



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 24 November 2022

Legislative Assembly

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THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price) took the chair at 9.00 am, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPERS TABLED

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

WESTERN TRADE COAST — GLOBAL ADVANCED INDUSTRIES HUB

Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade) [9.01 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to speak about the government's commitment to transform Perth's southern industrial precinct, the western trade coast, into a global advanced industries hub. The western trade coast, which includes the Australian Marine Complex, Kwinana Industrial Area, Rockingham Industry Zone and Latitude 32, is home to a range of strategic and advanced industries, including existing critical minerals processing, chemical manufacturing, energy generation and, most recently, large-scale ammonia and hydrogen production and export. Combined, the Kwinana and Rockingham areas have contributed \$16 billion to the state's economy annually, directly and indirectly supporting more than 30 000 jobs. This commitment offers the opportunity to preserve, enhance and promote the economic contribution of the western trade coast, and leverage it to support the state's economic diversification agenda by attracting new and emerging investment opportunities, boosting the diversity and value of exports, strengthening supply chains and, most importantly, creating local jobs.

The commitment also provides a clear mechanism to coordinate the variety of government priorities in the area and to address concerns of industry in the western trade coast, including land availability, supply chain connectivity, and contemporary environmental, social and governance requirements. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is developing an economic framework for the hub, which will focus on land and infrastructure, skills and workforce development, and industry development and attraction initiatives. This reflects areas of critical importance to the continued success and prominence of the hub. The department recently completed a round of in-depth workshops with several companies in the western trade coast to gain insights and suggestions for these three focus areas. This forms part of the government's broader and ongoing engagement with industry and the community to optimise the development of the hub. As Australia's industrial land gateway to global industry and trade with the economies of China and South-East Asia, it is essential that we plan for the future of the western trade coast. I look forward to this government's continued engagement with industry and the community to transform the western trade coast into a global advanced industries hub.

JOBS, TOURISM, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION — LEAD AGENCY SERVICES

Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade) [9.04 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to speak about the government's commitment to deliver a sustainable and diversified economy by driving economic development and investment in Western Australia, supported by major project facilitation. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is Western Australia's lead agency for economic development, international trade and investment, and tourism, and is delivering a strong and diversified economy through secure, quality jobs that increase investment across a broad range of industries. The department provides lead agency project facilitation services to major projects across the full spectrum of economic activity in Western Australia. Development of major projects often encounters a complex array of government approvals. The department works with proponents and provides case management services to assist in scoping out potential impacts and developing strategies to assist projects to achieve timely, effective approvals. This best practice service is greatly valued and sought after by proponents and is proven to effectively streamline approval time lines and support companies to make their final investment decision in a timely fashion.

In 2022, the department has provided these lead agency services to more than 45 major projects at various stages of their approvals journey. These projects have a combined capital expenditure value in excess of \$275 billion and are located across Western Australia. Several projects, supported through case management, reached major milestones in 2022, including BCI Minerals' Mardie salt and potash project and Lynas Rare Earths' Kalgoorlie processing facility, both of which have started construction; OZ Minerals' West Musgrave project, which made FID; and the Square Kilometre Array project, which has a signed Indigenous land use agreement and is preparing for construction. These projects represent over \$4 billion in investment and are expected to support more than 2 000 construction jobs and many ongoing jobs. Also in 2022, the government has seen a strong increase in the number of renewable energy and hydrogen projects that have received major project facilitation by the department. In addition, the department administers five statutes and 64 state agreements on behalf of the WA government.

Over the 2021–22 financial year, the department facilitated project approvals for state agreements across the resources sector, resulting in capital expenditure by the private sector of approximately \$1.3 billion. These developments are expected to support 1 000 additional construction and operational positions.

As the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, I look forward to making further major project announcements in 2023, and I thank the project facilitation team for its incredible work.

PUBLIC SECTOR — WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [9.07 am]: I rise to inform the house of the Institute of Public Administration Australia Women in Public Sector Leadership Conference. It was wonderful to be invited to open the IPAA Women in Public Sector Leadership Conference for the fifth year in a row, in what was its largest event with over 600 participants. IPAA WA is the professional association for the public sector. Each year it hosts a conference in Perth aimed at increasing the representation of women in leadership in the public service and inspiring creative conversations that can enhance the working conditions of women in WA. This year's theme was "Reaching for Greater Heights" and it was a privilege to have Diane Smith-Gander, AO, as the keynote speaker. Other speakers are names that many in the chamber would be familiar with, including Lanie Chopping, director general of the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries; Kaylene Gulich, chief executive officer of the WA Treasury Corporation; and Jenness Gardner, chief executive officer of the Economic Regulation Authority.

The pandemic has highlighted the expertise and capacity of our public sector in guiding our state through difficult times. We know that women make up the majority of the workforce in the public sector. Despite being 73.2 per cent of the public sector, women have historically not been represented at senior leadership levels; in 2015, women made up only 32 per cent of those leadership positions in the public sector. As part of *Stronger together: WA's plan for gender equality*, we made a target to achieve parity in the senior executive service. After a concerted effort, women now make up 45.2 per cent of senior executive positions in the WA public sector.

The public service is in a unique position to effect change for all Western Australians. Events like this are crucial to developing the breadth of talented women working in government and to ensuring that women are represented at all levels of our sector. I am committed to supporting Western Australia in becoming a world leader in gender equality, and with the ongoing commitment of the public sector, I believe we will achieve this.

WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY WA — TECH [+] AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [9.10 am]: I now rise to inform the house of the Women in Technology WA Tech [+] Awards 2022. WiTWA has been the leading voice for women in technology in Western Australia since 1998 and hosts an annual celebration to recognise outstanding women working in technology fields. Unfortunately, this year I was unable to attend, but was pleased that the member for Victoria Park, Hannah Beazley, was able to represent me. Sadly, women remain under-represented in the technology sector. In STEM, for example, women make up around only 28 per cent of the workforce. Sadly, in Western Australia, women made up only 18.93 per cent of information technology and 9.9 per cent of engineering vocational education and training enrolments in 2021. That is why it is so important to acknowledge women for the outstanding and often unrecognised work they do in these fields. Thanks to WiTWA, women and girls not only are encouraged to enter STEM pathways, but also have a strong support network available to them once they do. Many in this chamber have heard me say, "You can't be what you can't see." WiTWA has turned this saying around to become its key motto: "If you can see her, you can be her". It is vital that we are able to harness the full potential of our resources. We cannot deliver the best talent across our industries if we draw on only one section of the community. As a government, we have supported WiTWA's incursion programs and sponsored the Tech [+] Star Award for five years in a row. The calibre of the award winners is truly outstanding. From aerospace engineering to biochemistry, all these women are doing incredible things in a variety of fields. I particularly thank and acknowledge the dedicated volunteers of WiTWA and, in particular, co-chairs Kay Hargreaves and Tina Ambrose. Congratulations to all the nominees and award winners, and for the continued work of WiTWA.

SHARKS — HAZARD MITIGATION

Statement by Minister for Fisheries

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [9.12 am]: I am very pleased to advise the house that the McGowan government has implemented one of the most comprehensive, evidence-based shark mitigation programs in the world. Although the risk of interacting with a shark is low, the safety of water users remains a high priority. The connection between Western Australians and our ocean playground is strong because we have some of the most stunning beaches and pristine waters anywhere in the world. Being able to safely swim, surf, dive and play in the waters of our expansive coastline is something that should be undertaken with confidence and comfort, without the fear of interacting with sharks. One of the key strategies behind the shark mitigation program that provides confidence to water users is the SharkSmart WA app, which delivers timely and up-to-date notifications of shark

activity, including current alerts and warnings, informing people of shark activity and beach conditions. The SharkSmart app was launched in October 2019 and works seamlessly alongside the SharkSmart website to deliver near real-time information on shark activity, including current alerts and warnings. I am pleased to inform the house that the SharkSmart WA app has been downloaded over 100 000 times, which is a great achievement and demonstrates the community's desire to make informed decisions about entering the water. SharkSmart users' top five beach spots are Cottesloe, Mullaloo, City, Scarborough and Leighton Beaches. Supported by Surf Life Saving WA, helicopter patrols and conscientious members of the public reporting shark sightings to water police, along with the 37 shark monitoring network receivers, WA ocean users can switch on their sea sense when they head to the beach.

RESIDENTIAL EATING DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY

Grievance

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.14 am]: I thank the Minister for Health for taking my grievance. It relates to the outstanding \$4 million in federal funding allocated to the Department of Health to build a residential eating disorder treatment centre. The funds were announced in February 2019, but as yet, almost four years later, there does not appear to have been any planning for the facility. I note from the minister's previous answers to questions about the facility that she has been critical of the former federal Liberal–National government's allocation of the funds in an election campaign, the amount provided and the inadequacy of Peel Health Campus as a potential site for the centre. On behalf of those affected by these life-threatening illnesses and their families, I hope that the minister will not seek to again politicise the source of the funding.

The purpose of raising the grievance today is to ask whether the facility will be progressed; and, if not, why not? If Peel Health Campus is not perceived as a suitable site, are other sites being considered; and, if not, why not? I understand that other states received similar funding to develop a residential treatment facility, but Western Australia is the only one that has not yet undertaken any significant planning. The Queensland facility—the country's first residential eating disorder treatment centre—opened on the Sunshine Coast last year. As the minister is no doubt aware, the aim of these centres is to fill the gap between hospital and community support services by treating patients in a home-like environment with an individual treatment plan so that participants can model their recovery for when they return home. It offers a crucial step for patients transitioning between hospital and home. The model has been successfully used for many years in other countries, such as the United States. At least one Western Australian has been treated at the Queensland facility, with positive results. Boddington teenager Charli Williams was accepted into the Wandi Nerida facility last year after battling anorexia nervosa for several years and exhausting her treatment options in WA. Her mother told the ABC that the family sought treatment interstate because there was nowhere in WA that could help her and they feared she would not live. Charli described the centre as life-changing —

There were no nasal gastric tubes, no sort of threat to have a tube put in if you weren't complying so there was no fear around that ... the support was great.

Butterfly Foundation ambassador Pheobe Ho also has lived experience and said that a residential facility was a missing step in WA. She stated —

... it would be important to have this as part of a full suite of eating disorder services, such as outpatient, day patient and inpatient services. Without this continuum of care, someone can get admitted and discharged and they can fall between the cracks.

...

“It's providing that scaffolding to really set a person up for success when they do go home and engage as an outpatient ...

As the minister knows, there has been a significant spike in the number of people hospitalised or seeking help for eating disorders since the start of the pandemic, particularly among under-16s. As outlined in estimates hearings this year, there was a 48 per cent increase in referrals to Perth Children's Hospital between 2019 and 2020 and a 42 per cent increase in bed days for patients with an eating disorder. The number of patients admitted to Perth Children's Hospital with a diagnosed eating disorder increased 86 per cent from 2019 to 2020, indicating that the need for urgent medical intervention has also increased significantly. *The West Australian* reported that 426 people were hospitalised or sought help for eating disorders in July and August this year, which equates to nearly seven patients a day, a significant increase from the average of 3.8 patients a day in 2021–22. Nationally, more than one million people or four per cent of the population are affected by an eating disorder and two-thirds of those are women and girls. The long-term prognosis is often dire with more people dying of eating disorders each year than the average national road toll. The economic and social impact is also significant, estimated at \$80 billion each year in productivity and carer costs in the health system. Anecdotally, I am also regularly contacted by families who are at breaking point as they try to access an appropriate model of care that will help their loved ones with both the physical and mental health treatment they require.

It is therefore perplexing, given the escalating number of people seeking treatment and the life-impacting nature of the illnesses, that all available treatment options are not being progressed as a matter of urgency. I acknowledge

the state government's commitment to eating disorder hubs and improving community-based outpatient care, but I do not understand the reticence to develop a residential eating disorder treatment facility to support those hubs that can offer a bridge between inpatient care and community support services.

