost count; I started to make a little tally of all the locum positions available as well, but suffice it to say, if you added them all up, there would probably be a couple of full-time jobs as well. In an area where it is unlikely that people are going to be able to go to an emergency centre or present to a GP, their most likely course of action, if

they get quite sick, is to call an ambulance. I have great concern about what that will mean for St John Ambulance. I do not think there has been any planning for that. I do not think there is an understanding of how this will stress the system should COVID-19 take hold in electorates like mine.

I have talked about emergency patient transport. I would also like to talk about a glaring omission in Moore and the electorates of Geraldton and North West Central—that is, the people in the north of my electorate do not have access to a helicopter. No helicopter is based in Geraldton. A person in the Abrolhos Islands, 80 or 90 kilometres away from Geraldton, might be in trouble. It is pretty difficult to get a boat over there in rough weather. How can we take care of a person who needs that care? Similarly, inland in Kalbarri National Park, about 150 kilometres north of Geraldton, many rescues take place because of the cliffs and difficult terrain. The good folk at Kalbarri State Emergency Service spend a lot of time learning how to abseil and lift people out of the gorges on ropes. That is a very labour-intensive method of retrieving people from the Kalbarri gorges. That happens very frequently. I know the people at Kalbarri SES quite well. They are very dedicated to their task. They train very well. They put up a big scaffold on which they train how to lift people out of the gorges. They invited me to open it. When I arrived, they invited me to go down the rope from the top.

Ms M.J. Davies: I've done that. They made me do that.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I did not. I compromised. I went up as far as I could with a ladder and pulled the rope. There was no way I was going to go down the rope. It is a source of undying shame. Whenever I see Steve Cable in Kalbarri, he reminds me of my timidity in not being willing to go down the tower. It does not look very high from the ground up, but when they asked me to get up and just step off the edge, I thought: a rope about this thick, and I weigh how much?

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: There would be very little left of the member for Moore if he trusted that rope! Suffice to say, I am not as brave as the good folk at Kalbarri SES. They do this all the time, in very difficult terrain, to try to get people out of the gorges. It might appear to be a pleasant day in Kalbarri and people go out without sufficient water, but it might be 47 degrees at the bottom of the gorges, even on a fairly mild day, and people are not prepared for that.

The Nationals have pledged to have a rescue helicopter based in Geraldton. We would urge the government to take notice, because this is something that it could do and beat us to it. I have here a picture of the Leader of the Nationals when she recently announced the Nationals' policy on this issue. Yes, it is a bit grainy—I do not have access to a colour printer in the chamber. However, it is a very good photo of the member for Geraldton, who is a strong advocate for better health services in the midwest. I have heard him talk about many different aspects of health, from the hospital through to Aboriginal health, and also the rescue chopper. He is in this photo with the Leader of the Nationals, announcing our commitment to fund a rescue helicopter in the midwest at an expected cost of about \$30 million. We recognise that the need does not end there. We are also pledging to look at extending the rescue helicopter service to areas such as Carnarvon and Meekatharra in the member for North West Central's electorate, although this helicopter would touch on the outside edges of his electorate as well. We think that \$30 million investment committed from royalties for regions is an example of what royalties for regions is expected to do—make a difference to the lives of people in regional Western Australia, and make a difference to the communities in regional Western Australia, rather than the shameless use of royalties for regions that we see by this government, which tends to want to use it to prop up its Metronet venture.

Just to follow up on why a midwest rescue chopper is important, I refer to an article in the *Geraldton Guardian* of 3 March this year. The article is quite extensive, and I will not read it all. The article is headed “MW rescue chopper campaign”, and it states, in part —

It was a winter's night four years ago, and Geraldton Port had closed because of bad weather, just after a Chinese ship had left fully laden.

I add that Geraldton port is also a very busy port. It continues —

Marine Rescue volunteer Ian Dempsey's phone rang two hours later. He needed to arrange a medical evacuation, but this could only be done by helicopter. He contacted the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra.

Mr Dempsey said the Bunbury chopper was already deployed, and after pilot fatigue management it could not be in Geraldton before 8am. The ship's cook was dead by 3pm.

I put it to members that if a rescue helicopter had been available in the midwest, a situation such as that might not have developed.

There was a report on 5 March about an airlift in the south of the state from the summit of the Stirling Ranges. There are many such reports of rescues from Kalbarri National Park. The incidence of road trauma, road injuries and death, and traffic accidents in our area is quite severe. Highways like North West Coastal Highway, Brand Highway and Indian Ocean Drive would all be within reach of the rescue helicopter. It would do a fantastic job for the area if it were available.

Members do not have to take our word for this. Edith Cowan University has released a report on the value of a rescue helicopter in the midwest. I want to quote a few points from ECU's response to the National Party midwest rescue helicopter paper. The response refers to the value of a rescue helicopter in country WA compared with indirect retrieval to a country hospital, and supports the rationale contained in the Nationals' discussion paper. The response goes on to state, under the heading "Comments for consideration" —

- Trauma is the leading cause of death under the age of 44 years in developed countries and in country Australia the mortality rate from major trauma is double the mortality rate in the capital cities. In parts of country WA, the mortality rate from major trauma is more than four times higher than mortality rates in Perth.
- ...
- The research, published today in *Air Medical Journal*, showed West Australians are up to 50 per cent more likely to survive a major accident if they're taken directly to a Perth hospital by rescue helicopter compared to patients transported by road to a country hospital first.
- The research compared the survival rates of 1374 major trauma victims injured within the Perth Based RAC Rescue helicopters' range of 250km from Perth over a 10-year period.
- The benefits of direct helicopter retrieval were dramatic when focussing on the most common cause of major trauma, driving a motor vehicle. The mortality rate was 8.8 per cent for major trauma patients retrieved directly by helicopter and taken to a trauma centre in Perth compared to a mortality rate of 16.3 per cent for the patients taken by road to a country hospital and later transported to Perth.
- The mortality rate was almost double for those patients NOT retrieved by the helicopter. For every 100 patients retrieved by the RAC Rescue helicopter an additional 8 major trauma patients will survive.
- Despite having more severe injuries, the survivability was significantly greater for those patients retrieved by rescue helicopter.
- The study's results pointed to the importance of getting life-saving specialist medical care, such as blood replacement, to the road-side to critically injured patients as quickly as possible and expediently transporting patients to definitive care at a trauma centre.
- It is reported that 95% of WA's population is covered by the two RAC Rescue Helicopters. This requires perspective regarding major trauma in WA. There are approximately 700 major traumas in WA each year, one third of these ... are in country WA. Only a small percentage ... of these patients are retrieved directly by a RAC Rescue Helicopter.
- If rescue helicopter services were expanded into country areas in WA such as the Midwest, Wheatbelt, South West, Great Southern and parts of the Goldfields then approximately 150 major trauma patients in country WA would have access to direct rescue helicopter retrieval from the incident scene.

It is not just the Nationals who are talking about this. The local people in Geraldton are rallying behind it. They went to the member for Geraldton, who has worked with them to put together some petitions that will come to Parliament. I understand that thousands of names are on those petitions. The member for Geraldton has been involved in distributing all those petitions and making sure that everybody in the midwest is aware that this is an opportunity that they should not miss—that they should get behind the Nationals to ensure that a rescue helicopter comes to the midwest. It marries very well with the development of the Abrolhos Islands as a more highly visited tourist development and reflects the increasing and ever-growing numbers of people who go up to the national parks in the area. It also reflects that country people in the midwest should be entitled to a level of service that is as good as other people receive. Why should country people in the midwest not have access to a rescue helicopter if it is a simple matter of \$30 million of funding that would otherwise disappear into the coffers of the Metronet program? It is not as though that money is not available. I think the Western Australian Regional Development Trust showed that over \$600 million of royalties for regions funds flowed back to Treasury in the last reporting period. Just one-twentieth of that would be enough to fund a rescue helicopter in the midwest, which would save lives. It would not be just the lives of people who live in the midwest, but also the tourists who come. I know that COVID-19 is affecting the tourism industry at the moment, but we know that visitation, especially by Chinese people, has grown dramatically in all those coastal communities from Kalbarri to where this helicopter would reach. People are going up to look at Pink Lake and many people are getting out to the attractions that the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions are opening up throughout the area in places like the Coalseam Conservation Park, just out of Mingeneew. That area would also be able to be serviced by the rescue helicopter.

I will give some members some facts about the rescue helicopter. The figures that have been quoted in this report show that Western Australia's population is around about 2.6 million people. The population of Queensland is just under twice that number at five million people. Western Australia's land area is the greatest of any state at 2.5 million square kilometres. Queensland's land area is about 1.7 million square kilometres. Western Australia has two rescue helicopters. Queensland has 10 rescue helicopters. The Queensland government obviously values the lives of its regional people very highly and has put in place a program to ensure that those people have access

to a rescue helicopter service. I urge the minister and the government to get behind this and look at the work that the member for Geraldton has been doing in this area. When the petitions come in, I hope that the government will not throw them to one side and say that it is not interested, as it often does in government. I hope the government will look very seriously at what these people are calling for. These are not only residents of the midwest, but also visitors to the midwest. They all want some level of protection when they visit that area. We also want to ensure, as we further develop the Abrolhos Islands, that the helicopter service will be available to safeguard people who visit.