When asked about the progress of the WA centre last month, the minister indicated that discussions were underway on how to use the federal funds to support an eating disorder service. My understanding is that this service will focus on outpatient hubs and community-based care, and does not aim to provide any inpatient care outside emergency hospitalisations. I also note that, in her answer, she said it was up to clinicians to decide the models of care, but supporting people with eating disorders is best done as an outpatient service, not an inpatient service. This was deeply concerning and I question what influence those who have lived experience with an eating disorder and their families will have in informing the best model of care and how those funds are used. If Western Australians are spending tens of thousands of dollars to access this treatment interstate, surely their experience should count in the decision-making. It is clear that there are many gaps and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to treating these complex disorders.

I believe there is a critical need for a residential eating disorder treatment centre and I implore the minister to give a clear commitment that it will be progressed as an urgent manner. I thank the minister for taking my grievance.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [9.20 am]: Before I respond, I want to thank my colleagues for their flexibility this morning. The nine o'clock grievance hits up against school drop-off at times. I apologise to the chamber for my lateness and I appreciate the Minister for Corrective Services' willingness to step up.

I thank the member for her grievance. First, I will clarify an answer that I gave to a question without notice about how clinicians are best placed to manage eating disorder treatment. The member is quite right; clinicians and people with lived experience are best placed to develop a model of care. That is absolutely appropriate. The person who is not best placed is Andrew Hastie, the federal member for Canning; that is the point that I was making. It is about clinicians and people who have actually lived with and survived an eating disorder.

I will make a few points about the \$4 million commitment and I will outline to the chamber and the member the significant investment that this government is making in eating disorder services in Western Australia. I acknowledge all those people who are currently living with an eating disorder and the parents, carers, family members, partners or children of people living with eating disorders for the support that they provide. I also acknowledge those who have survived an eating disorder.

It is true that there has been a significant increase in referrals for eating disorder treatment across the world, not just in Western Australia. We are working to ensure that there is appropriate access to care, whether it is the emergency acute side at Perth Children's Hospital or in other hospitals. There is a gap around older people with eating disorders and we are working very hard to make sure that we meet it. We want to make sure that there is appropriate outpatient and community-based care.

Community-based models of care are really the way forward in treating many illnesses, whether they are mental illnesses or physical illnesses. Keeping people and holding people at home in place is where we will get the best outcomes. I am very pleased to hear about the experience of the constituent who was mentioned by the member for Vasse at the residential centre. I am very pleased that it was a good model for her and I am pleased that she is on a path to recovery. I will outline that the use of nasal gastric tubes is really for acute settings and medical emergencies, so it is not appropriate in residential care. Patients need to have a reasonable level of stability and a pathway to recovery before they can be placed in a residential setting. She was obviously in the right place in her recovery to be there.

There is some conjecture around nasal gastric tubes and restrictive practices, and there is certainly a lot of work being done by the Mental Health Advocacy Service on that. It is generally young women who are subjected to these restrictive practices. They are disturbing and they are very challenging for family members and patients, and we are certainly doing a lot of work in education, particularly in emergency departments, around the use of restrictive practices in that sense. In that acute setting, getting the psychological as well as the medical models to work together and talk to each other is also something that Perth Children's Hospital is working on in the inpatient unit to make sure that the psychiatric and medical responses are coordinated and getting good outcomes for those kids.

There were commitments in other states around the \$4 million residential facility, but I am going to be really honest; \$4 million will not buy much at all in health. That commitment was made with no discussion with the state government about what our commitment would be, and there was absolutely no commitment to recurrent funding. Who is going to run and pay for this facility? I say to the commonwealth and to Andrew Hastie that if they want to develop a residential facility, it will absolutely fall within the commonwealth's purview. The commonwealth could call that the missing middle of mental health. It should build and run a facility, and spend that \$4 million. I am more than happy for the commonwealth to spend that \$4 million. The state runs acute services; that is the state's responsibility. We run acute services and the commonwealth runs primary care services and that missing middle. That is the way the funding has always been; that is the funding agreement and the division of services. If the commonwealth sees that need, it should spend that money and develop it.

We are focused on outpatients and expanding those services. We have increased our commitment by \$30 million. There is a range of outpatient, family therapy and nursing support services. The child and adolescent mental health service provides the eating disorder service that treats young people aged up to 16 years who have an acute eating disorder and it treats young people aged up to 18 as outpatients. Therefore, people do not just drop out at 16 years of age. The service includes outpatient therapy and family therapy. We know that all the evidence points to intensive family-based therapy in eating disorder treatment. Anyone who has had a family member with an eating disorder will know and understand that the whole unit is involved. The service also provides nursing support, the day program and in-reach into Perth Children's Hospital. The WA eating disorders outreach consultation service is a statewide service that aims to ensure that youth and adults in WA with an eating disorder can access best practice care. It delivers evidence-based, high-quality care for people with eating disorders.

On top of these services, the state government has committed \$31.7 million to expand the WA eating disorder treatment service, including the South Metropolitan Health Service intensive outpatient service, which has been operational since January 2022. It is an intensive outpatient service. North Metropolitan Health Service began rolling out its service in October, with a phased implementation throughout next year. We have also received a federal government commitment of \$8 million to expand the service to the east metropolitan area. We are working with East Metropolitan Health Service to develop that quickly. We are also expanding the body esteem program, which provides group support for people with eating disorders, and, importantly, peer support groups and online support.

Children who are severely ill as a result of an eating disorder do not have a wait time for Perth Children's Hospital. There are no wait times for beds in Perth Children's Hospital; that is not true. I implore the member to understand the best practice model and the work that the state government is doing to continue to support people with eating disorders.

ELECTRICITY — OUTAGES — DAWESVILLE

Grievance

MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville) [9.28 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Energy and I thank Minister Johnston for taking my grievance. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the minister's support and the hard work undertaken by his advisers during the unprecedented power outages that occurred during the Christmas period last year. I would like to make particular mention of Yhana Lucas for the assistance she provided to both me and my team as we endeavoured to respond to constituents during the extended power outages throughout the week of that Christmas period. In addition, I would like to thank Ben and Briony from Western Power's stakeholders and community engagement team, who made themselves available and regularly emailed me updates and suggestions. They also organised for two generators to be deployed to maintain continuity of power following the outage. I also know that some people came in during their allocated Christmas leave to assist us and for that I am truly grateful.

I appreciate that the Christmas period was a tough time for many residents in the Peel and Perth metropolitan area because of a continuous heatwave with temperatures above 40 degrees over a four-day period and the added stress of a bushfire in the Perth hills. I am also conscious of the pressure that was on Western Power to rectify numerous faults and restore power to homes and businesses in very challenging conditions.

During the Christmas power outages, I received over 150 emails from people in my electorate describing their power outages that began late afternoon on Christmas Eve, with a growing number of outages occurring on Christmas Day before peaking in the evening of Boxing Day, with the largest number of customers affected on Boxing Day and into 27 December. However, a sizable number of affected customers remained without power until 28 December. I have three examples of emails I received during the Christmas 2021 period. Liz writes —

I am a resident of Dawesville.

We have experienced power outages on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and today.

My family has personally lost over \$500 worth of food.

We had our Christmas Day and Boxing Day completely ruined.

Power outages are commonplace in Dawesville and nothing seems to be done to fix this issue.

I would like this to be an official ministerial complaint and would appreciate knowing the correct way to lodge a ministerial complaint.

...

Your prompt response would be appreciated.

Then Cindy and Paul write —

The Dawesville power blackouts. We have had no power for the following times....

Xmas Day: 6pm–1.30am ...

Boxing Day: 5pm–10.30am the following day ...

27th: 4pm–11pm ...

28th: Streets behind us have lost power, we cringe we are next.

Aside from this happening on days over 40C & the heat being unbearable, we've also put up with:

1. Throwing out Xmas & New Years food
2. Cancel family gatherings
3. Reticulation times are in the evening, so instead of using our bore water over ... we had to pay for town water & hand water

but more inconvenient.....

We run a business that deals with clients internationally in different time zones. We don't get time off over Xmas because it is a busy time of year. Client sites are dealing with Boxing Day sales, etc, and we have to be available if their website strikes difficulties.

When we lost power, we also lost mobile & data coverage. Which meant that we had no form of communication during the outages. We had to keep driving north & south finding a tower that had coverage, and sitting in the car just waiting in case our clients needed us. Not a flash way to spend Xmas ...

Then Madeline writes —

Hi Lisa, I am a pensioner and live alone, 3 days of black outs 25.12.21 6pm/12.30 am. 26.12.21. 5.30 pm./1.00 am. 27.12.21. 5.30pm.../9 pm, also when the power is off I have no internet and mobile phone not working, what do I do if I need to call someone, my family are concerned if they can't reach me.

This is not a recent problem, I have lived in Dawesville since 1974 and ... has always had a power problem with not enough power being supplied ...

Why doesn't the power that goes back to the grid from solar panels during the day get saved so we don't have an overload from the inadequacies of the grid.

This is not a 3rd world country.

...

Yours sincerely Madeline

I rang every constituent who emailed me and consented to a phone call, and during these conversations that I had over the Christmas period, it came to light that many of these residents revealed that power outages in pockets of Dawesville south of the Dawesville Cut bridge are frequent—on average every four to six weeks—with a duration of anything from seconds to several hours. In response to these extreme outages, the minister commissioned an independent review of the power outage, led by Michelle Shepherd, a commissioner at the Australian Energy Market Commission. The review examined and reported on the reasons for the outages and made recommendations on reducing future impacts. Ms Shepherd's *Independent review of Christmas 2021 power outages* made several findings. It states —

During the Christmas period a TFB was called by DFES across large areas of the SWIS.

This triggered Western Power to apply its total fire ban procedures, which included making its network protection equipment more sensitive and disabling its auto-reclose settings. Ms Shepherd reported that making network protection equipment more sensitive and disabling auto-reclose settings reduced the risk of the network starting a fire. She said —

Multiple outages disproportionately impacted customers in rural areas, with 65.8% of customers experiencing multiple outages located in rural areas, including semi-rural areas, for example, Dawesville.

Since Christmas 2021, Western Power has been working to upgrade networks in many areas, and I know some works have been done in the electorate of Dawesville. Could the minister please outline to me the work that has been done and what prospective works will be done to further improve the system to provide reliable power now and for the future growth of the area? I understand that these works are not a silver bullet and that power outages will occur in the future and there is no such thing as a 100 per cent guarantee.

Can I also respectfully request that while the Dawesville electorate is still waiting for upgrades, generators be made available to us over the summer period? It has been explained to me that each year, Western Power reviews the load on its feeders and zone substations to ensure adequate capacity, based on historical performance and anticipated natural load growth, and any prospective shortfalls are addressed to ensure that prospective demands at this high-voltage level can be met. Additional planning investigations continue to be conducted for a number of areas, including Dawesville.

Also during the Christmas power outages last year, as outlined in the email from Madeline, my electorate's phone services in the area were interrupted for an extended period. Some residents advise that when their power goes out, so does their phone service—each time in sync with the power. There were many emails like Liz's asking about

the history of power surges occurring in the suburb of Dawesville. Is the minister aware of any reason this could be happening? Is there anything Western Power could do to ensure the reduction of power surges and the continuity of power to telecommunications facilities in the area, as residents were unable to contact emergency services?

Thank you, Minister Johnston, for your continued support and for taking my grievance today.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [9.35 am]: I thank the member for Dawesville for her grievance and her continued advocacy on these matters. I know we spoke at the time and subsequently on a number of occasions about the challenges that her constituents faced.

First of all, it is obviously important to understand that climate change is making the management of the electricity system much more difficult. The equipment that is used in the distribution of electricity is air-cooled; therefore, the fact that there will be higher temperatures will lead to more challenges for the equipment. That relates to the way the equipment works; in just the same way as a car's radiator relies on the vehicle moving to have air going through the radiator, the equipment is cooled with normal air. Therefore, on a series of high-temperature days and particularly high-temperature nights, there will be challenges with the electricity system.