I want to discuss with the minister the situation with general practitioners in my electorate. I outlined that seven major centres in my electorate have a shortage of general practitioners. In some cases there may be a complete absence of GPs. I have highlighted the situation with the Dongara Medical Centre here before and I would like to hear the minister's thoughts on that. It has led to the Shire of Irwin, after a great period of angst in the local community, announcing in a press release from 6 March that it has decided —

To initiate the statutory process to acquire the Dongara Medical Centre —

It is empty, with no doctors there —

at 290 Point Leander Drive, Dongara from ... Batavia Health ... as a walk out walk in sale for \$1,450,000.

Members can imagine the angst of the ratepayers of Dongara. It is already facing an economic downturn because of the reduction in visitor numbers because of what is basically the closure of its main industry. How will ratepayers in Dongara be able to afford this impost? In the health budget, \$1.4 million might not seem like a lot, but in the budget of the ratepayers of the Shire of Irwin, it is a very major investment. When the Batavia health centre opened, the shire helped with the provision of land and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars helping to make the car park. That money has already been spent. I understand that an ongoing investment will be required to ensure that the shire can attract GPs to the area. The press release continues —

The Shire is pleased to announce that Dr Sasha Risinger has been contracted as the Principal GP for the ... next 5 years.

That is great news because she is a great GP. She has a very good reputation, but her reputation has been earned while she has been working at the Three Springs Medical Centre. How will Three Springs replace her?

Mr R.H. Cook: She is not from Dongara; she is from Three Springs?

Mr R.S. LOVE: She has moved from Three Springs. She is the doctor who goes down to Carnamah and Coorow and those areas as well. Those shires will not have a doctor now. One of those shires is advertising for a GP at the moment. I wish her all the best of luck. A doctor is definitely needed in Dongara and she cannot be held accountable for the gap that will be left behind, but there will be a very serious gap. Given the difficulty that we had getting a doctor into Dongara, I am wondering what Three Springs will have to do because it perhaps does not have the initial attractions. However, it has a functional hospital, which is a bit more than Dongara has at the moment. We are still waiting for the remodelling of that centre. We announced it when we were in government and the planning was all supposed to be done. The medical centre and the aged-care facility are still not there, but we live in hope.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [5.46 pm]: Health in the bush is a serious business. I have listened very carefully to the contributions of all the members. I have listened, for the most part, in silence because I was intensely interested in their contributions. I listened on the basis of a motion that, in my view, is poorly written and goes to the heart of what this is really about, which is members, some making valid points—I particularly want to come back to the member for Warren–Blackwood—but for the most part making pitches to their electorates about how they are representing their electorates in this place, without putting any meaningful information or contribution into it.

In condemning this government for its failure to prioritise and address regional health and mental health services, I think members opposite would have been far better off to put a full stop at that point. They went on to include the government's response to the growing threat of COVID-19. In this place we have heard on a number of occasions about the need for calmness, sensibility and clear messaging, and, above and beyond all, the need to have faith in the Minister for Health and the Department of Health to lead and coordinate the response to the virus in lockstep with the federal government. That is the most critical issue. Putting that into this motion that condemns the government while the response is unfolding and while there is uncertainty about how this virus will affect our community makes it a very poor motion. I am surprised that the shadow Minister for Health would stand up and speak to that effect. I was not quite sure whether the member for Dawesville was concerned about Bunbury in this motion or is interested in serious discussion about how to deliver health in the bush. The member for Warren–Blackwood touched on it, and it applies to many aspects of regional servicing in a state like Western Australia, which has a gradation from a metropolitan-focused population; large urban centres in regional Western Australia; small towns and villages; which are often disconnected by distance; and our remote communities.

Addressing the issue of access and equity in all forms of service delivery in our state requires a lot of careful thinking and a lot of innovation. Going back many years now to when I practised social work, all in rural Western Australia, there was recognition that there was a tier of services in which we needed to work to reinforce the natural helping mechanisms that existed in rural communities. They could be very strong. Then we looked at

the suite of non-government organisation services—I acknowledge the Leader of the National Party’s commentary about Share and Care, and there have been mobile services for many, many years well predating royalties for regions, I might add—for providing counselling and other support services out into the bush. Then, of course, there is a network of tiered, formal responses, whether they are hospitals, clinics or nursing posts, all geared to getting the best spread of access and wherever possible working towards making sure there was equitable access to health services and mental health services. I think telehealth has been a great innovation in overcoming that. I am sure telehealth as a piece of infrastructure will unfold into the future.

The member for Dawesville raised Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus and some sort of expectation that I should be in this place beating my chest and calling to order around Bunbury hospital, which I know has difficulties. But I can walk out of here and talk to the Minister for Health in a sensible way, as can the member for Dawesville, and represent the interests of my electorate, which I do consistently. We made a contribution to Bunbury hospital of \$23 million essentially to ease the bottlenecking of a number of key areas, whether they are in the emergency department or in theatres or some of the surrounding infrastructure that supports people using the hospital. It is an interesting hospital because it is a shared campus with St John of God Health Care, so it brings out those unique issues around sharing.

It is interesting to note that until we came to office in 2017, not a single commitment was made in the previous government’s campaign for Bunbury in 2017 for the Bunbury regional hospital. It is the major regional peak hospital for the south west, which supports the network of other hospitals, trying to build centres of expertise in Bunbury, linked to quality services in Collie, Margaret River and Busselton, across the south west region. There is a plan around the Bunbury hospital, member for Dawesville, who came in here and tried to make light of that issue in such a silly punctilious way. I thought better of him to be honest. Then I saw the *Mandurah Mail* yesterday where there is a photo of our Premier and of an immaculate member for Dawesville—not a hair out of place. The article was about the member for Dawesville trying to seize the moment, being the champion of the response to coronavirus. He was clearly trying to make a political issue in the Dawesville–Mandurah area over coronavirus. How appalling is that? The Premier quite rightly called him to task. It was not only the Premier. I looked through all the commentary and it was amazing to see that quite a few people do not think a lot of the member for Dawesville. One contribution states —

We all know what the current game really is. He wants to be the next Liberal leader after the next election when they lose and then hopes to be the next Liberal Premier. That is his real game. What I would like to know is what he is doing for the young people of his community.

There is a person who has some insight into the member for Dawesville. I want to acknowledge again the commentary of the member for Warren–Blackwood, which went to the heart of the issue. It is a critical issue that has challenged all governments around how we effectively resource health access across regional Western Australia. I totally accept what the Southern Inland Health Initiative was trying to achieve. The problem with royalties for regions funding is that there has always been the question of finding a balance between investment in capital infrastructure, particularly in the health system, and the recurrent expenditure that flows with it.

A couple of projects were mentioned earlier. Time after time, I have come across concepts of pilot funding. We have all seen them. They are projects that get up under the concept of pilot funding because it is a way to get them through the system or a way to convince the minister something should be funded. However, there is seldom a pathway to long-term sustainable funding. That is a critical issue for royalties for regions. How do we make the critical infrastructure investments in a manner that can be supported by the budget in an ongoing operating sense? That was a problem that led to what our Treasurer talked about earlier; namely, the \$2 billion deficit in our operating expenses when we came to office. That is unsustainable in any analysis and I am sure that in their heart of hearts, members opposite will know that is the situation.

This motion refers to the failure to prioritise and address regional health. I do not like having to go back in history and bring up examples because I know members opposite do not like history. In 2013 Hon Helen Morton made an election commitment for a step-up, step-down facility for Bunbury. It came out of the mental health plan. At that time a commitment was made to say, “Yes, this will be built and it is an important asset for the mental health fabric of responding not only in Bunbury but also in the south west, linked to the hospital providing the valuable service for people needing hospital support, coming into a residential setting engaged in a therapeutic community that can help facilitate their journey back into the community. On the opposite side it would support people who have a mental health issue, have a mental health plan, do not quite need a hospital setting but need the support of a residential therapeutic community. It is a very good model and I commend it. Sorry, but the member for Warren–Blackwood was in the media with the then Liberal minister announcing that the funding had been found for the step-up, step-down facility, nearly four years after the original event. It took four years to fix up the paperwork on a critical issue for the south west. That is where royalties for regions came adrift. It was a solution to fix a critical need but it took four years to fix up the paperwork. This government came to office and we did not falter. In fact, the Minister for Health and I were out there laying bricks to get the step-up, step-down facility built. We laid some bricks and they are still there.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: We followed that project every step of the way because when we came to office, not even the land to build it on had been resolved. There was some vague notion to building it in Victor Road, Glen Iris, but not even the land had been identified. We sorted out the planning and went through the tender process and got a magnificent quota of local contractors to build it. Not only is it an asset that is part of the mental health scenery in Bunbury but also it was built and is owned by locals. It forms a valuable contribution to mental health services. I am very pleased that Richmond Wellbeing is the operator of this service. Going back to my original comments about how we build the natural helping networks in communities, which members opposite should be well aware of, I am very confident that Richmond Wellbeing will build those community linkages. It will work in partnership with other mental health providers, will reach out into the community and will provide a very solid foundation for what will be an excellent service. The first users of that service will use it pretty well from the end of this month. Three years in, our step-up, step-down facility is built. It took four years for members opposite to simply recycle an announcement. This government stands for getting up and getting things done.