The Mandurah region presents a series of challenges. Western Power's zone substation in Mandurah is operated from 132 kilovolts to 22 kilovolts. It has nine 22-kilovolt distribution feeders that extend north to supply Mandurah, up to Greenfields and east to North and South Yunderup. Extending south, these feeders also supply the area between the Dawesville estuary and the Indian Ocean, right down to Herron. As members can imagine, supplying these distances with feeders is challenging, given the topography between the Indian Ocean and the Dawesville estuary. It also presents limited opportunities for interconnection because of the estuary.

During the unprecedented heatwave that occurred last summer between Christmas and 27 December, outages that affected 2 900 customers unfortunately occurred on the southern feeder between Dawesville and Herron. We all know that power outages are never convenient, but the member has outlined why the Christmas 2021 outages were particularly inconvenient. The experience of the member for Dawesville's constituents having to throw out food and cancel Christmas celebrations was not unique. Of course, 86 per cent of customers were not impacted by outages, but that is no comfort to the 14 per cent who were. The member also read out an email from constituents Cindy and Paul, who were unable to use their bore. This also was a common occurrence, particularly in regional communities that rely on bores.

I also note the query regarding power surges. When people refer to power surges, they are likely talking about momentary interruptions known internally to Western Power as "auto re-closers". These take place when a high-voltage protector device, either the feeder circuit breaker or an automatic re-closer, trip in response to a fault. The typical root cause is something in passing contact with the high-voltage power lines, resulting in a short circuit. When the incident is passing—also called a transient—the circuit breaker can restore supply automatically after a few seconds. As long as the fault is cleared—that is to say, it was only instantaneous—power is returned with the smallest possible interruption to the customer. Genuine supply-side voltage spikes are rare and limited to situations in which there has been lightning, a neutral fault or failures in substation voltage regulation equipment. They very, very rarely occur. When most people talk about a surge, they are talking about the transient's impact on the network.

Finally, the member raised the issue of telecommunications, and this is an ongoing challenge. I have written to both Telstra and the federal government to draw attention to the challenges here. As a state government, we have no control over telecommunications; it is regulated by the commonwealth. Of course, as we moved from landlines to mobile devices, the way that the mobile stations are built means that they are impacted by outages. The telephone companies could apply other technologies to solve that problem, and we urge them to do so.

I understand how disruptive the Christmas outages were in 2021, including to people in the community the member represents. I appreciated that at the time, which is why I apologised to everyone affected and took a number of further actions. One of those actions was that we doubled the extended outage payment to \$120. Of course, as the member outlined, we also commissioned Michelle Shepherd to examine the root causes of the troubles we had. I tabled that report on 23 March.

I want to acknowledge the considerable progress Western Power has made, beginning with works that will directly benefit the Dawesville community. Western Power has fast-tracked significant capacity and reliability investments on the Mandurah network, and we expect all of them to be completed by Christmas this year. The 12 packages of work would normally have taken two years to complete. These works will significantly improve network reliability and cater for increased customer demand. There will be more flexibility between feeders. The addition of new feeders and interconnections between existing feeders means that we will be able to redirect electricity around breakages in equipment. These works will also create additional capacity and redundancy in the region by utilising almost six kilometres of line from the new feeders to extend and enable the northern feeders to pick up additional load from the southern feeders, thereby allowing loads to be better shared across the Mandurah network. Networks cannot be 100 per cent reliable as faults do occur during normal operations. However, if faults occur, customers will experience a reduction in the time that it will take to respond, and will be reconnected more quickly. One way in which we are doing that is that Western Power has automated eight of the key switching points in the area to allow automatic action.

I also want to update the house more broadly and table Western Power's *Shepherd report implementation plan: Progress update*.

[See paper [1711](#).]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The member can see that we are taking action in her community to make the system better and give us more flexibility and faster responses. We are doing that in a number of other locations across the state as well.

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — CARNARVON

Grievance

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [9.42 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Community Services, and I thank the minister for taking my grievance. My grievance relates to the ongoing and relentless behaviour of groups of disengaged and dysfunctional youths who continue to impose unacceptable levels of emotional, financial and physical stress on the community, and in many cases prevent everyday residents from working and living peacefully and safely, particularly in parts of Carnarvon but also in other parts of the region, such as Meekatharra and Mt Magnet. On behalf of communities in my electorate, I cannot emphasise enough their needs and their call for change. There should be a holistic review of programs and processes across all areas of government and wraparound services, in consultation with members of the community and local organisations, to identify gaps and enable workable solutions to be embedded. The community is calling for review, change and reform.

I raise this grievance at the request of many desperate constituents in my community, which has been overcome by the lawless actions of some young people, who, sadly, seem to think that stealing, the destruction of property and violence are acceptable. Their actions have become normalised in their lives as they face limited or no consequences and, it seems, have little remorse, and all the while they are failing to attend school. Most people understand that this will be an incredibly complex situation to resolve and that no white knight will come over the hill, but the situation has reached a crisis point for residents and visitors, with many victims of crime now having experienced multiple episodes of break-ins, burglary, vandalism and threatening behaviour, which has terrified many people, some of whom have become prisoners in their own homes and are desperate for relief and respite.

The dire impact of the unacceptable and unruly behaviour of these youths extends widely. Many businesses are struggling to attract and retain employees, such as the local supermarket, which is targeted by large groups of youths who descend on the centre en masse, stealing, abusing and threatening staff who try to intervene. The respect shown to security guards who try to protect shoppers and staff is also virtually non-existent at times, with a guard recently assaulted by a 12-year-old and taken to hospital. Three security company cars have been damaged by rock throwing and gings, while night-fill staff have left work to find their vehicle windows smashed by gings and rocks. I am advised that two properties occupied by nursing staff were broken into just yesterday. The local bus company that services the three schools, the local mining company and the community is struggling to keep and source drivers, as it suffers ongoing broken windows and damage to its buses, not to mention the risk and stress to workers, who are worried about their safety and wellbeing as a result of missiles, in the form of rocks and lead sinkers, being launched from gings as they pass by. These projectiles have a similar trajectory to a gun and could potentially be fatal, so much so that a supermarket has been asked to remove sinkers from its shelves in an effort to mitigate risk across the community. I also understand that local tradespeople contracted to repair community housing now refuse to attend certain areas, leaving repairs to items such as plumbing and electricity unattended, all due to them refusing to continue to have their vehicles damaged and wanting to mitigate any risk of harm to themselves.

Local children are afraid to walk or ride home from school or to after-school sport for fear of being harassed or attacked, while others struggle to sleep on their own at night, having been traumatised by break-ins and abuse—something children should not have to endure. The business and home of one local family have been broken into many times, including an incident in which their 14-year-old son was confronted and threatened by three boys in their garage, who took his motorbike. Suffice to say, his younger sister has been traumatised by this series of events, and of her own accord penned a letter to the Premier in desperation back in January this year, pleading for help.

The historic CWA house in Carnarvon was trashed by youths in daylight hours this week, while on Tuesday, three houses on one street were severely trashed. One owner returned from work to find destruction and extensive vandalism, despite recently spending thousands of dollars on a security door, which seemingly did not stop them. Some owners believe that they have lost their homes, which they cannot sell or live in. The vandalism and aggressive behaviour across the town's suburbs is causing enormous grief, financial loss and a lot of mental health issues, including by impacting people's ability to remain employed and source insurance. An example is the building that houses the ABC in Carnarvon, which has been broken into more than once. The building owner has advised me that his insurance company now does not insure glass in Carnarvon. That may also be the case for many other businesses and home owners, whose premiums have also increased.

My previous comments in this house about children viewing juvenile detention as being a good thing should raise alarm, given the recent insights into Banksia Hill Detention Centre. They would prefer detention to their home life, so it is clearly absolutely horrifying and results in them being vulnerable, misguided and roaming the streets

without supervision, food, safety or shelter. This cohort of young, vulnerable people, who are without a safe space or safe home life, are swept along with others who are already committing crime, and will become part of the group that is going through the revolving door of the justice system. We should be mindful of the circumstances at Banksia Hill and understand how we got to this situation. It has not just happened overnight. Seemingly, a lack of home life and guidance, as we know it, including trauma and dysfunction, has underpinned behaviour that has resulted in them going to juvie, as they call it. With the review of Banksia Hill, it is critical that we work together at the other end of this situation, being the communities, to identify suitable alternative plans to cater for, care for and guide these youths, while at the same time keeping our community safe.

To many, the picture I have painted of some of the things that are happening would seem extreme, but I can assure members that as someone who lives in the community and hears about and sees this on the ground, it is definitely not. I acknowledge that programs are in the pipeline, but I urge the minister to please find ways to help protect the community, the disengaged youth and our hardworking police and service providers as a matter of urgency, before we experience a tragedy in our community. The government needs to review programs and identify gaps, in consultation with impacted community members, and implement a safe space or facility for the many youths who roam our streets, including between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am. We all need to work in collaboration to find long-term changes and solutions for better outcomes. Thank you for taking my grievance, minister.

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services) [9.48 am]: I thank the member for North West Central for raising her grievance on this important issue. I understand the concerns of the community; I have heard them from the member's community and others. The issues the member has identified are not new, but I stress that I appreciate the community's concern. The government is working to address a number of these issues, which are not new and are not particular to the member's community or Western Australia, in fact; they are experienced by many communities, and particularly regional communities, around the country. I talk with my counterparts in other states; these issues are in some ways wicked problems that continue to challenge governments Australia over. That is not to say that we are not focused on looking at solutions or understanding what the evidence tells us will be good approaches to try to tackle these very complex issues.

A number of issues that the member raised would be more properly addressed to police. I am not ignoring the issues that come under my area of responsibility—that is, at-risk youth and child protection, and I will address some of those issues—but when there is criminal activity, those matters are best dealt with by police. It is a challenge within government, and, again, this is not a particular challenge for our government, but each agency has specialised work that it needs to undertake, at the same time working cooperatively. Agencies have their specialist effort that they bring to the table but they work together with other agencies to ensure that their combined effort is greater than the sum of their parts. That is certainly the case with the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Communities working cooperatively on many of these areas.

One of the things that I want to address is the idea that there is not an opportunity after hours to address young people who do not have a safe place to go. This is important. The young people involved in communities where these issues are playing out, when they are out late at night or in the early hours of the morning that the member referred to, can lead to a misconception that there is no capacity to manage them. If no responsible adult is able to be identified to care for those young people, there are avenues for this to be addressed. If police or other authorities cannot find a responsible adult to take care of these young people, they are able to, and frequently do, contact the Department of Communities' crisis care line that then calls on-call staff from communities in the local district. That does happen and should happen. If it is not happening, I would be interested to know why not. I have talked to local police about that to ensure that if a responsible adult cannot be identified, the after-hours line needs to be contacted and on-call staff will be contacted. It is true that Department of Communities staff are not rostered on 24/7, as police and other emergency services are, but, as I said, local staff are on-call and available to receive children and young people who may be at risk to themselves or others.

We are investing record amounts of new and additional funds to the child protection system to make sure that young people are safe and, importantly, to support families to ideally keep those children at home and address the underlying issues that bring those families to the attention of authorities in the first place. In the 2022–23 state budget we allocated more than \$75 million to front line staff and services to support children in care, so that they can remain safely at home and, importantly, as I said, address some of the underlying causes that manifest in the sort of antisocial behaviour the member is talking about. We have 36 new child protection workers, allocated in last financial year's budget alone, and of those positions, half have been allocated to Carnarvon to create a dedicated intensive family support team. Staff will be allocated. I think those positions based in Carnarvon largely have been filled and they will start working intensively with the families the member referred to. I have seen the work of those intensive family support and early intervention teams within the child protection system and I know that they do good work. It is not enough for people to say, "We understand these issues are complex and we want to address them." We need to understand what this means on the ground and the delivery of new teams in Carnarvon is an important step.

Similarly, the Target 120 program, which the member referred to, is a practical program that we know is delivering good results. It works with not only young people who have already had interactions with police but not gone into

Banksia Hill Detention Centre, but also their families, so it has a significant multiplier effect. The statistics are impressive and I am confident that once we can start working with those young people and their families in Carnarvon, we will not only see immediate results, but also start to embed long-term results that will be good for the community. We have also funded Aboriginal community connectors in Carnarvon and a number of other places. In September 2021, the government committed \$14 million to continue the program across 13 locations, and that includes Carnarvon. Those services include safe transport, prevention and mediation, referrals and follow-ups, support for community events and activities, youth engagement, and planned medical support for those young people. This is the sort of practical work that we are doing. There has also been support to the police and community youth centre in Carnarvon as a \$1 million investment in September 2021.

It is a challenge having these difficult social issues in the member's area, but government alone cannot solve them. It also takes community leaders who understand how to harness goodwill and effort across the community. I call on the member to be one of those community leaders.

GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION (MEDICAL RESEARCH) ACT

Grievance

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.56 am]: My grievance this morning is to the Attorney General and it concerns medical research, a matter that I have raised with his cabinet colleagues—namely, the Minister for Health, Amber-Jade Sanderson, and the Minister for Medical Research, Hon Stephen Dawson. I would like to thank those of my constituents who are expert medical and legal practitioners and have raised this issue with me. It concerns amendments to the Guardianship and Administration (Medical Research) Act 2020. On Tuesday night, I was fortunate enough to be at the Spinnaker Health Research Foundation awards, when CEO Dana Henderson and chair Andrew Friars, together with the chair of the South Metropolitan Health Service, Associate Professor Robyn Collins, and the CEO, Paul Forden, were unanimous in commending the work of the state government in supporting medical research as a key pillar to ensuring that we retain our world class health system. People at the research awards night universally made the point that supporting medical research is imperative if we are going to maintain our standard of care. This morning I was at a Palliative Care WA symposium where people who are looking at end of life re-emphasised the importance of consent to participate in certain medical procedures, and more emphasis was placed on advance health directives. I thank the Attorney General for providing me with the opportunity to chair the Ministerial Expert Panel on Advance Health Directives during the last term of Parliament so that we could make access to advance health directives easier, more commonplace and more well known throughout the community. In so doing, we provided the framework within which people can make appropriate choices for their end-of-life care.

That creates the context in which I would like to highlight the problem. When this McGowan Labor government introduced world leading amendments to the Guardianship and Administration Act at the height of the COVID pandemic in 2020 to facilitate more effective medical research, we amended section 110ZS, which provided for urgent medical research without consent within the Guardianship and Administration Act. Through my involvement in the Ministerial Expert Panel on Advance Health Directives that I just referred to, I have been fortunate enough to meet many incredible medical experts and researchers in our state who work tirelessly to keep our state and communities within our state safe and strong. In that regard I would like to give special mention to those who have raised this issue with me. From the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine I acknowledge both Peter Allely and Daniel Fatovich who have regularly talked to me about this issue. I also acknowledge Professor Tony Celenza. These people have identified just how important preserving this provision in our Guardianship and Administration Act is to ensure that the medical research that is being facilitated under this amendment can continue.

Just by way of background, although the previous legislation allowed for a guardian and next of kin to consent to medical treatment, as that term was defined, nothing permitted them to consent to participation in medical research. Because the treatment of COVID-19, by necessity, involved medical research, this meant we had to implement these legislative changes as a matter of urgency.

Section 110ZS is a vital part of fixing this because it enables medical research to occur that can save lives during a medical emergency. As the Attorney General would know, a wide range of conditions in emergency departments can lead someone to require urgent medical treatment without consent such as cardiac arrest, stroke, major trauma and septic shock. In modern medicine, the concept of treatment has evolved to rightly recognise the importance of all forms of research from surveys and interviews to non-intrusive interventions such as X-rays, blood samples and administering fluids through a drip. Clinical trials that involve these kinds of research are not only important for discovering and developing new ways of treating patients or new kinds of illnesses, but also necessary for improving and updating existing practices.

Due to the legislative changes that were passed by this government, Western Australian researchers have been able to conduct a comparative effectiveness trial that found that outcomes were much more positive for patients over the age of 65 years who did not receive treatment involving medicine than those who did. WA is now one of the leading sites around the country for this trial and this research will save and improve thousands of lives around

the world every year. The article I referred to for that information is the *Tasman Medical Journal*, volume 4(2), 2022, “Keeping ethics at the forefront of medical research: the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Medical Research) Act (WA) 2020”. Amongst the authors of that article was the eminent legal mind of Hon Eric M. Heenan, QC, who I know has raised this matter with the Attorney General as well as with me.

My grievance this morning concerns the unfortunate behaviour of Hon Nick Goiran in the upper house and his insistence on imposing a sunset clause on what is otherwise widely commended legislation. My concern and that of the legal and medical experts who have raised this matter with me is that the operation of the sunset clause will stand in the way of this groundbreaking, world-leading medical research. My grievance is that members of the Liberal Party who like to say that they support our health system behave in a way that is entirely inconsistent with that when people like Hon Nick Goiran place barriers in the path of medical research that makes it harder for our expert clinicians, academics and medical researchers to do their work. This issue has been raised with me by medical experts, researchers, clinicians and legal experts. They have asked me to ask the Attorney General to provide us with an update on the government’s position on these excellent amendments and what the future may hold for the safety of medical research in Western Australia. I thank the Attorney General for taking my grievance.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [10.02 am]: I am deeply appreciative of the member for Mount Lawley’s vital interest in this matter through the passage of the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Medical Research) Bill 2020 and during this review of the act. As the member mentioned, the Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Medical Research) Act 2020 was passed in April 2020 during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the act was presented before Parliament in extraordinary circumstances, the work behind the legislation had been the product of years of community and stakeholder consultation and reflects our commitment to the principles of good governance in supporting and investing in our state’s healthcare system.

Back in 2015, the Department of the Attorney General conducted a statutory review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 to assess the operation and effectiveness of the amendments made by the Acts Amendment (Consent to Medical Treatment) Act 2008. Having consulted the Public Advocate, the Public Trustee, the Department of Health and over 163 government and non-government agencies, health services and medical ethics committees, the statutory review found strong support to amend the guardianship act to allow consent to medical research treatment for people temporarily or permanently incapacitated under guardianship orders. The Guardianship and Administration Amendment (Medical Research) Act enables medical research to be conducted in respect of people without the capacity to consent. An incapacitated person may participate in research in two circumstances. First, with the consent of their decision-maker or, second, in urgent situations without prior consent. Various safeguards ensure that enrolling an incapacitated person in urgent medical research is subject to independent oversight and review. Researchers are permitted to conduct research approved by a human research ethics committee. This can occur only if an independent medical practitioner has determined that the research is in the best interests of the patient or is not averse to the interests of the patient by increasing his or her medical risks.

As the member for Mount Lawley noted, the sunset clause was included in the bill and is due to take effect on 8 April 2024. As the member noted, this was included at the insistence of Hon Nick Goiran in the upper house, and, as I said to Professor Danny Fatovich at the time, we cannot let perfect get in the way of good. We had to get the bill through. Politics is about the art of what is possible. At that stage back in 2019, Labor’s views did not always carry in the upper house—such is not the case today. As I said, the bill contained a review clause that the other chamber, at the behest of Hon Nick Goiran, changed into a sunset clause. Under that clause, I am required to review the operation and effectiveness of the medical research amendments in accordance, as the member for Mount Lawley said, with section 110ZZE of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990. As the member outlined, the review is well underway and has benefited from the expertise of a project reference group. The reference group comprises representatives of the Department of Health, the Office of the Public Advocate and the Department of Justice. The department consulted a wide range of stakeholders including medical researchers, patient advocacy groups and mental health, disability and aged-care sector representatives. The review is considering the view of those stakeholders given their practical knowledge of the legislation.

Member, the review is in its final stages. I expect that the final report will soon be presented for my consideration. I assure all members that the review has carefully considered the sunset clause in light of the concerns raised by the member and other medical researchers. I have a personal interest in this matter having been the beneficiary of medical research when I was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma back in the day. Earlier in my parliamentary career, I was a bit lost in Western Australia because no research had been done into that rather obscure or rare disease. I enrolled in a medical research program in Melbourne along with nine other people, and it is because of my participation in that medical research and in that trial program that I am standing here today addressing this grievance.

I wish to assure all members and any medical researchers who might read the transcript of the member for Mount Lawley’s grievance this morning that I have a particular ongoing and enduring interest in this issue. I am waiting for the final report to be presented and we will address the sunset clause in due course. I will keep the chamber and members updated. I know that it is crucial to the advancement of our health system and the health of all Western Australians that our health system and the researchers and practitioners within it are at the cutting edge of cures for disease in Western Australia. I thank the member for raising this important issue.

GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES BILL 2022*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr M. McGowan (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

Second Reading

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Treasurer) [10.10 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This government came to office with a commitment to reform the public sector. We have worked hard to implement changes across the public sector that improve accountability and ensure the efficient delivery of government services. The government acted quickly by initiating the service priority review, which delivered a blueprint for cultural change and an efficient public service. We commissioned the special inquiry into government projects and programs, headed by former Under Treasurer John Langoulant, which identified systemic failings of the previous Liberal–National government, characterised by financial recklessness, poor oversight, irresponsible decision-making and a lack of transparency and accountability.

Both reviews identified the need to strengthen the governance, transparency and accountability arrangements that oversee the state’s government trading enterprises. They highlighted weaknesses with the current governance frameworks. They found that there are misconceptions about a GTE’s role and relationship with government, and that uncertainty about what good governance looks like in practice has led to each GTE industry operating under separate establishing acts, with varying governance requirements. The Langoulant inquiry found that many GTEs experienced poor project outcomes and inadequate information-sharing practices due to a lack of strong governance and accountability measures. The government accepted its recommendations, including that umbrella legislation be introduced to standardise and strengthen the government’s oversight of GTEs.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken to deliver this government’s GTE reform program, including the requirement for GTEs to provide full disclosure in the budget papers. This has significantly enhanced Parliament’s ability to scrutinise the finances and operations of our state’s trading enterprises. However, the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022 will drive a monumental change to the way in which our GTEs are governed and ensure that the long-term interests of the state are protected. The state’s GTEs provide some of the most critical functions for the community, including the provision of essential services, the facilitation of trade and the development of land for both commercial and residential uses. The umbrella legislation I introduce today will provide GTEs with greater clarity on their relationship to government, and will harmonise good governance and key financial arrangements across GTEs.

In particular, the bill seeks to remove inconsistencies in GTE governance and core financial provisions across various pieces of establishing legislation; provide clear expectations of what information should be shared with government; provide clear articulation of the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of GTE boards; and ensure the use of strategic planning documentation to enable robust planning of critical state infrastructure. As part of this government’s GTE reform program, it will continue to work with GTEs to improve strategic documentation and ensure that quality information is shared with government to deliver informed decision-making. There is also a need for GTEs to more clearly and transparently demonstrate how they will address the various outcomes that they have agreed to deliver.

The bill does not follow a prescriptive approach to governance, and it does not mandate how GTEs go about undertaking their day-to-day business activities. This reflects the principles of the corporatised model established for GTEs more than two decades ago and acknowledges the skills and expertise that the directors of GTE boards bring in managing the strategic direction of GTEs. The ongoing nature of the relationship between government and GTEs is reflected in the mechanisms embedded throughout the bill. The bill enhances the GTE model by standardising good governance practices for GTE boards and directors, including the introduction of self-assessment and external review provisions, ensuring boards have the appropriate knowledge and expertise.