It also stands for Bunbury regional hospital. The department now has the funding to proceed. The member for Dawesville might not recognise it, but there is a challenge in taking what is a peak regional hospital service in Bunbury and starting to do the works on that hospital in a way that does not disrupt service capacity. The department needs to be left alone, without the pressure of whingeing from members opposite, to get on with the job of delivering it. The funding is there and it is in the interests of us all to start working and letting the department address that issue.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: I thought St John's was leading on the Bunbury redevelopment.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: No; it is the department.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: They talk regularly about how to manage their services efficiently and extract the best outcomes from that infrastructure. That is what we need everywhere. At a time when resources are constrained, we have to look for innovative opportunities to extract the maximum out of the infrastructure that we have.

I do not really want to say too much more, other than I am very pleased that that step-up, step-down facility has been built and is now pretty well operational. It is a magnificent facility. In terms of my understanding of therapeutic communities, each person who uses that service will have their own self-contained accommodation unit including kitchen and laundry facilities, and a little bit of a lounge area, but shared communal facilities so that there is plenty of opportunity to work in group settings or in an individual space. We know from the variety of mental health issues that people suffer from that that is critically important.

The member for Warren–Blackwood talked about the rising awareness of mental health issues in regional WA. I certainly see it in my electorate office. The member for Warren–Blackwood put it down to maybe the changing economic circumstances. There is some recognition of that, but I also think it is because we are talking about it more. When I was a practising social worker, issues of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health were not talked about. That led to many, many unfortunate suicides, particularly in the farming community, when there was a suite of bank foreclosures in the farming sector. The awareness of mental health is probably leading to more people seeking help. The challenge is making sure that we are in a position to address those issues as they come up. It is certainly a vexing issue. I share the member for Warren–Blackwood's concern about that.

In closing, member for Dawesville: silence does not mean inattention. Silence does not mean there is nothing to say. Silence can mean a variety of things. But the important thing is that after 35 years in the public sector, I know how to talk to a minister and I know how to get things for my electorate and I will continue to pursue those without grandstanding in this place from the likes of the member for Dawesville.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [6.02 pm]: The member for Bunbury is a very effective advocate for his community. He is not only a strong, effective and determined advocate, he is also, might I say, a jolly good bricklayer! It was very good to go to Bunbury the other day.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: What are you banging on about?

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I seem to remember sorting out the land-based issues, the funding issues and the construction issues. If you want to take credit for it, that is fine, but I suspect it was not you!

The member for Bunbury did a bang-up bricklaying job with me earlier on as we celebrated one of the milestones of the step-up, step-down facility. My only concern was that the building company, BGC, faithfully promised us that those bricks would remain in place after we left the site! I am not sure about the structural integrity of the building, but hopefully it will remain standing for some time yet.

On the issue of the builder, one of the great aspects of the construction of the step-up, step-down facility at Bunbury was the fact that 85 per cent local content was used. Local jobs, local businesses and local construction

companies were involved in the fit-out. It is wonderful that so many locals were involved in that particular facility. Richmond Wellbeing will take over the running of that facility. Company representatives spoke to me, as I am sure they spoke to the member for Bunbury, about how they had recruited locals, particularly people with lived experience, to be peer support workers in that facility. From that perspective, it is very much a local success story. I am really looking forward to seeing the outcomes of it.

Step-up, step-down facilities are a great initiative. I have spent some time talking to residents at the Albany facility and the people who work there. We opened that six-bed facility in 2019. They talk about what a great, compassionate and nurturing environment it is and how important it is for people in these regional communities to be able to have those subacute services. This is about providing people who are having an emerging mental health episode or who are entering a level of mental distress with a residential experience so that they can get back on their feet without tipping over into the need for acute services; that is, having to receive hospital care for a more acute mental health episode. Just as importantly, for people who have come out of a mental health episode after being cared for in a hospital setting, it is about providing them with an opportunity to have a landing point to be able to build their skill levels and socialise themselves around what they will have to do once they transition back into the mainstream community. I remember talking to one young man who had just come of hospital again. Unfortunately, he had had several episodes of care inside Albany hospital. He said that each time he was basically discharged; put on the street so to speak. Although he had the support of outreach services, he did not have that intensive residential opportunity to really integrate himself back into community life. I am very proud to be associated with the development of step-up, step-down facilities. These facilities will significantly improve the availability of mental health services in our regional communities.

As members would be aware, there is a 10-bed step-up, step-down facility in Rockingham and a 30-bed facility in Joondalup. They will now be augmented with the six-bed facility at Albany. As the member for Bunbury said, we have just opened a 10-bed facility in Bunbury. Last year, I did the sod turning for a 10-bed facility in Kalgoorlie. We are undertaking the planning and construction process of a six-bed facility at Karratha and very much enjoying working with the local community around the construction and commissioning of a 10-bed facility in Broome. I am very proud of another project. I am sorry that the member for Geraldton was not able to get to his feet this afternoon to report on this project; that is, the 10-bed step-up, step-down facility that we are developing at Geraldton. I am very proud to say that we were able to announce at the beginning of this year we would bring forward the funding for that project to bring it onstream more swiftly. We heard from the member for Moore, who spoke about the mental health issues arising in the midwest region, and they are acute. They are felt within the Yamatji community in particular. The need to expand mental health services in Geraldton is quite urgent. I am very pleased to bring forward the 10-bed facility in Geraldton and to seeing that open in early 2021. We are starting to fill out the tapestry of subacute services across regional Western Australia to continue to have more robust, community-based mental health services right throughout the Western Australian community. We will continue to invest heavily in these sorts of facilities because we know they work. They provide very important support to the acute services that people often need. We know that an episode of hospital care is not the best outcome for mental health patients; this is an opportunity to avoid hospital care. That is very much the theme of the sustainable health review, which is guiding the reconfiguration of services, and the step-up, step-down facilities are very much an important part of rebalancing our mental health system to ensure that we have subacute services so that people can avoid highly interventionist hospital care.

The member for Geraldton would also have reported on the great progress that has been made around the redevelopment of Geraldton Health Campus.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: I understand why the member for Geraldton did not speak today and I suggest that he does not.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Tell me why.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is because after eight and a half years in office, the member for Geraldton did nothing in Geraldton.

Mr I.C. Blayney: We had it ready to go. It would have opened in 2022.

Mr R.H. COOK: We were ready to go! We were eager! I remember as a fledgling shadow Minister for Health going to Geraldton hospital to be shown around by the clinical team. They told me that a wall was going up and that the emergency department would be expanded. They were excited about what the new government would do for stage 2 of the development. They were kind enough to pay tribute to the Gallop government, which did stage 1 of the redevelopment.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Why didn't they co-locate it?

Mr R.H. COOK: I will come to that shortly, member for Geraldton. They were eagerly awaiting the work that the Liberal Party made very clear it would undertake upon achieving government. Then we saw nothing from the Liberal government.

Mr I.C. Blayney: What have you done now? Nothing except take away the sobering-up centre.

Mr R.H. COOK: We gave Geraldton a step-up, step-down centre because the sobering-up centre was not working. The member for Geraldton had an opportunity to speak. Before I got to my feet I made sure that he had had an opportunity to talk.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: I appreciate that. I will take a little while to talk more about Geraldton Health Campus. The member for Geraldton would have talked about the expanded emergency department.

Mr I.C. Blayney: It is about half of what we were going to do.

Mr R.H. COOK: The member for Geraldton hates this. He just hates it.

Mr I.C. Blayney: No, because you have still done nothing.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yet in the four years, by the time we face the people of Geraldton again, we will have done so much more than the former government did in eight and a half years—so much more.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): That is enough, members.

Mr R.H. COOK: I was enjoying myself.

In Geraldton, the emergency department will be expanded; a new intensive care unit will be co-located with a redeveloped high-dependency unit; there will be a new integrated mental health service, inclusive of an acute psychiatric unit and a mental health short-stay unit; it will have a reconfigured main entry; there will be essential engineering service upgrades, including the replacement of the chillers; and the car park will be redesigned and expanded—everyone loves the expansion of a car park. There will be an integrated mental health service and an eight-bed high-dependency intensive care unit. It is expected to be operational in 2023. Member for Geraldton, I suspect that by 2023 we will have done more at that campus than the member could ever have achieved in his wildest dreams. We will invite the member to the opening. That is important, because we want to be respectful about these things. It is an incredibly important redevelopment of a campus that was neglected for eight and a half years. We, in the Gallop government, had done stage 1. Stage 2 was widely anticipated, yet we heard crickets from the former government. However, we are here now. Never fear, member for Geraldton, we are here. As the member for Moore said, mental health services in the midwest region are in need of significant renewal and reinvestment. What members will see through the fast-tracking of the step-up, step-down facility and the redevelopment of Geraldton Health Campus is a significant investment in mental health services in that region. That is important because, as the member for Geraldton will tell members, many patients who have acute mental health episodes have to be transported to Perth to receive that care, and that is a suboptimal outcome. It is also not appropriate for a big centre like Geraldton to not have higher acuity mental health services and subacute mental health services. It will be a really important contribution to that community.

Mr R.S. Love: Thanks to the great advocacy of the member.

Mr R.H. COOK: We sensed the member for Geraldton was on the move. He was looking elsewhere, having been let down by the Liberal Party for all those years. His hopes for a redeveloped hospital were dashed on the massive debt of despair that was the financial mismanagement of the previous government. We would have thought that with the flood of revenue the previous government enjoyed that the member for Geraldton would have received something, given all the money that the government spent as it plunged us into \$40 billion of debt. I am not surprised that the member for Geraldton left the member for Dawesville's party. At least the Nationals talk up a good game when it comes to regional politics. The neglect of the Geraldton community by the Liberal Party, as the member for Geraldton has attested by his departure from the Liberals, was appalling.

Mr I.C. Blayney: It had nothing to do with it.

Mr R.H. COOK: I digress; although I cannot digress because I have not really started!

The points raised are very important points, particularly the points that the member for Central Wheatbelt raised about mental health issues in the wheatbelt area. Perhaps, for the interest of members, I will talk in the first instance about the COVID-19 issues and how they may impact on them. The member for Roe wanted to know how many people had been tested in the south west region. As of this morning, 186 tests had been undertaken in the south west region. The member can do the math. All tests were negative, which is obviously really pleasing. We received some reports earlier today that some of the GP clinics in Bunbury were getting a hammering yesterday. They may have had a particularly big day yesterday because of the publicity around the COVID clinics in Perth. We did some checks around the south west region and found that 186 tests were done and that some of those clinics are being back-filled with practice-based evidence, which is one of the biggest problems, and I will talk more about that shortly. At this stage, of course, there have been no positive results. We are ready to go with the first COVID clinic in Bunbury. The area is set aside; the equipment is ready to go. The challenge for COVID clinics in regional areas is more to do with workforce than physical capacity. We do not want to pull what is a much skinnier workforce off the frontline of our emergency departments or other clinical areas of hospitals to sit in a COVID clinic, particularly if they are not going to be very busy in the first instance, and starve the EDs. We are certainly very conscious of the situation.

However, the federal government's announcement today changes everything. Members will have seen the newsfeed, but essentially the federal government made two announcements today that will be of significant benefit to country patients. One was about the pop-up clinics that the federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, announced today. I have had discussions with the WA Primary Health Alliance, which will be responsible for Western Australia's pop-up COVID clinics. Either by decree or they have been instructed, they will all be dedicated to country and regional areas. The beauty of those COVID clinics is that we will draw upon our primary workforce—GPs and nurses—to work in those clinics, rather than from our hospital workforce, which a lot of the time is fairly skinny. The idea is that they will engage with GP clinics around regional Western Australia. I imagine they will probably be in the larger centres to undertake what is essentially the COVID clinic processes that we have in the metropolitan area. We need to understand the details of that and make sure that we can move forward on it.

Greg Hunt announced 100 of those pop-up clinics. The usual rule of thumb around these things is that WA gets 10 per cent of most commonwealth government announcements, so we are anticipating upward of 10 pop-up clinics in Western Australia. I look forward to working with the WA Primary Health Alliance, which is the primary health network in Western Australia, so that the people through whom the federal government will operate these programs understand how that will roll out.

There is a big ‘if’ around all this, though, and that concerns personal protection equipment. The commonwealth government, I assume with good intent, said it would provide dollars for people to purchase PPE. In the health game at the moment, right across the world, that is the main game—that is, we have no shortage of money, but we have a global shortage of PPE. We would not expect our GPs to undertake these clinics unless we get that PPE, so we are having big conversations with the federal government at the moment about how to better spread the national stocks and make sure that we are in a position to equip those doctors and nurses, and other people working in those clinics, so that they, too, do not fall prey to the coronavirus—not that they necessarily will be acutely ill, but if a GP gets coronavirus, they will have to self-isolate for two weeks. As the member for Moore aptly described, GPs, particularly in some areas, are like hen's teeth, so we cannot afford to lose them and we need to make sure that as this virus epidemic takes hold, we have as many GPs as possible available to undertake that work.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Can the testing for COVID be done by a nurse, or does it have to be a doctor?

Mr R.H. COOK: It can be done by nurses because it is a swab. It is not a blood test. I am sure the member for Jandakot will not mind me saying this, but he recently travelled and fell ill and was tested. Apparently, it is up the nose, in the mouth and away you go. It is fairly non-invasive. That is why I am saying that we need PPE for nurses. The people working in our COVID clinics in Perth are all nursing staff, with doctors available should it be necessary.

The member for Central Wheatbelt said that people will need a GP referral, and that is because there is a screening process. If a person goes to a COVID clinic in Perth, they will get screened before they walk in and will be asked whether they have cold and flu-like symptoms—yes or no. If they do not, they are not to go in, so they can go away. If they have cold and flu-like symptoms and they have travelled from overseas, they are to go inside. If a person has cold and flu-like symptoms and has come in contact with someone with a positive diagnosis, they are to go inside. If they have cold and flu-like symptoms and they suspect they have come in contact with someone who has a positive diagnosis, they are to go inside.

That is not what we expect people to do in a PathWest collection centre, for instance. They are phlebotomists, who are simply there to take a sample or specimen from the person in front of them without that screening process. That is why the GP referral is simply a quick process by which we can make sure that we test only those people who need to be tested.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is the other important announcement that was made today, which is the telehealth announcement. We have been working with Greg Hunt over the last few weeks trying to design—I would like to think he took our advice, but I am sure it was just a bunch of commonwealth bureaucrats who know much better than all of us put together—a Medicare benefits schedule item number for telehealth services. Therefore, as of Friday, people who have respiratory illness will be able to receive a telehealth service from their local GP and they will be able to get an electronic referral to a PathWest collection centre. In addition to that, the federal government is putting in money around chemist home visits so that patients can get an e-prescription for medication to be delivered to their house if necessary, particularly if they have to self-isolate. In addition, the telehealth service—this is one of the more important ones—will allow a GP who is self-isolating at home to continue to treat their patients.

Mr R.S. Love: When you say telehealth services, are you talking about those services where you have a couple of video cameras or are you talking about phoning a doctor?

Mr R.H. COOK: We are still waiting for details, but it will be mostly by telephone. We are not sure whether it will be basically a case of come one, come all, or whether a person has to have an existing relationship with a GP. I suspect that there may be some concern within the GP community that people will use the telehealth facility to try to poach patients.

Mr R.S. Love: There are usually not restrictions around that if it is after hours or, in the case of Leeman, they opened it up for anybody in that town because there were no services of any sort.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right. Now they are extending that regime to everyone.

In addition, if a patient is a vulnerable patient, their eligibility will go something like this. People who are over 65, or over 55 if they are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, and those who have an existing condition that makes them immune-compromised will be able to get telehealth services from a GP regardless. It will not matter where they are or whatever condition they are in. That will stop patients having to go into their GP clinic and potentially sitting amongst other sick people.

They are two really important announcements that are game changers in the way we are able to roll out services to patients in rural and regional communities. They are very important changes, because we want to make sure that, in working with the commonwealth government, we have a comprehensive response that utilises our workforces. I have had a whole lot of suggestions put to me about different places that we can secure beds for the anticipated uplift in the number of inpatients that we will have, particularly in relation to coronavirus. Our problem ain't beds, it is people—it is workforce, workforce, workforce. That is where the large majority of our work is going into at the moment, to make sure that we can deliver the services to those people who need them. That is why we are so keen to make sure that we can protect our doctors and nurses on the frontline. I refer back to the previous conversation around masks and other personal protective equipment to make sure we protect them so that they do not fall prey.

The member for Roe raised the issue of cruise ships. He will have seen that today the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has raised its travel advisory with regard to cruise ships. I can see the Minister for Tourism is not very happy!

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, indeed, member.

DFAT has raised its travel advisory to, I think, level 2, which is to avoid unnecessary travel utilising cruise shipping; I am not quite sure what the technical term is! I think that will change significantly the way we do this stuff. We monitor passengers who come to Western Australia through seaports in the same way that we monitor people who come in through airports—that is, Border Force has people there. With our cruise ship facilities, we have good reporting from the cruise ships about any passengers who are reporting flu-like symptoms, and we can make sure that we intercept those passengers as they come off the ships, particularly if the ship has come from a place like, as a member mentioned, Singapore. That work is all done by Border Force, but we are keeping in close contact with it. It is pretty confident about its success rate at the moment.

The member may have seen reports yesterday about a cruise ship in Fremantle harbour, in which a passenger with flu-like symptoms was taken to Fiona Stanley Hospital. The only twist in the tale there is that it was not a passenger getting off the ship; it was a passenger trying to get on the ship. They were not allowed on because they were clearly unwell. Ultimately they were put in the back of an ambulance and taken to Fiona Stanley Hospital; I think that patient is now fine, but I provide that anecdote only to assure the member that a lot of work is being done to make sure we stay on top of those issues. We have had nine positive cases in Western Australia, and all nine are from overseas or from someone who has travelled overseas. That is our pinch point at the moment, and that is why we are putting so much work into that.

I am just wondering if there are any other issues that members wanted me to clarify with regard to COVID-19. I think if members are happy with that round-up, I will move on to other issues members have raised.

The member for Central Wheatbelt began the debate on a sad but important note—the issues with regard to suicide and suicide prevention in the wheatbelt region. She is quite right to raise this issue; it is a very important issue. I cannot remember the numbers that the member mentioned, but she was saying —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is obviously consistent with the statistics around suicide and successful suicides in the wheatbelt. I think since January this year, there have been about 14 in the wheatbelt alone. Actually, I retract that; I do not know if that is the actual figure, and one should not guess these numbers.