A GTE minister will provide oversight of the governance requirements applicable to the entire GTE cohort covered by the bill, and will ensure that there is efficient administration of the bill. It is intended that the bill will be allocated to the Treasurer, due to its broad application and governance provisions that span across multiple GTEs. Importantly, however, the relevant portfolio minister will retain their role in approving key aspects of the GTE model, including the appointment of directors and consideration of strategic documentation and material transactions.

The purpose of GTEs has been clarified to ensure that boards understand their role more broadly and government’s expectation for the GTE to advance the public benefit, including through the provision of financial and non-financial returns on taxpayers’ investment through the GTEs. The bill clarifies the balance between commerciality and broader policy objectives, recognising that providing returns to the community is the paramount duty of a GTE. Further, the bill introduces a mechanism for the issuance of policy orders that allow GTEs to contribute to delivery of the government’s policy outcomes. These policy orders will be akin to the current Premier’s circulars, and may cover issues like procurement policy, wages policy and diversity targets.

As recommended by the Langoulant inquiry, the GTE bill will reform strategic documentation requirements. Statements of expectation and annual performance statements will replace the current strategic development plan and statement of corporate intent. These documents will strengthen transparency, with the annual performance statement structured to ensure that it is a genuine performance statement on what the GTE aims to deliver, not just a compliance exercise.

This bill will also provide standardised provisions for ministerial approval of significant transactions. It will introduce a dual-limb qualitative and quantitative threshold for GTEs entering into significant transactions, with ongoing and open consultation and Treasurer's approval required. Provisions in the bill will allow the government to fully understand the potential risks posed by significant transactions, while GTEs retain the ability to effectively pursue their commercial interests. The bill enhances current financial management provisions relating to dividends, investments, hedging and use of the Public Bank Account. The dividend provisions enable prior-year profits to be considered in the determination of the dividend payable. Currently, in most establishing act provisions, dividends can only be paid from current-year profits. Whole-of-government liquidity management will be enhanced through this bill, with the provisions aimed at improving government's oversight of the liquid assets held by GTEs. As GTEs will have their primary bank account as part of the PBA, these funds will become part of the state's credit ratings assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the robust engagement that GTEs, policy agencies and central agencies have undertaken during the development of this bill, and the ongoing support and commitment that the GTEs, and in particular their boards, have demonstrated in transitioning to the new framework. The Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022 is a significant long-overdue reform that will protect the long-term interests of the state. It is yet another measure that delivers on this government's strong commitment to accountability and transparency.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.S. Love**.

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2021

First Reading

Bill read a first time, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [10.19 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2021 is an omnibus bill that makes a range of repeals and minor amendments to a number of acts under the umbrella of a single bill.

As members may be aware, bills of this nature are a routine part of legislative review and ensure that the state's statute book is regularly updated and streamlined. It makes only minor, non-controversial amendments to various acts and repeals acts or provisions that are no longer required. Omnibus bills are an efficient means by which Parliament may make numerous minor amendments to diverse pieces of legislation without the need for separate amendment bills addressing many acts. They reduce the number of bills that would otherwise be needed to make non-controversial amendments and repeals and, therefore, save parliamentary time.

Part 2 of the bill provides for the repeal of Western Australian acts and Imperial enactments. Part 3 of the bill provides for the amendments. The amendments range from inserting missing words to correcting typographical, cross-referencing and formatting errors, and to account for updates to and repeals of other legislation. Detailed explanations of each of the amendments are set out in the explanatory memorandum accompanying this bill.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.S. Love**.

ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLES) AMENDMENT (OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING) BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from 23 November.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [10.21 am]: I rise to continue my remarks on the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. Prior to private members' business yesterday, I was reflecting on the fact that this bill is routed in stamping out gender-based hate speech, being prompted by the offensive and misogynist advertising used by the Wicked Campers company on its campervans. Tomorrow is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It is also the day that we launch our 16 Days in WA campaign, which is a great initiative of the McGowan government, led by the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, to raise awareness and to encourage people to take action to combat gender-based violence in our

community. As I said yesterday, one of the first ways that we can do that is by ensuring that the attitudes we hold, the behaviour we model and the speech we use are respectful and not in any way reflective of the misogynist language and attitudes displayed on Wicked Campers campervans.

I want to expand on a point I made yesterday, which is the fact that hate speech can cause many negative consequences but it can also lead to behaviours such as direct physical violence against individuals. In my contribution today, I want to reflect on an article in the *UNSW Law Journal* entitled “Harming women with words: The failure of Australian law to prohibit gendered hate speech”, by Tanya D’Souza, Laura Griffin, Nicole Shackleton and Danielle Walt. I want to congratulate those academics on the paper. It was illuminating to read it overnight to supplement the comments that I made yesterday. The paper provides a very detailed consideration of the harm that hate speech, particularly gendered hate speech, can cause in our society.

The authors make the same point as the one I was making yesterday: hate speech, and gender-based hate speech, is offensive, but it is more than merely offensive; it directly and negatively impacts people in a variety of ways. The authors make the point that hate speech can change the behaviour of the people who are on the receiving end. It can cause people to feel fearful and targeted. It may cause them to feel that it is not safe to enter public places. It may discourage people from participating in debates. We can all think of examples in which women who have spoken out, say on news programs or social media platforms such as Twitter, have become the target of terrible hate speech and, as a result, have left the platform. There are many examples of women being chased off platforms such as Twitter and Facebook and having to shut down social media accounts. The level of hatred directed towards them in the language that people use on those platforms has been too much, causing them to fear for their own safety and resulting in a decline in their mental health.

The point is that victims of hate speech change their behaviour in an attempt to avoid the hate speech and neutralise its negative impacts on their mental and even physical health. More than that, hate speech encourages other people to engage in the same behaviour. We have all seen the mob mentality on social media—once a couple of people start piling on, more people follow. I am not backwards about saying that, by and large, this is vilification directed towards women by men. That is why this sort of hate speech is gendered. The victims are disproportionately women and the perpetrators are disproportionately men. It can encourage a mob mentality, with more men joining in and women being deplatformed. That has a tangible effect on the way women live their lives and their ability to speak out.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The authors of this paper go further on the direct impact of gendered hate speech. They talk about it not just resulting in fearfulness but also directly affecting people’s health. For example, it can cause sleeplessness, having a direct impact on a woman’s ability to sleep and feel safe at home. It can lead to feelings of threat and a lack of safety in many different environments. Social media and digital communication are completely pervasive in our lifestyle. If people are on the receiving end of hate speech, they are going to be bombarded by notifications from Facebook or Twitter. Every time they look at their phone, they will see, “You have X number of messages” or “You have X number of reactions to your post.” It will be in their face. It can very quickly become overwhelming, with the sense that the bullying behaviour is following them everywhere. I want to tie that experience to one of the things that the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022 will do, because in tackling the problem of advertising on vehicles, it will tackle the sense that offensive advertising is pervasive. One of the things that distinguishes vehicle advertising from other forms of advertising is that it can follow people around; it can be everywhere. If people are in a holiday neighbourhood and there are a lot of campervans driving around with offensive advertising, it is incredibly hard to avoid. People can choose to avoid a billboard that contains offensive advertising. Personally, I think those billboards should be taken down, but people do not have to put up with them if they do not want to. If a television channel shows an ad that people do not like, they can switch to a different channel or turn off the TV. However, when people are driving around, they cannot avoid vehicle advertising; it can pop up at any moment and it cannot be turned off. People cannot ask someone to do something about it and think that it will be done straightaway; rather, they have to go through quite a tortuous process of making a complaint to Ad Standards and following through the Ad Standards investigation. It will make a recommendation, which, in most cases, can be ignored by the advertiser.

In the same way that the authors of this paper recognise that gender-based hate speech can invade a person’s life, whether it is online or as a recipient of harassing phone calls, it can invade a person’s everyday life. I am really pleased that this bill will prevent vehicle advertising; it is one brick in the wall in making sure that there is no ubiquitous offensive advertising and gender-based hate speech everywhere we go, because it is a problem; we see it everywhere. We see it on prime-time television. I am reminded of an example a few years ago—I might need members to assist me with this—in which Eddie McGuire made a comment about a woman named Caroline whose her last name escapes me. She is a very well-known Australian sports commentator. I have to admit that sports commentating is not my unusual forte, so I apologise for not remembering the commentator’s last name. Eddie McGuire made an awful statement in which he essentially said that she should be drowned. He made that statement on prime-time television.

Mrs L.M. O’Malley: It was around the Big Freeze.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: That is right; it was the Big Freeze at the MCG.

Ms C.M. Collins interjected.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I have been told by the member for Hillarys that the woman's name is Caroline Wilson. He said that she should drown after going down the slide. It was clearly a statement in which she was essentially being told to shut up. It was appalling to see commentary by Eddie McGuire, a very well-known figure in the media, directed towards a very senior and well-respected sports commentator. That is an example of how the kind of language that treats women as objects and victims of violence is pervasive.

I want to link that to the point about women leaving digital platforms. There is also evidence that it can result in women not going on, say, television platforms. There are examples of experts and university professors who feel that they cannot go on a radio talk show or a TV talk show, such as *The Project*, in the future because they were so terribly harassed in a previous appearance. The point is that offensive language does not simply cause offence, sleeplessness, paranoia and insecurity, all of which are terrible things, but it changes people's behaviour. It means that women are effectively silenced because they do not feel that they can speak out on issues on which they may very well be experts because they might find themselves on the receiving end of gender-based hate speech. The authors of the paper make the point that Rosie Batty resigned from public activism at the Luke Batty Foundation because she had been on the receiving end of that kind of silencing, offensive hatred and trolling. We have all seen examples of that in recent times.

Another example is a little niche. I have read a lot of articles about women involved in the electronic gaming industry who find it very difficult to have a profile and opinion and make a career for themselves because electronic gaming has been a traditionally male-dominated field, and when they try to show their expertise, the predominantly male audience responds very poorly, shouts them down and treats them with contempt. It is just another example of how gender-based hate speech can have an impact on a women's career advancement, choice of career and the things they might feel safe doing.

The next point is that in addition to the direct effects of gender-based hate speech, gender-based hate speech, such as we have seen on Wicked Campers vans, can also indirectly cause gender-based violence. There is plenty of evidence of this. I will quote from the article directly. It reads —

GBV can be considered a consequential harm of GHS, as language reflects and informs social norms and attitudes. The attitudes and beliefs that inform misogynist language are closely connected with men's violence toward women. The literature establishing this link has been summarised in a report commissioned by VicHealth, which states that '[m]en who hold traditional views about gender roles and relationships, have a strong belief in male dominance or who have sexually hostile attitudes are more likely to perpetrate violence against their [female] intimate partners than those who do not'. More broadly, '[p]eople who hold traditional views about gender roles or who have lower levels of support for gender equality are more likely to accept violence against women than those who hold more egalitarian beliefs'.

We can see from that statement that gendered hate speech has an indirect but strong relationship with the perpetrating of gender-based violence in our society. It seems like common sense to me that men who think that women are sexual objects—somehow weak, supposed to be dominated by men, submissive in character—are more likely to think that dominating behaviour, violence, ridicule and insults are all acceptable ways of treating women, and that will extend to the way they treat women physically. One of the reasons that that is particularly troubling is because, as I said earlier, gender-based hate speech is often public. The statements on Wicked Campers vans were very public. People did not welcome those vans driving around their neighbourhood, but there was nothing they could do about it. Those misogynistic attitudes become very visible and public. We know that most gender-based violence takes place in private, behind closed doors. It is overwhelmingly committed by males against their intimate female partner. About 80 per cent of homicides carried out in intimate relationships are carried out by men against their intimate partner. We have seen how public gendered hate speech translates into silencing women, changing their behaviour and disempowering them. It also translates into the type of gendered violence that happens behind closed doors.

I am very proud to be part of a government that is taking a comprehensive approach to stamping out gender-based violence. I know that the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence is always working hard on this issue. I am glad that the 16 Days in WA campaign is being launched tomorrow. That is a time for us to refocus our efforts on stamping out the scourge of family and domestic violence in our society. I am pleased to support this bill, which will be a small but important way of ensuring that people do not drive vehicles around our suburbs that advertise gendered hate speech and that organisations do not use controversy and misogyny to sell their products.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [10.41 am]: I rise to support the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. Advertising is a day-to-day affair. It has an impact on our emotions, our decision-making and our access to products and services. It all depends on how we interpret that advertising. The majority of advertisements have good intent and serve a particular purpose. I want to share the experience of an advertising campaign on vehicles in India that went viral. Nothing can be more urgent for a woman who is pregnant and having labour pains than accessing a hospital. Members must have heard about the tuktuks in India. One man put

behind his tuk-tuk a sign saying “Free and priority access for pregnancy-related travel”. What happened is that a lot of his colleagues started adopting that, and people who travelled on those tuk-tuks for a normal purpose appreciated the good work the drivers were doing and gave them an extra tip. It became quite contagious. There have been occasions when a passenger has been asked to get off and catch another tuk-tuk to give priority to a woman with a pregnancy-related issue. That is a good cause when it comes to advertising.

Digital signage is catching up big time. Recently, I met with a young man in my electorate who is very technologically advanced. He has come up with an innovative and unique advertising product. He wants to put digital signs in taxis, in Uber and Ola vehicles and on public transport so that when those vehicles enter a particular suburb, he can bring up, from a central control room, advertisements related to businesses in that suburb. The reason he met with me was not for the purpose of commercial advertisements. He also wants to put that technology to use for a good purpose by offering it to the government for free to use as an avenue for passing on to the public emergency advertisements about things such as missing persons and the fire danger. This would enable the government to communicate its central themes in a particular suburb by means of a message that would pop up automatically and alert people. What a fantastic idea. I was very supportive of him. I hope that progresses further and becomes a reality sooner rather than later.

People advertise for a purpose, and people benefit from those advertisements. I would like to share a recent experience of mine. The hot water tap on the shower in my house had started to trickle, and I tried every avenue to get a plumber to fix it, but they were all too busy, so I ended up having a cold shower for about four days in a row. One day, my vehicle had stopped at a red light and a van in front of me had an advertisement by a plumber. I memorised the mobile number, and when I reached my destination, I called that plumber. He was available and came the next morning, which was on the weekend, and within 20 minutes had changed the valve and fixed the problem. There is a purpose for advertising. The business benefited and so did I as a customer who was struggling to have my plumbing problem fixed.

There is no doubt that there is good advertising. The problem is choice. If we do not want to see a particular ad and are reading a magazine, we can turn to the next page, or, if we are watching television, we can switch to another channel. If we see a pop-up ad from Google on our phone, we can close it, although Google will then ask us why we do not want to see that ad, and most of the time we will say it is not relevant to us and hope that it will not pop up again. When it comes to advertising on vehicles, we do not have a choice. If we are driving behind a vehicle that has an offensive advertisement, we have to move away from that vehicle as soon as possible so that we are not forced to see that advertisement.

To indicate how bad advertising on vehicles can be, I once saw some writing on the back of a four-wheel drive that said “Honk if you want to sleep with me”. What choice would a person driving behind that vehicle have? If the driver of that vehicle was purposefully not moving away from a red light, would the driver behind them have a choice to honk or react or make a change? This bill is about enabling people to make a change. An advertisement that might appear to one person to be humorous, funny or simple might not be interpreted in the same way by another person. I have been sharing a few of my experiences. The circumstances can be different for different people. I have mentioned a couple of times that I survived a brutal campaign when running for a seat in this place, and today I have the opportunity to bring the reality of that to this house to put it on the record. One of the flyers my campaign manager prepared used a generic template, which said in the corner of the flyer, “I live local and I understand well.” At that time, I was not living in the electorate. That flyer was sent to all houses in the electorate seven months before the election. During election time, it popped up and for the first time in my life I knew how brutal the media could be and how it could spin the entire message. The headline on that day was, “Labor candidate caught lying”. I could not defend myself. I had to take responsibility because the buck stops with me—and it did not stop there. The harassment continued. Two people from the opposition stood next to me from eight o’clock in the morning for the pre-poll until six o’clock in the evening: “You’re a liar, you’re a liar, you’re a liar. You shouldn’t be standing here.” At that time, they pointed me to a large truck that kept coming in front of the pre-poll booth, every 15 minutes, that contained the big face of my opponent as a way of saying that was the person who should be standing there. We all advertise during a campaign, and I am not saying that it is not the right of my opponent to advertise. However, at that juncture I was sensitive to being pointed at every 15 minutes and that signage was intimidating to me. When the saga started I was just getting out of my car for the pre-poll. The media was in front of me with cameras. The first question I was asked was, “Why are you lying?” I had no idea what I was lying about. Members can imagine that, by coincidence, the big truck was parked right behind me while the interview was going on. The point I am trying to make is that even though an advertisement by a person does not cause an impact for everybody, a small minority will be impacted by that.

A few years ago, a controversy was created by an advertisement promoting lamb. The group had every right to create that advertisement. I am a Hindu. Every Hindu ritual starts with the prayer to Lord Ganesha. Members will have seen that idol in many places; it is an elephant head. The basic purpose of having that is that even kids tend to have good thoughts when looking at a small elephant; it does not create fear. It is a good way to start a ritual or function. There is a significance in the way that idol was designed in ancient days, and it remains the same today. The Ganesha has large ears, indicating that we should listen more. The Ganesha has a big head, indicating that we should think

big. The Ganesha has small eyes, indicating that we should concentrate to achieve things. The Ganesha has a very small mouth, indicating that we should talk less when it is not required. The Ganesha has a large trunk, indicating that there is no straight path to success; we need to be flexible and adaptable if we want to succeed in life. The Ganesha has a large stomach, indicating that we should happily digest good and bad in life. If members look carefully, they will see that the Ganesha has only one tusk, which means we should keep the good things with us and throw away the bad or the evil. There is a big significance in that. People who believe in Hinduism understand what all of that means. They believe in those values. However, the Ganesha in that advertisement promoting lamb was made to sit on a dining table and the conversation turned to, “Do we have to address the elephant in the room?” It was very offensive for the Hindu community. Petitions were circulated everywhere. It happened in Australia. Fortunately, the ad company agreed to withdraw the advertisement and change it.

This is an example of how a minority group could be affected and be sensitive. I am not blaming the person who designed that ad because he may not have had an understanding of what the Ganesha meant. He must have done it with a sense of humour; I totally understand that. Once the advertising company understood the meaning, it was willing to make a change. That is what this bill is about. It is to make sure that a minority group or a sensitive person is not affected by a particular ad, especially advertising on vehicles. People do not have a choice to not see that, and this legislation is about creating that choice. It is about protecting the vulnerable.

This bill is about implementing necessary legislative measures to protect against offensive advertising on vehicles in Western Australia. It is to protect the minority groups. It is to protect young people and victims of domestic violence particularly. The 16 Days in WA campaign to stop violence against women starts tomorrow.

[Member’s time extended.]

Dr J. KRISHNAN: I was very fortunate to be part of the Lions Club of Canning City that installed a purple bench at one of the parks in my electorate. That was a significant symbol of standing up to domestic violence. I have been thinking: how do I support the cause of 16 Days in WA? Tomorrow on my social media and Facebook page I will encourage people to sit on that bench and take a picture if they support the cause to spread the news so that people stand up to domestic violence.

It is important to protect such vulnerable groups by preventing offensive advertising, particularly sexually explicit and offensive advertising on vehicles. The bill introduces amendments to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012. It provides the CEO of the Department of Transport with the power to issue a licence warning notice. The warning notice will give the licence holder 14 days to make the corrections or remove the advertisement. If action is not taken, the CEO will have the authority to cancel the licence, suspend the licence or refuse to grant a transfer if the offender tries to sell the vehicle to someone else while there is a notice under consideration.

It is very clear that this bill does not seek to erode an individual’s right to express themselves freely. Again, the complaints cannot be made to the CEO of the Department of Transport. The CEO will rely on the expertise of Ad Standards to make such a decision. Ad Standards will intervene or give a ruling when an ad on a vehicle does not meet the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics. If an advertisement does not meet the standards, Ad Standards will direct the CEO and they will issue the notice. The licence holder will have 14 days to fix the issue but if the person refuses to fix it after a notice has been given the CEO will have the authority to cancel the licence or not issue a new licence when the vehicle is transferred. If the CEO is satisfied that the particular advertisement has been removed and evidence is provided, they will make the amendments accordingly.

We are here for a cause—to fix problems and make things better. When I speak to my staff in my electorate office, I constantly tell them that prioritising what we deal with is extremely important. Someone who has easy access to me because they have my mobile number and can call me anytime is not a great priority because the majority of them have an alternative number that they can call and they are powerful enough to find their own way to fix the problems. The people who do not know or who are not sure how to access me are my priority. They are my priority because, in my eyes, they are vulnerable people; they are the needy people who need my service and that is why I instruct my staff to give them the priority. That is one question I ask. Some people feel entitled to call me on the phone and say, “I have a problem with this. Can you come to my office so we can discuss this and you can help me?” That is how entitled they feel. Those people are not my priority. The people who struggle to access me are my priority. That is the reason we all have signs in our electorates—say at the bus stop. We spend money on advertising to reach those vulnerable people who do not know or who are not sure how to access us. We give them the required information to contact us so that we can be of help. By providing that information through proper advertising channels and not hiding away from those people who really need us, we serve the basic purpose of being in this house.

This bill is not about banning advertising or stopping people from raising their voices when they have to. It is not about stopping anybody from promoting their business or a positive message in the community. This is about listening to people who feel offended. Not everybody will feel offended by one particular advertisement; it is about listening to that minority or vulnerable group that feel offended by a particular advertisement and enabling them to report to Ad Standards to make a determination and give a recommendation to the CEO to remove it. They will have a voice that will be heard and their concerns will be taken into consideration; that is what this bill is about. I commend this bill to the house and I thank you for the opportunity, Madam Acting Speaker.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [11.06 am]: I too rise to speak today on the very important Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. As the previous speakers have already indicated, the focus of this bill is to address offensive advertising on vehicles, which put vulnerable groups at risk, such as minority groups, young people and the victims of domestic violence. As the member for Riverton has just explained, that advertising is visible to all road users. Unlike other forms of advertising that member the alluded to, where we can turn off the ads and choose not to see them, we cannot switch off a mobile billboard in the form of a vehicle. We cannot unsubscribe from the page to avoid it and we cannot do anything but wish that our children are not exposed to it.

I will start today's contribution with a musical reference. I cannot remember the exact year, but there is a popular tune that most people in the chamber will know called *Sex on Fire* by Kings of Leon. It is a fabulous song. My children were roughly four and six years old at the time it was released so I got the invariable and inevitable questions. They were singing "sex on fire" at the top of their voices and I kept saying, "No, you have the words wrong. It is 'saxophone of fire'!" For years, my kids very merrily sang "saxophone of fire" and I avoided the awkward conversations that would have come with that, but years later, I was berated for being a terrible parent because they found out that the actual title of the tune was *Sex on Fire*. That gets brought up at the Christmas table every year, but that was a song that I could switch off or teach them different lyrics to; it is very, very different from the inappropriate language that is on display in the case of things like Wicked Campers. When I was travelling around Australia with my kids while I was on long service leave, I also had the terror of pulling up next to those sorts of vans in the caravan parks that we stayed at. I remember asking my husband if he could kindly go and ask the caravan park owners whether we could find somewhere else to stay so that we were not camped next to that sort of advertising.