Ms M.J. Davies: I've had six reported to me, but that's only in my electorate, not in the broader wheatbelt region.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, so I think for the whole wheatbelt it is significantly more than that. Obviously there are some very worrying trends going on. The acting Mental Health Commissioner has raised the wheatbelt with me as an area of particular concern to the Mental Health Commission. Indeed, it is reported to me that the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service has, over the past 18 months, experienced significant peaks in acuity and demand. From that perspective, there have also been added demands on the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service, as Narrogin and its surrounds transition from the great southern to the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service. The Wheatbelt Mental Health Service has identified workplace stress amongst its staff, driven primarily by clinical demand and acuity, combined with secondary trauma experienced by staff members. The Wheatbelt Mental Health Service has worked hard to mitigate the impacts of workplace stress on its employees, and this has been supported by the region and the WA Country Health Service more broadly. The Mental Health Commission committed an extra half a million

dollars in 2019–20 to assist with the employment of additional clinical staff to try to alleviate workplace stress and service demands. Member for Central Wheatbelt, we are aware of the issues and we are trying to respond, but obviously we are indebted to those who are working in a very difficult area. Obviously, it is distressing to hear about the stress they are under and we will continue to support them as best we can. Suicide is having a dreadful impact on our community. People in regional areas experience greater geographical isolation—obviously isolation comes in a whole range of forms—and I wonder whether that puts people in those communities and service agencies under extra stress.

The member for Central Wheatbelt raised the issue of suicide prevention in the central wheatbelt in the context of postvention services. I am not familiar with Share and Care Community Services, but I do not doubt that it comprises some incredibly dedicated people. I have come across some postvention services in the Aboriginal community. As the member said, people who are incredibly dedicated to their job are on the scene as soon as they hear about an incident, and that is really important in reconnecting that person with life. I certainly commend Share and Care and the work it does. Postvention services is an emerging field of understanding in clinical models of care, and one that we will see increasingly embraced by the funding services. Postvention services in the Aboriginal community is funded by the federal government so I will get Share and Care's details from the member to continue that conversation after the debate. Member for Warren–Blackwood, I am never quite sure why the federal government funds one program but not another. I think it comes down to what is a primary mental health service, but it might be that it sees a role for itself in postvention services, and that is worthy of investigation.

Ms M.J. Davies: It is Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right.

Ms M.J. Davies: I just know that they were in there after the Narrogin incident, where there were a number of suicides, but they deal with other community members as well.

Mr R.H. COOK: The importance of these services is often in their peer support services, people with lived experience who can relate on a very intuitive and empathetic level with the person who has experienced the trauma, and that is why they are incredibly important. The more we use peer support services in mental health services, the greater their effectiveness. I am not acutely familiar with the mental health workforce issues in Narrogin, but I suspect it is because that workforce is transitioning from the Great Southern Mental Health Service to the Wheatbelt Mental Health Service. I will dig in a bit more to get a better understanding but that would be the reason why there is a bit of upheaval at the moment.

I want to talk briefly before I come to the issues raised by the member for Warren-Blackwood. The member for Roe raised a bunch of issues that I will have to come back to. The role of peer support workers in mental health services is really important. Yesterday, I provided the media with a sneak peek of the new Safe Haven cafe that we are launching in the metropolitan area at Royal Perth Hospital. It will provide an opportunity for people who are experiencing heightened mental distress to get care, particularly in a peer-supported environment, that is non-clinical but provides them with an effective form of counselling and ways that they can be connected with other services.

Given that the theme of today's motion is mental health services in regional areas, I want to highlight that we are also putting a Safe Haven cafe in Kununurra. Essentially, we are trialling one in the metropolitan area and one in Kununurra. Both those services were co-designed through a couple of workshops that were held—two in Kununurra and two in the metropolitan area—to understand what people with lived experience would want in that sort of situation. I have not seen the facilities in Kununurra, and I am looking forward to seeing them in a couple of months. The facility is located outside Royal Perth Hospital. It is not in those buildings because we want it in a hospital setting—I think these things are best located away from a hospital setting—but we had some spare space at the hospital. People who go into the Safe Haven will be greeted by a counter on which there are tea and coffee facilities. The cafe will have toilets and showers. I understand that it will be fitted out with mostly soft furnishings, and dimmed light to create a sense of wellbeing and a non-heightened sensory effect. I look forward to seeing how that will impact on the Kununurra community, which has a very high incidence of not necessarily successful suicide but suicide attempts and suicide ideation articulated by people in that community. I very much look forward to seeing how that will go.

I have talked about telehealth services for the COVID-19 situation. The member for Roe talked about his concern that people are not able to access mental health services within a regional context. Obviously tele-mental health has become a big part of how we are reaching out to more isolated members of regional communities. I was a bit cynical about tele-mental health, to be honest. I did not think it would be that successful. However, I understand it is extremely successful. The preferred model of care is that there is first a face-to-face meeting with a counsellor, psychiatrist or psychologist, whomever that might be. A number of members talked about the imperfect arrangement of clinical specialists visiting towns. I know that experience, because my dad was a child psychiatrist and used to do the rounds of Albany, Bunbury and so on once a month, providing mental health care in those communities. That initial face-to-face meeting then provides an opportunity to provide tele-mental health services to the client.

My understanding is that tele-mental health is widely accepted and appreciated by people on the ground. That is obviously a very important outcome, because if we can provide follow-up counselling sessions, we will get better outcomes. We will be making a significant investment in tele-mental health services.

The member for Roe mentioned methamphetamine and its impact on the community. We made a commitment at the election to expand the number of alcohol and other drug beds in the south west by 43. We have largely delivered on that commitment, in a fairly imperfect way. We have a good 19-bed facility in Brunswick Junction run by Palmerston. Another facility makes up the remainder of the 43 beds. That is currently located outside Nannup, utilising an old private mental health clinic called Blackwood Lodge or something of that nature. The reason I say it is a bit imperfect is that the organisation that runs those beds had originally intended to operate outside Manjimup, which would be much closer for the member, but it fell foul of the Shire of Manjimup in getting planning approvals, much to my frustration.

Mr D.T. Redman: I think it was Pemberton.

Mr R.H. COOK: It was Pemberton, was it? I thought that was the perfect setting. As the member for Moore will now tell us, it is easy to attract general practitioners and other clinicians to the coast; getting them back into Three Springs is harder. I think that would have been a great outcome, member for Warren-Blackwood, but I still have ambitions to get them in a more permanent arrangement in those inland areas, which will obviously have a bit more resonance with the concerns of the member for Roe.

Narrogin oncology is coming along. Members will be familiar with the emergence of telechemotherapy at Karratha Health Campus, which is going really successfully. We are rolling that out in Narrogin. I am just trying to count back the number of weeks ago that I announced it will be coming in eight weeks. I think we are probably at week four now, so in the next month, that will be up and running. That has involved the retraining of a lot of the nursing staff at Narrogin Hospital. I think that is a great outcome for them, because it means that they get to practise at a higher level of scope. I am really looking forward to that service coming onstream, and I will come down with the member and have a look at that once that gets up and running.

On the Katanning obstetric services, yes, we need more general practitioner obstetricians and GP anaesthetists to practise in these big regional towns. I think the member for Roe said that there were 12 births there last year. That is not enough. We need to have a bigger turnover if we have a GP obstetrician in town. It will make their lives more interesting.

Mr P.J. Rundle: About 120 have gone off elsewhere.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes; I remember when I was there last, I came across a young mum with a baby. I asked whether she would have preferred to have the baby there and she said, “No, we got to spend three weeks in Albany and we really enjoyed the break.”

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member for Roe!

Mr R.H. COOK: I think the member has to sit down. That fight goes on. I thank the member for acknowledging Geraldine Ennis and her team. I think she is doing a great job in the great southern. She has made some changes. Of course, that gives me the opportunity to say that Geraldine Ennis joined the member for Warren-Blackwood and I when we did that walk around at Plantagenet Hospital in Mt Barker. Plantagenet Hospital is subject to our \$80 million—what did we call that program?—maintenance blitz within the health system. That will allow us to start work immediately on upgrades of the emergency department. Members will remember there was a pretty unhelpful little dogleg through to the emergency room.

Mr D.T. Redman: I think there is a roof going on first.

Mr R.H. COOK: The member might be right. The information I have is that upgrades to the emergency department will be commencing this financial year. We are also undertaking painting throughout and major electrical and mechanical infrastructure upgrades. In particular, there is a range of large rooms that are no longer used there, so they are essentially going to chop every second room in half and turn it into two ensuites between them. I think that is a really nice piece of work that is going to start pretty much straightaway, so that is a great outcome. It was a good visit that day because not only did it give us a good impression of the way things worked there, but also I think the member acknowledged the aged-care facility there. That was pretty impressive; it was a really nice facility.

As the member said, so often these big, old hospitals are forged off the backs or through the hard work of the local community. It is not surprising to hear the history of it—new services being bolted on as the township raises more money for more services. I am very much looking forward to staying in touch with that, just to see how that evolves over the coming weeks and months.

I appreciate the member’s comments on the tier 3 mental health program. The member is right that the WA Primary Health Alliance used to fund that facility. I did try to chase those dollars, but unfortunately we were not able to. We are undertaking a review of the tier 3 mental health program in Peel at the moment, which will inform us as to the effectiveness of —

Mr D.T. Redman: When is that due to report?

Mr R.H. COOK: I think it is midyear. The review started in December, so we can have a good look at it.