I reminded my 18-year-old daughter about this the other day. We were talking about being in the caravan park and all the really colourful signs that would appeal to young people. I had to pull it up because she was so young and she did not really remember what it said. I pulled up on the internet some of the slogans that Wicked Campers uses, and I told her some of the terrible things. I will not repeat them in here because we know they are terrible and that is why we are introducing this legislation. Just after two or three examples said, "Mum, that's enough. I get the picture." Clearly, she understands the impact that that has on women, young people, minority groups and all the other vulnerable people in our community. I want to say the overwhelming majority of advertising on vehicles that are being driven around is perfectly acceptable. People do the right thing in advertising their businesses. However, there has been some longstanding community concern around sexually explicit and misogynous messages and otherwise offensive advertising on the vehicles that I am going to speak to—Wicked Campers.

Some businesses have very witty names that also catch the eye of potential customers as their owners try to grab the market edge. I have one fabulous business in my electorate whose name shows an excellent use of humour and an understanding and appreciation of how to represent the nature of their business in its title. It is the famous award-winning Pete's Chop Shop. I just want to check with members of the chamber today to see whether they can guess what business Pete's Chop Shop conducts.

Several members interjected.

Ms J.L. HANNS: Hopefully, everyone said "butcher" because that is correct. It is an Australian Meat Industry Council award winner.

Mr W.J. Johnston: I thought it was a car shop.

Ms J.L. HANNS: No, it is not a car shop. For the minister's reference, Pete's Chop Shop was awarded best bacon and the best pepper-and-steak pie in WA in 2022.

Ms M.M. Quirk: That is a bit rash!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Sorry?

Ms M.M. Quirk: That is a bit rash!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Sorry; I am a bit slow on the uptake this morning. It is an amazing business in my electorate that has a witty approach to marketing their business in a pretty funny and different and definitely not offensive way. I also want to mention very briefly that at the same Australian Meat Industry Council award ceremony that Pete's Chop Shop was recognised, the Donnybrook Butchers was also recognised. The owners are 22 and 23 years of age and they won regional retailer of the year in 2022, so congratulations to Bryn and Georgia.

Ms M.M. Quirk: The steaks were high!

Ms J.L. HANNS: I thank the member for her contribution. Both Pete's Chop Shop and Donnybrook Butchers are off to the national awards I think next year actually. That prompted me to think of other witty captions that have been used for businesses. There is a fabulous example in the UK of a fabulous floor and wall tiling service called The Bonnie Tiler, which apparently has a very good following on social media. I thought that was particularly clever. I got the reference to *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. I see not everyone is as musically interested as I might be. That is

okay. I have one for the foodies here. Mexican food that is absolutely amazing—it is Juan in a Million, J-u-a-n. It gives us an indication of the type of food truck it is but also how amazing the food is. I thought that was particularly fabulous. I hope this needs no explanation for anyone—Spruce Springclean. That is fabulous—another musical reference. I will finish with another witty business name and a great way to market a business that does not require offensive or misogynistic slogans—Lord of the Pies. That demonstrates that someone can absolutely try to get an edge for their business without being a terrible, terrible social citizen within the business community.

Having said that, I wanted to raise also a couple of other issues today around the fact that the reason that this bill is so important to me is that having been a teacher for many years and having had really difficult conversations with young people and explaining that the way they are speaking to each other is not helpful or particularly nice. In fact, it stretches to being hurtful and potentially really does some damage to the people with whom they were apparently joking. I think that in Australian society and our culture very much is around “She’ll be right” and, “It was just a joke, mate. Don’t get so offended.” I appreciate that. That is definitely part of the way that our society has evolved. But I also think that we have a responsibility to young people to call out inappropriate language and or behaviour in the community. This is a responsibility for all of us. What people—particularly young people—see and hear about women in particular is perpetuated by them and often in a cycle that is repeated within families. It becomes part of their values and part of the way they treat people. As a female teacher, it would be fair to say that I was not a pushover. I do not want that word to represent any message other than to say that I think I could stand my ground with people and have a reasonable argument with someone, listen to them but also have people understand and appreciate that what they are doing right now is not right in my classroom. I think that the example that we set for young people is incredibly important.

As I have really engaged in politics over probably the last 15 or so years, I have been interested in looking at America to see what is going on in US politics. In Donald Trump we arguably have the greatest misogynist of the modern era floating around. I have an amazing staff member and in her spare time she listens to a lot of political podcasts. She listened to Julia Gillard and bought me the book *Not Now, Not Ever*. It is a fabulous read, for anyone who has not read it. She is particularly interested in what Donald Trump is singlehandedly doing to break democracy in the US. It is really interesting to see what impact a powerful person in a powerful position—he is hoping to return to that powerful position—has on the conversations that are happening in society. I looked at an article that was written in 2015 titled, “18 Real Things Donald Trump Has Actually Said About Women”. I preface this by saying that I have taken out all the X and R-rated references, so I will not mention any of those today. I picked out the ones that really demonstrate the impact his words could have if people absorb what he is saying and reflect that in their own thinking and then, as I referred to before, perpetuate that through their own thinking and speech and pass on those values to other families to perpetuate a cycle that we are very familiar with. This article on Donald Trump was written by Nina Bahadur. It states —

Donald Trump claims to “cherish” women, but his actions—and words—suggest otherwise.

Fox News’ Megyn Kelly called him out on his sexist behavior during the GOP debate on August 6, reminding him: “You have called women you don’t like ‘fat pigs’, ‘dogs’, ‘slobs’, and ‘disgusting animals.’”

He actually referenced women in those terms. It continues —

Trump laughed off the question, claiming he doesn’t “have the time for total political correctness.”

I would say common human decency, but he calls it total political correctness —

Later, Trump called Kelly a “bimbo” and said that he “didn’t recognize” the remarks she was referencing. —

That is very convenient —

Well, we recognize them.

Trump has consistently insulted, belittled, sexualized and stereotyped women. He has also taken the time to personally insult individual notable women like Sarah Jessica Parker, Rosie O’Donnell, Cher, Bette Midler, and others.

According to the article, this is what he had to say about his previous wife Ivana Trump —

“I would never buy Ivana any decent jewels or pictures. Why give her negotiable assets?” Trump is quoted as saying of his then-wife in a 1990 Vanity Fair piece.

...

In his 2006 book *Trump 101: The Way to Success*, Trump wrote: “Beauty and elegance, whether in a woman, a building, or a work of art, is not just superficial or something pretty to see.”

He is actually placing women in the same category as buildings and works of art. I was appalled at this next quote in the article in particular. This is a twitter—sorry it is a tweet. I am not up with the lingo! The article refers to a tweet from Donald Trump in 2013 that states —

26,000 unreported sexual assaults in the military—only 238 convictions. What did these geniuses expect when they put men & women together?

I know what I would expect, and it certainly would not be sexual assaults—appalling! The article goes on to say that he said that women have a great act going on to trick men. It quotes him from his 1997 book *Trump: The Art of the Comeback* that reads —

“Women have one of the great acts of all time. The smart ones act very feminine and needy, but inside they are real killers. The person who came up with the expression ‘the weaker sex’ was either very naive or had to be kidding. I have seen women manipulate men with just a twitch of their eye—or perhaps another body part.”

That comes from the aspiring President of the United States. I, for one, am appalled at that behaviour. It goes to show, again, how damaging those sexist, misogynistic values are and the damaging impact that they have on the people who read them or hear them. The United States could potentially do more to switch off Donald Trump, and not re-electing him at the next presidential election would be a great step, but as legislators, we need to do what we can.

Unfortunately, I have often heard those comments coming from teenage boys in school. When I have pulled them up on those sorts of comments, the answer is, “Just mucking around, Miss.” When I have contacted their parents, they say, “Ah, you know, boys will be boys.” I have a fundamental problem with that. I have a 15-year-old son who I hope I am raising to be different from that. He has said some terrible things to his sister, and I will put that in *Hansard* and embarrass him with it when he turns 21! I have absolutely pulled him up on some of the things that he has said about his sister, and so I should, and so we all should.

I also want to focus on a fabulous advertising campaign conducted by Always, an American company that is owned by Procter and Gamble, I believe. The article that I read about it said it was the second most viral advertising campaign worldwide ever. The campaign was called “Like a Girl”. I do not know whether members in the chamber remember it, but it was essentially an amazing interview in which people said, “We want you to be like a girl.”

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms J.L. HANNS: They were saying, “We want you to kick like a girl and dance like a girl.” The lesson that came out of the campaign was that the representation of boys was very different from that of girls. The clever part of that advertising campaign was how it pivoted that representation and showed how fabulous the women and girls who featured in that campaign were. It gave all of society, including men, the ability to reflect on the things that they say and do that is directed towards women and is potentially derogatory. The key message of that campaign was the phrase “like a girl”. The overwhelming market research around that campaign summed it up saying, “If you are like a girl, you are unstoppable.” That is incredibly powerful.

I mentioned that campaign because it leads into another point that I want to make about the fabulous addition to the WA sporting landscape that is AFLW. For those members who may already be aware of or follow AFLW, I am a passionate West Coast Eagles supporter. Minister Johnston, please do not make any comments. I know that the minister is a Collingwood supporter, but we will not have that fight in the chamber today.

In 2019, an iconic photo was taken of the AFLW player Tayla Harris that made the front page of most east coast newspapers. The picture was of Tayla Harris kicking the most incredible—I do not know the word for it, but I think it is called a drop punt. The image of her was strong and powerful and my first thought was that if I had done that, I would have pulled a hamstring. It was an incredible display of gymnastic ability, athleticism and power. It was fabulous. But guess what? Since that photo was taken, Tayla Harris has been subjected to incessant online trolling. In September 2021, two years after that photo was taken, an interview was conducted with Tayla in which she said that she was still being trolled online. That is appalling. I would like to talk to members about what Tayla Harris had to say about that. In that interview she states —

In 2019, I was thrust into the spotlight after some pretty crude, confronting and blatantly sexist things were said about Michael Willson’s now celebrated photo of me kicking a footy.

Despite what you might expect, most of the trolls weren’t from fake accounts. I looked through some of their profiles and saw they were mostly normal blokes—smiling in pictures with children, women, colleagues and friends.

That occurred to me as a bit odd. These guys weren’t monsters, they were somebody’s father, husband, partner and mate.

I am the first one to admit that I love technology. My Instagram feed is my little community where I connect with my followers to share my sporting achievements, —

And so she should —

what I do off the field and out of the ring, and the causes I’m passionate about.

The beast that is social media, on one hand makes positively connecting with friends and followers feel real and easy, but it also brings with it some negativity that has the potential to cause serious harm.

When I was subjected to relentless online abuse about the pic of me kicking a footy, I was struck by how easy it was to leave a comment without fear of repercussion and with the comfort of anonymity.

I know those trolls wouldn't have had the guts to come up to say what they said to my face, so why did they think it was okay to say online?

It seems like a slippery slope. If people think making a sexist comment is OK, what else do they think is OK? Abusive direct messages? And how does the bloke who makes belittling comments online treat the women in his life offline ...

That is a really interesting question —

As an ambassador for Our Watch, I have learnt that these disrespectful attitudes don't occur in a vacuum. Disrespect and online abuse comes in many different forms including derogatory text messages or calls, sharing intimate images without consent, or the one I experienced, where negative things were posted about me for just doing my job.

The nasty and sexist online abuse I copped that sexualised my body and belittled my athleticism, not only had profound consequences for me and my loved ones, but it also sent a message to girls and young women that they're not welcome on the field.

It is a message that continues to box women and girls out of playing traditionally male dominated sports and stops them from speaking out, participating and becoming leaders.

It also sends a message to boys and young men, that this is an OK way to treat women.

This isn't about simply taking a few harsh comments on the chin, dusting yourself off and getting on with it, it is about recognising and stopping disrespect towards women because it can have significant consequences.

Despite the destruction the abuse caused, in some ways I am grateful for the experience.

Without it I wouldn't have understood how gender inequality drives violence against women, and I wouldn't be dedicating my time, energy and passion both inside and outside of sport to preventing it.

I now am very aware of the online abuse that women cop, day-in and day-out. Especially those who are scrutinised by the public such as women in sport, women athletes and women in media.