This comes to the point that the member for Central Wheatbelt raised. Often these sorts of mental health services come from people with experience or who come up with an idea that makes intuitive sense, but there is not clinical evidence that backs them. I think that is why the WA Primary Health Alliance funded that initial round but was perhaps then a bit gun-shy and did not fund it again. I am hoping that our review of the tier 3 program in Peel will provide other funders with more confidence about the clinical model, how it works and the evidence that backs it up. This often happens in the mental health sector. People have good ideas that do not necessarily come out of good clinical evidence. Hopefully, we will be able to get a good line of sight on that and will be able to bring them forward.

I know that these tier 3 programs are really important in delivering good mental health messages, particularly to high school cohorts. I remember when I rode through the member for Warren–Blackwood’s electorate on the Ride for Youth in 2017, we sat down with some high school students in Denmark. They were a grand bunch of kids, by the way. They were very articulate and switched-on young people. We were having some pretty confronting conversations about suicide and suicide prevention in the session we had with them. We could see that the lights were on and the information was going in, and those kids were engaged with it. It intuitively makes sense to me as well. The member for Warren–Blackwood’s electorate was the best part of the ride. I just want to say that it was very pretty. I understand why the member is so passionate about the tier 3 program and I know that the shire is very passionate. The shire president, Paul Omodei, has had some very vigorous conversations with me about it. He had me in a headlock on one occasion! I think that was when he wanted the old Manjimup hospital site for his shire. He had me and was saying, “Just give me the bloody building!” He is very passionate about it, so it is not surprising that the shire dug deep and got involved.

The member for Moore raised an issue about the Dongara Health Centre. The member for Moore will be aware that I wrote to him recently about that. It was a very unfortunate series of events. The WA Country Health Service was working with the Shire of Irwin to try to make sure that we had those services at Dongara. The letter I wrote to the member for Moore says that the shire was successful in engaging a locum GP who commenced in late January 2020. In addition, WACHS had been assisting the shire in the recruitment of a permanent GP for the Dongara community and an announcement was expected in the near future. It sounds like that announcement has now taken place.

Mr R.S. Love: It took a \$1.5 million investment by the shire to get that, plus an investment going forward.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes. I understand that WACHS has had to send people from the hospital to backfill at times when a GP was not available there. For some bizarre reason, if a GP works in Dongara but lives in Geraldton, they are not eligible for federal government subsidies that are designed to attract people to work in remote communities. I think that is a very regrettable and unforeseeable impact of those funding options. I will undertake to investigate that further with the federal government. I think the member for Moore would agree that there are a lot of synergies between Dongara and Geraldton, and to live in Geraldton and work in Dongara is not an unusual thing. We have all experienced the peak-hour traffic that runs between Dongara and Geraldton at the end or the beginning of the day. We need to better support these regional communities. As the member for Moore knows, the state health system is the health service of last resort. But GPs are the responsibility of the federal government, and it really has to get serious about making sure that it better supports rural GPs in the community. I understand that the state government has to be there to back up the member’s community if push comes to shove. But it should not be left to state and local government authorities to prop up a primary healthcare system, which is essentially the responsibility of the commonwealth.

Mr R.S. Love: Given that there is currently a shortage of GPs right throughout the regions, and right throughout some of the outer regional areas of Perth itself, is there a case for the state government to say, “Enough’s enough; we need to bring in some other workforce from somewhere else”? I understand there was a change a couple of years ago that meant that overseas-trained doctors are not able to come in in the same way as they once were.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes. I think ultimately, though, that was the responsibility of the commonwealth government; it was called workforce shortages. The member is right; in the outer metropolitan area, we have significant challenges to get GPs to practise in those communities. We have to look at more ways that we can better support them. I have had discussions with Greg Hunt about this. He is open to the idea of funding these things differently. For instance, we have toyed with the idea that perhaps a region could be assigned to a big GP network that would then rotate GPs. It would give GPs three to six months’ experience in a particular setting but without them having to commit to uprooting their whole family or, indeed, if they are younger GPs, without them having to commit to living in a regional community. That is not a perfect situation. The perfect situation is having a GP and their family living in the community and providing healthcare services, particularly in an intergenerational way. It is important that the government now challenges itself and really tries to envisage new ways that it can deliver health care in more effective ways. I understand that that may offend that good rural GP tradition, but I think it is time to make sure that we get people a doctor. Certainly, the use of telehealth services in relation to some of those things is going to be important as well.

Mr R.S. Love: Telehealth is a good backup, but you don’t want it to be the only doctor in town.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right. It is not a substitute for the opportunity to spend time with a doctor. But the member is right; it is an important backup.

One of the other things that we are doing that has not been mentioned tonight is the great initiative of putting an MRI service in Kalgoorlie hospital. It is an important regional healthcare initiative so that Kalgoorlie patients do not have to undertake the trip to Perth to have an MRI. That work is ongoing. It is a real challenge because, as people may or may not be aware, the one thing that an MRI needs is a completely stable seismic environment, which, apparently, is a problem at around 4.00 pm every afternoon when the Super Pit sets off a bit of TNT! Therefore, that bunker is going to have to be a large and significant facility. We are also funding a 38-bed residential aged-care facility at Carnarvon. Earlier today, I spoke with the member for North West Central to provide him with a little bit more information about that. In the current budget, \$13.8 million is provided for specialist services as part of the Pilbara health initiative to enable patients to be treated closer to home, and, of course, \$13.1 million is provided in the budget for the construction of a facility at Albany Health Campus to house a linear accelerator as part of a partnership with the commonwealth government. This is a great initiative and I hope it will provide many patients in Albany with the opportunity to receive radiation oncology in the town in which they live and without having to travel. I also have a secret ambition that somehow the aviation industry will embrace this and fly patients from Kalgoorlie and Esperance to Albany, which would provide a better use of that facility and would perhaps mean that they could travel shorter distances—maybe a charter service or something like that. I have had discussions with surgeons in that community who are very keen to see that.

As the member for Bunbury said, we are now doing a great deal of work around the redevelopment of Bunbury Hospital so that it can continue to meet the demands of that growing community. Although we had funding for Laverton Hospital, it is a wonderful development that is now going ahead. Of course, there is now the construction of the renal unit as part of the new Newman health service, on which construction will continue. Today, members pointed out many of the challenges of rural and regional mental health and general healthcare services, and the McGowan government is working hard to meet those challenges.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

NORTH WEST GAS DEVELOPMENT (WOODSIDE) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 7.00 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**5945. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:**

I refer to the media release of 10 December 2019 regarding additional funding for homelessness, and I ask:

- (a) what is the nature of the redevelopment and what is an “engagement hub”;
- (b) please provide a breakdown of the \$1.7 million expenditure; and
- (c) when will the redevelopment of the Tranby Centre/Inner City Engagement Hub commence and when will construction be complete;
- (d) will any of the services/supports provided by the Tranby Centre cease or be relocated during the time of the redevelopment and if so, please provide details?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a) An engagement hub is a model of service delivery where people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness can attend one location and be linked to multiple support services to address their needs.
The redevelopment of the Tranby Centre involves a significant expansion of the existing facility, almost doubling the current space available. This will allow for the co-location of visiting services such as a General Practitioner and health services, counselling services, alcohol and drug services, disability advocacy and legal services. It will also result in bigger consulting and counselling rooms.
- (b) The \$1.7 million expenditure includes:
\$1,629,833 for site preparation and construction, and
\$134,150 for a design and compliance component.
- (c) Renovations are due to commence in May 2020 and are anticipated to be completed by the latter half of 2020.
- (d) UnitingCare West advises it is planning a staggered renovation to minimise disruption to services provided at the Tranby Centre. UnitingCare West is also looking at alternative spaces to run essential services should any disruptions to frontline services at the current location arise.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**5946. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:**

I refer to the media release of 10 December 2019 regarding additional funding for homelessness, and I ask:

- (a) what criteria will be put in place to access the grants funding for food vouchers, bill payments and back-to-school assistance programs;
- (b) when will the \$640,000 in grants funding be available; and
- (c) which department(s) are administering the grants funding;
- (d) will there be a cap placed on the amount of financial support provided per individual and/or family?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a)–(d) The funding has been provided by Lotterywest to Anglicare WA, which is responsible for administering the grants.

Anglicare WA advise that eligibility for the grants is open to all community members in Western Australia and that funding will start to be distributed by the end of February 2020. Each person or family who applies for funding will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with the amount of funding provided based on each individual’s needs.

WATER CORPORATION — EXECUTIVE STAFF**5947. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Water:**

- (1) In answer to QON 5632, question 18, you indicated that 5 Senior Executive Staff have left Water Corporation since Mr Pat Donovan was appointed as CEO. What were the individual reasons that these staff left Water Corporation?
- (2) In answer to QON 5632, question 20, you indicated that the 5 staff referred to in Question 1 above were paid \$1.08 million in termination payments. What was the basis for these payments?

Mr D.J. Kelly replied:

- (1) The five staff left the Water Corporation under mutually agreed separations as part of a coordinated transition of the Water Corporation Executive team.
- (2) Notice was paid in accordance with the Executives' contracts of employment. Severance was paid in accordance with Water Corporation policy. Other amounts were paid in compliance with the terms of individual Deeds of Release.

POLICE — RANDOM BREATH TESTS

5949. Mr P.A. Katsambanis to the Minister for Police; Road Safety:

I refer to Random Breath Testing (RBT) Booze and Drug bus operations, and ask:

- (a) How many buses are currently in service and how many buses are not currently in service; and
- (b) How many days for each month since 1 January 2017 was each bus deployed;
- (c) For each month of each year since 2017, for how many days was each bus deployed in metropolitan Perth and regional Western Australia?

Mrs M.H. Roberts replied:

The Western Australian Police Force advise:

- (a) All four buses are currently in service.
- (b) 3,013 days.
- (c) 2,441 (metropolitan); 572 (regional) days.

ENERGY — DISCONNECTIONS

5955. Mr D.C. Nalder to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Industrial Relations:

For each energy retailer in Western Australia, I ask:

- (a) how many disconnection warnings were issued, for each calendar month of 2019, for:
 - (i) residential customers;
 - (ii) non-residential customers;
- (b) How many disconnections occurred, for each calendar month of 2019, for:
 - (i) residential customers;
 - (ii) non-residential customers; and
- (c) What were the number of applications received and hardship utility grant scheme payments made for each calendar month of 2019?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

The Western Australian Government does not have access to all the information requested by the Honourable Member, only information with respect to Synergy and Horizon Power, being energy retailers owned by the state.

(a)–(c) [See tabled paper no [3252](#).]

MINISTER FOR ENERGY — GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES — STAFF

5956. Mr D.C. Nalder to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to each of the Government Trading Enterprises in your portfolio, and I ask:

- (a) For each of the years 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19:
 - (i) What was the total number of full-time equivalent staff;
 - (ii) What was the total headcount; and
 - (iii) What was the total number of contractors;
 - (iv) How much was spent on consultants?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:Synergy

- (a) (i)

Year	FTE Employees
2016/17	799
2017/18	732
2018/19	751

(ii)

Year	Head Count
2016/17	806
754	754
2018/19	775

(iii)

Year	Contractors*
2016/17	147
2017/18	136
2018/19	151

* embedded contractors

(iv)

Year	Amount Spent
2012/13	\$4.8 million (Former Synergy)
	\$6.1 million (Verve Energy)
2013/14	\$19.2 million
2014/15	\$22.9 million
2015/16	\$33.44 million
2016/17	\$11.3 million
2017/18	\$7.2 million
2018/19	\$12.4 million

Western Power

(a) (i)

Year	FTE Employees* (Payroll Employees only)	Total FTE** (Payroll Employees & Contractors)
2016/17	2,623	2,692
2017/18	2,667	2,728
2018/19	2,758	2,803

* Includes employees on our payroll i.e. Permanent employee, casual employee and temporary employee

** Includes employees on our payroll and contractors i.e. Permanent employee, casual employee, temporary employee, embedded contractors and temporary contractors

(ii)

Year	Total Headcount* (Payroll Employees only)	Total Headcount ** (Payroll Employees & Contractors)
2016/17	2,666	2,742
2017/18	2,710	2,776
2018/19	2,802	2,853

* Includes employees on our payroll i.e. Permanent employee, casual employee and temporary employee

** Includes employees on our payroll and contractors i.e. Permanent employee, casual employee, temporary employee, embedded contractors and temporary contractors

(iii)

Year	Total Contractors Headcount (Embedded and Temporary contractors only)	Total Externally Funded Contractors Headcount
2016/17	76	1,168
2017/18	66	1,260
2018/19	51	1,244

Note: Externally funded contractors are defined as a worker type belonging to an external entity completing services for WP based on defined deliverables with a set scope and fixed cost. The number and identity of the individuals who perform these services are determined by the external entity. Such workers do not occupy an approved position and are not included in actual FTE numbers.

(iv)

Year	Total Spend	Excluding PWC BTP Implementation
2012/13	\$5,952,656	\$5,952,656
2013/14	\$5,926,091	\$5,926,091
2014/15	\$3,088,551	\$3,088,551
2015/16	\$18,057,985	\$8,769,337
2016/17	\$18,832,034	\$1,886,081
2017/18	\$2,056,975	\$2,056,975
2018/19	\$758,057	\$758,057

Note: Consultancy expenditure is defined as when Western Power procures professional or expert advice, typically delivered in the form of a report, wherein Western Power will then control the intellectual property created by the engagement.

Horizon Power

(a) (i)

Year	FTE Employees
2016/17	302.7
2017/18	355.6
2018/19	398.2

(ii)

Year	Head Count
2016/17	408
2017/18	481
2018/19	480

(iii)

Year	Contractors*
2016/17	99
2017/18	117
2018/19	74

* Includes those who filled full time equivalent positions and undertook project specific and temporary requirements. It excludes those engaged under a Master Service Agreement or a Major Contract.

(iv)

Year	Amount Spent
2012/13	\$11,500,184
2013/14	\$10,656,725
2014/15	\$14,863,276
2015/16	\$7,532,495
2016/17	\$5,977,478
2017/18	\$6,343,491
2018/19	\$6,519,770

EMERGENCY SERVICES — 4.4 BROADACRE FIRE TRUCK — FRONTLINE SERVICES

5959. Mr P.J. Rundle to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services:

I refer to the recent awarding of the contract for the 4.4 Broadacre Fire Truck to Frontline Services, and I ask:

- (a) What was the probity process on the Department of Fire and Emergency Services tender and who was involved;
- (b) What chassis are being used for the 4.4 Broadacre trucks?

Mr F.M. Logan replied:

- (a) The 4.4 tender process was overseen by an independent representative from the Department of Finance (DoF) to:
 - (i) oversee the review and release of the tender, the receipt of offers and briefings to suppliers;
 - (ii) facilitate evaluation panel meetings to ensure and maintain probity and avoidance of bias in the assessment of offers;
 - (iii) review recommendations of the evaluation panel to ensure recommendations are sound and reflect value for money; and
 - (iv) facilitate a peer review from within the DoF of the evaluation report prior to presentation to the State Tender Review Committee. In addition to the above, DFES engaged an independent probity advisor from Stantons International to oversee every facet of the procurement process including providing advice to respondents, panel members and procurement staff to address any probity concerns. DFES also established a 4.4 Broadacre Tanker Project Advisory Team to advise through all stages of the project and to ensure volunteer firefighters are equipped with modern firefighting appliances that meet the needs of their local conditions and community.
- (b) Volvo, Tatra, Iveco, and Isuzu, each in single and crew cab variations.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — CASUARINA PRISON EXPANSION

5960. Mr S.K. L'Estrange to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services:

I refer to the expansion of Casuarina Prison and the Minister's media release on 18 October 2019, which reads: "It is expected that by the end of this year, there will be two new 128-bed units at Casuarina Prison on existing prison grounds," and I ask:

- (a) As at 11 February 2020, at what stage of construction are the two units; and
- (b) Of these units, how many beds are ready to receive prisoners;
- (c) At what stage of construction are the other two stage-one units, including the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) unit and mental health facility?

Mr F.M. Logan replied:

- (a) The estimated Practical Completion date provided by the Department of Finance (DoF) for the first two units (units 15/16) and delivery of 128 beds is 31 March 2020.
- (b) It is estimated that units 15/16 (128 beds) will be operational by 30 April 2020; stage 1 of the prisoner fill plan is anticipated to commence on 5 May 2020.
- (c) The estimated Practical Completion date provided by DoF for the second two units (units 17/18) and delivery of 128 beds is 18 June 2020. The dedicated AOD Recovery and Rehabilitation Service will operate out of unit 15. The delivery of mental health services is part of this stage of the Casuarina Prison Expansion Projects.

**BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE —
UNSENTENCED AND ON REMAND**

5961. Mr S.K. L'Estrange to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services:

I refer to youth offenders and children under the age of 18 in the years 2017–18 and 2018–19, and I ask:

- (a) How many days on average did children spend on remand at Banksia Hill Detention Centre;
- (b) How many days on average did children, who were subsequently released unsentenced, spend on remand at Banksia Hill;
- (c) How many children, by region, were detained at Banksia Hill and subsequently released unsentenced; and
- (d) How many flights, by region, did the Department of Corrective Services purchase to transport children to/from Banksia Hill Detention Centre:
 - (i) How many of these flights were charter flights; and
 - (ii) How much did the flights cost, by region;
 - (iii) How many of these flights were for children who had been/were subsequently released unsentenced from Banksia Hill Detention Centre?

Mr F.M. Logan replied:

- (a) The average number of days young people spent on remand in BHDC was 17 days for the 2017–2018 financial year and 16 days for the 2018–2019 financial year.
- (b) The average number of days young people spent on remand in BHDC and subsequently released unsentenced was 14 days for the 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 financial years respectively.
- (c) The number of young people remanded in BHDC and subsequently released unsentenced, per region:

WA Region	2017–2018	2018–2019
Mid-West Gascoyne	52	23
Goldfields–Esperance	26	28
Great Southern	62	32
Kimberley	48	45
Pilbara	30	28
Wheatbelt	29	26
Metropolitan	496	520
Address unknown (at time of remand)	13	16
Total	756	718

- (d) There is no data available for the number of flights, broken down by region that the Department purchased to transport young people to and from BHDC.
 - (i) The number of charter flights* purchased in the 2017–2018 financial year was 69 flights and 100 flights for the 2018–2019 financial year.
 - (ii) The Department is unable to provide a cost breakdown per method of transport; the total cost of regional transport to and from BHDC was \$387,821.03 for the 2017–2018 financial year and \$630,320.37 for the 2018–2019 financial year.
 - (iii) There is no data available that can identify how many flights were for young people that were subsequently released unsentenced from BHDC.

** Please note: The number of charter flights includes to and from BHDC.*

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — WA PRISONS DRUG STRATEGY 2018–2020

5962. Mr S.K. L'Estrange to the Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services:

I refer to the WA Prisons Drug Strategy 2018–2020, and I ask:

- (a) Has the evaluation of the Strategy been completed, as scheduled for approximately 12 months after its implementation;

- (b) If yes to (1):
 - (i) When was this evaluation completed;
 - (ii) Was the Strategy considered to be operating as intended; and
 - (iii) What actions were identified as required to strengthen outcomes;
 - (iv) When will you table a copy of the evaluation report; and
- (c) If no to (1):
 - (i) Why has it not been completed;
 - (ii) When do you expect it to be completed?

Mr F.M. Logan replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) (i) The review is scheduled for the third quarter of 2020, allowing an adequate and realistic timeframe for the implementation of the majority of the actions, as well as sufficient time to measure performance.
- (ii) The review will be conducted in the third quarter of 2020.

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY — 50 LIVES 50 HOMES AND 20 LIVES 20 HOMES PROGRAMS

5966. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to the ‘50 Lives 50 Homes’ and ‘20 Lives 20 Homes’ (Fremantle) projects, and I ask:

- (a) For each year since the establishment of the programs:
 - (i) how many clients have been accepted into each program;
 - (ii) how many clients have secured appropriate housing;
 - (iii) what was the source of housing which was secured for clients (i.e. social housing, private rental);
 - (iv) what was the average length of time to secure a house;
 - (v) what was the shortest length of time for a client to secure a house; and
 - (vi) what was the longest length of time for a client to secure a house;
 - (vii) what is the longest waiting time for a current client who is yet to have secured a house?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a) (i)–(ii) The Department of Communities (Communities) is one of several accommodation providers under the 50 Lives 50 Homes program. Data regarding the number of clients accepted and properties secured is held by Ruah Community Services.
For the 20 Lives 20 Homes program, data regarding the number of clients accepted and properties secured is held by St Patricks Community Support Centre.
Communities supports the 20 Lives 20 Homes program through a grant agreement with Foundation Housing Limited for the provision of rental subsidies for private rental accommodation. Under the grant agreement, sufficient funding is provided for up to 16 private rental properties. The grant agreement commenced on 1 November 2019.
- (iii) Under the 50 Lives 50 Homes program, properties are sourced from public housing properties, other social housing providers, private rentals, shared houses and transitional accommodation services.
Communities can only provide data on properties that have been sourced from public housing. To date, Communities has allocated 70 public housing properties for clients engaged with the program and who were also eligible public housing applicants.
For the 20 Lives 20 Homes program, housing is sourced from private rental accommodation.
- (iv)–(vii) Data on the length of time taken for clients of the 50 Lives 50 Homes program to secure a house is held by Ruah Community Services.
Data on the length of time taken for clients of the 20 Lives 20 Homes program is held by St Patricks Community Support Centre.

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY — 50 LIVES 50 HOMES AND 20 LIVES 20 HOMES PROGRAMS

5967. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

I refer to the '50 Lives 50 Homes' and '20 Lives 20 Homes' (Fremantle) projects, and I ask:

- (a) how many clients were on the public housing waitlist, prior to accessing the programs;
- (b) how many clients were added to the public housing waitlist, after accessing the program?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a)–(b) Under the 50 Lives 50 Homes program, the Department of Communities (Communities) provides public housing dwellings for clients who are engaged with the program and who are also eligible public housing applicants. As Communities is not involved in the selection of participants for the program, it is not possible to advise if clients were added to the public housing waitlist before or after they engaged with the program. To date, Communities has allocated 70 public housing properties to program clients.

Under the 20 Lives 20 Homes program, private rental properties are secured for clients. Clients are not required to submit public housing applications.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — WAGES

5968. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

- (1) Have any organisations contacted the Department of Communities indicating they are under financial stress as a result of the Fair Work Commission's Equal Remuneration Order (ERO)?
- (2) If yes to (1), please provide details of:
 - (a) the organisation;
 - (b) the date on which the department was contacted; and
 - (c) whether the organisation has had its contract renegotiated as a result of the ERO;
 - (d) how much additional funding was provided to the organisation?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a)–(d) Various individual organisations have contacted the Department of Communities through a number of avenues to raise issues regarding the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO). There is no comprehensive register of this contact.

In 2019–20, the State Government is providing \$1.9 million in supplementary funding for the 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7) National Housing and Homelessness Agreement services to support their round-the-clock wage costs.

The Government has also reinstated the original Non-Government Human Service Sector indexation calculation, which had been wound back by the previous Government. This has resulted in additional funding of \$30.2 million being delivered to the community services sector over the next four years.

In December 2019, the State Government announced that supplementary funding of \$60 million over four years would be made available to help community service providers meet the immediate cost impacts of the ERO.

The Departments of Communities, Treasury and Finance are currently working with sector peak bodies to identify principles and eligibility criteria to determine which services should be supplemented.

Funding to each organisation will be determined once the principles and eligibility criteria have been finalised. Contracts with individual organisations will not require renegotiation.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN — DEVELOPMENT

5982. Mr D.T. Redman to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Forest Management Plan, and ask:

- (a) Can the Minister outline the timelines and processes for development and approval of the next Forest Management Plan;
- (b) Can the Minister outline the groups and organisations who will be consulted in the development of the next Forest Management Plan; and

- (c) Is the government intending to adhere to the established, and for the most part legislated processes, for developing the next Forest Management Plan:
- (i) If not, what are the changes the government intends to implement to the processes?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a) The next forest management plan for 2024 to 2033 will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). It is anticipated the plan will be in place for 1 January 2024.
- (b) The CALM Act requires a forest management plan to be prepared in consultation with the Forest Products Commission and for the proposed plan to be released for public comment for no less than two months.
- As with the development of the 2004–2013 and 2014–2023 forest management plans, Noongar people, key community and industry stakeholders and local government will be consulted during preparation of the 2024–2033 forest management plan.
- (c) Yes.
- (i) Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENT — LITTER INFRINGEMENTS — CIGARETTE BUTTS

5985. Mr P.A. Katsambanis to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the incorrect disposing of a cigarette butt, and ask:

- (a) For each of the last five years how many people have been issued an infringement notice for the incorrect disposal of a cigarette butt;
- (b) What is the metropolitan and regional breakdown for infringement notices issued in the last five years for the incorrect disposal of a cigarette butt?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a) 2015 – 2,800
2016 – 2,112
2017 – 1,694
2018 – 1,392
2019 – 1,353
- (b) 2015 – metropolitan 2,512; regional 239; not stated 49
2016 – metropolitan 1,909; regional 186; not stated 17
2017 – metropolitan 1,561; regional 112; not stated 21
2018 – metropolitan 1,254; regional 107; not stated 31
2019 – metropolitan 1,198; regional 102; not stated 53

ENVIRONMENT — PRESCRIBED BURNING — ACT-OF-GRACE PAYMENTS

5990. Mr D.T. Redman to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the prescribed burn (ALB006) within the Stirling Range National Park on 24 May 2018, which led to an out of control bushfire resulting in an estimated \$6.1 million in excess of insured losses to three farming families, who together formed the Stirling Fire Group, and I ask:

- (a) Has the Minister received the formal request for an Act of Grace payment from the Stirling Fire Group;
- (b) If so, has the Act of Grace payment been considered by the Minister, or any of his Honourable Cabinet colleagues; and
- (c) Are there any guidelines or policies used by the Minister or department to assess Act of Grace payments in circumstances such as these:
- (i) If so, have those guidelines or policies been applied in this case, and what was the outcome?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a)–(c) The Stirling Fire Group has written to the State Government seeking an Act of Grace payment and the Government is currently considering this matter.

ENVIRONMENT — OCEAN REEF MARINA — MULLALOO BEACH

5991. Mr P.A. Katsambanis to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services; Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the proposed Ocean Reef Marina project, and ask:

- (a) What assessment has been conducted into the impact on Mullaloo Beach from the proposed works at Ocean Reef Marina;
- (b) What plans are in place to mitigate any such impact on Mullaloo Beach; and
- (c) With the Environmental Protection Authority noting that the proposal “may result” in some sand accumulation north of Mullaloo Beach, how will this be mitigated and offset;
- (d) Is the Minister confident there will be no sand depletion to nearby Mullaloo Beach as a result of the Ocean Reef Marina, and if there is, how can the local community be confident that such a loss will be satisfactorily and appropriately addressed?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a) The Environmental Protection Authority has considered the potential impacts of the Ocean Reef Marina on coastal processes, both north and south of the proposal. This is set out in its Assessment Report number 1629.
 - (b) Under the environmental approval for the Ocean Reef Marina proposal, I have imposed strict conditions including the requirement to submit a Coastal Processes and Wrack Management Plan, prior to the commencement of construction activities. The objective of the plan is to minimise wrack accumulation and sediment accumulation/deficit within the marina, on adjacent shorelines, being the area between Pinnaroo Point and Burns Beach. I am advised that the plan has yet to be submitted to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for approval.
 - (c) I am advised that impacts to nearby beaches can be managed by the movement of accumulated sands and careful placement at appropriate locations. The precise management measures will need to be set out by the proponent in the Coastal Processes and Wrack Management Plan.
 - (d) The strict environmental conditions on the proposal will ensure that the potential impacts of the proposal on nearby beaches can be satisfactorily managed.
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