I am hopeful that we are starting to implement the structural changes needed to stamp out online bullying and abuse, and to create a more gender equal world.

And to be honest if I can help just one young girl feel confident to kick the footy or feel safe online, I've already won.

Tayla Harris is AFLW player, an Our Watch ambassador and the Victorian Young Person of the Year 2020

That is so well deserved; what an incredible woman.

Some of the comments directed at Tayla Harris were that she was overrated and overpaid, and that she got lucky with one photo. Again, I think that is appalling. Tayla is a fabulous ambassador for young women.

That also caused me to reflect on the fact that Minister McGurk asked me to represent her as Minister for Women's Interests at the recent West Coast Eagles AFLW Club Champion Awards, which I was very pleased to do. It may be that Minister McGurk selected me to represent her as potentially this house's most fervent Eagles supporter! I was very proud to attend; I know that the member for Murray-Wellington would be shouting right about now if she were here and trying to claim that mantle, but she is not here, so I have taken the liberty! There was such a buzz in the room at the club champion awards, and such incredible energy and enthusiasm, and love for the game. The team actually played two seasons in one this year because of COVID impacting on the previous season. They are fit; I can tell members, I felt like I needed to spend about 10 years in the gym just to be able to run a lap with them!

However, I just want to reflect on the fact that these women are really unlike their male counterparts in the AFL. They have to balance work, training, family and paid employment, and that is a real challenge for them and certainly for their families. Emma Swanson won the club champion award, and when she gave her speech, she said that in her off-season she had planned to run six marathons, but her partner had said, "It'd be nice to spend some time together, actually, in the off-season, so perhaps six marathons might not be doable." These are people who are absolutely dedicated and are not paid as well as their male counterparts.

As a Brownlow Medal follower, I actually prefer the medal count to the fashions because I am a diehard football supporter. I was really interested to see the juxtaposition of how the media covered the AFL's Brownlow Medal count and the AFLW's W Awards. Patrick Cripps won the Brownlow this year and an article in *The West Australian* ran a beautiful photograph of him looking very happy that he had just won the Brownlow. It states —

Patrick Cripps has won the Brownlow Medal.

It might have moved from its traditional Monday slot, but the 2022 Brownlow Medal count lived up to the hype.

Northampton-born —

Fabulous for WA —

Patrick Cripps claimed his maiden Brownlow Medal after a herculean effort in a heart-breaking final round loss to Collingwood saw him receive three votes in the final round.

I want to compare the way that article in *The West Australian* was written with an article in PerthNow on the W Awards, which states —

The AFLW's best and brightest ditched their team colours in favour of glitz and glamour on Tuesday night as the coral carpet lit up in anticipation of the annual W Awards.

...

In a boilover, Brisbane midfielder Ally Anderson walked away with the major prize, dazzling in a yellow dress as she attempts to lead the Lions to their second premiership on Sunday against Melbourne.

Across the carpet, the competition celebrated ...

The article goes on to feature a range of pictures of the fashions worn by the ladies that evening. There is a real difference in the way that we are treating women and men in sport. Sport is often the way that young people learn how to have relationships on the sporting field, to work as part of a team and to support each other, and I think that is a really important change that we need to drive as a society.

In conclusion, I would like to make reference to the fabulous decision made a couple of years ago by the Minister for Education and Training to not allow mobile phones in schools in Western Australia. It is a particular problem, with social media being part of the issue. I had to do some pretty unfortunate things in response to that, as both a teacher and a deputy principal, in the days when phones were being used in schools by young people. There was a really unfortunate incident in which a young person had taken a nude selfie and sent it to her boyfriend. At the time she was 14 years old and he was 16. She obviously thought, "I love my boyfriend and I know that he loves me", but her boyfriend showed the photo to his mates and actually sent it to some of his mates, and it was then shared on Snapchat. The mates sent a screenshot of it around and before long, a lot of the school had seen it, and I was unfortunately the deputy principal who had to deal with it. Young people do not necessarily understand that there is a police response to such matters, and depending on the nature of the offence, young people can become registered sex offenders, which will impact terribly on their future.

In closing my contribution today, I offer a word of warning to young people and parents: this decision on mobile phones in schools is an incredible one. It means that staff and kids can get on with teaching and learning—the really important things happening in schools. Thank you.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [11.34 am]: Before I focus on the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022, I want to welcome students from Salvado Catholic College who are in the gallery today, and I hope they enjoy their visit to Parliament.

We have heard some very interesting and varied speeches today, on a wide range of topics, dealing with anything from AFLW to Hinduism and a range of other things, which goes to show how broadly advertising impacts on all our lives. I would like to focus on how we determine what is offensive, and whether a bill like this one trespasses on notions of free speech. I would also like to look at driver distraction. If we continue to have vehicles emblazoned with offensive material, what impact will that have on road users?

I recommend to every member a book by psychologist Tom Vanderbilt, titled *Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do and What It Says About Us*. It is a fantastic look at driver behaviour and has a valuable chapter on the impact of the use of mobile phones while driving, and other distractions. It states —

Human attention, in the best of circumstances, is a fluid but fragile entity. Beyond a certain threshold, the more that is asked of it, the less well it performs. When this happens in a psychological experiment, it is interesting. When it happens in traffic, it can be fatal.

In recent years, road safety authorities have very much focused on driver distraction. The Road Safety Commission put out a paper on driver distraction that says —

It is difficult to assess the true impact of distraction-related crashes, but it was estimated in Towards Zero as affecting 32% of all crashes. It is believed that the risks associated with distraction are high.

Distraction-related crashes remain a major concern for the Government and other road safety authorities across Australia. The Road Safety Commission has created a 'Distance of Distraction' education campaign, warning that drivers will be travelling 'blind' if they take their eyes off the road for just a few seconds.

Many members would have seen those very effective ads. Yes, it is conceded that texting while driving is probably the most dangerous conduct, but, as we see from those ads and from the research, even taking our eyes off the road for a nanosecond can have very serious consequences. I would contend that being distracted by the advertising and bon mots on Wicked Campers vehicles may well have the impact of adversely affecting driving behaviour and causing undue harm.

The problem, as defined by the Road Safety Commission, is —

... the voluntary or involuntary diverting of attention, in a visual, manual, auditory or cognitive sense, away from the driving task to focus on a competing secondary activity.

It contemplates that that could be —

... looking at something on the side of the road—anything that takes the driver’s attention away from the task of safe driving.

...

In 2017, it’s estimated that 77% of people killed or seriously injured were in crashes which involved a person making an error, a lapse in concentration, distraction, fatigue, judgement error or inattention. Only about 23% of people were killed or seriously injured in crashes that involved the primary risk taking behaviours of speeding, drink driving or not wearing a helmet or restraint.

They are very sobering figures. It goes on to say —

This reflects a tremendous improvement in community attitudes and behaviour to taking known risks. However, inadvertent errors, including distraction, are far more difficult behaviours to change as they are often unintentional, and continue to be a significant issue in road trauma.

It notes that advertising —

... is an external factor that can distract drivers from the driving task. Evidence suggests that roadside advertising —

I would add, by extension, advertising on the vehicles that we are talking about —

can adversely influence driver attention, with some evidence that electronic billboards attracted longer glances from drivers than regular traffic signs ... Western Australian research in 2018 found that digital billboards significantly adversely affected driving performance in the areas of mean speed, speed variability, high risk headway, variability in lane positioning and visual fixations ...

Again, it is a matter of degree and relativity. Although digital signs and texting might be the most distracting, I suspect the distraction caused by sighting the advertising on one of the Wicked Campers vehicles would probably be of a higher order than just glancing at one’s mobile phone. In any event, this legislation is of merit because it reduces driver distraction on the roads.

The second argument that has been made, which somewhat opposes this legislation, is that the bill restricts freedom of expression, but I would say that freedom of expression is not absolute. Members will be familiar with the age-old analogy made by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He said that yelling “fire” in a crowded theatre, without such a fire existing, is an example of a situation in which freedom of expression should be curtailed. Similarly, I think we can say that, in the interests of public safety, generally, and cohesion within the community, it is appropriate to restrict freedom of expression in this context.

Having said that, licensing authorities can be a little narrow on some occasions, and we had an example just this week. A Victorian man’s custom numberplates were banned because of a political slogan. This fellow had a numberplate that read “DANOUT”, bearing in mind this was in Victoria—I will take this opportunity to wish all my colleagues in Victoria good luck for the pending election on Saturday. According to an article in news.com.au —

A Victorian man has slammed the state’s road authorities after having his custom registration plates barred.

The man, who only gave the name Peter, said his ‘DANOUT’ plates were labelled “offensive” to premier Daniel Andrews, who is currently campaigning for votes with the state election looming.

I suspect Daniel Andrews knew nothing of this infraction —

Speaking on 3AW on Monday, Peter said the decision to axe his paid-for plates—which did not contain any obscenities—was a violation of free speech.

He said he previously bought plates with political messages in the past, plastering ‘RUDDUD’ behind his vehicle during Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s leadership.

“Freedom of speech obviously not allowed in Victoria ... I dunno, I’ll have to do something different now ...

Since the Vietnam War, there have been a number of cases of the courts being reasonably liberal about freedom of political expression. With the notion of free speech in mind, I think we should take a similarly progressive view of advertising on vehicles that is basically political comment. That said, the conduct that this bill seeks to address is not of that nature.

That brings me to the question of what is offensive, and I will make an observation. A trend seems to have lately crept into our society of people who make offensive comments saying in the media, “If people were offended by

that, I'm sorry." That is a qualified apology and, frankly, I have never considered that sort of apology good enough. Coincidentally, I ran into the august and very distinguished reporter Geof Parry on my way into Parliament this morning. I mentioned to him an edition of Channel Seven news from a few weeks ago that reported on the tragic death of a 64-year-old woman in a house fire. The victim was described as being elderly.

Mr S.A. Millman: Fifty-four?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: She was 64. I passed on to Geof Parry that I found that description somewhat offensive, personally. I reminded him that the word "elderly" would never be used in a description of the proprietor of the newspaper he works for. We would never talk about the elderly Kerry Stokes, the elderly Geof Parry—who is older than the victim—or, that great news institution, the elderly Susannah Carr. I use those examples to say that context very much depends on your own personal standards and what is the contemporary view. In terms of describing someone as "elderly", I make the point that judges can sit until they are 70 years of age, and one would never be so cheeky as to describe a High Court judge as elderly in similar circumstances.

I am very pleased that the bill has pinned the criteria for what is offensive to the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics because that has changed from time to time to keep up with community standards. It is a very clear document that sets out what is and what is not acceptable. For example, the code of ethics of February 2021 states —

Advertising shall not portray people or depict material in a way which discriminates against or vilifies a person or section of the community on account of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, disability, mental illness or political belief.

It sets out in some detail that such material should not be exploitative or degrading. It continues —

Advertising shall not employ sexual appeal:

(a) when images of Minors, or people who appear to be Minors, are used ...

...

Advertising shall treat sex, sexuality and nudity with sensitivity to the relevant audience.

As other speakers have said this morning, this is not material that we have a choice to look at; it is thrust upon us as we are driving. The code continues —

Advertising shall not depict material contrary to Prevailing Community Standards ...

As I said, that is very relevant because the standards evolve over time. The code of ethics comes with a practice note, also from February 2021, which states —

Prevailing community standards apply to all parts of **Section 2**. This means that the Ad Standards Community Panel will have regard to community standards at the time the advertising or marketing communication was published. Prevailing Community Standards are determined primarily by the Community Panel, whose members are representative of the community, on a case by case basis, as part of the complaints process.

To assist advertisers and complainants, this Practice Note provides some guidance into Prevailing Community Standards.

That is very important because we will not have to come back to Parliament and necessarily change things. What is regarded as unacceptable will evolve from time to time. That said, quite a body of law exists in relation to offensive behaviour. I want to refer to a discussion paper. I am a bit reluctant to mention its name, but for the purposes of accuracy, it is called "*Dog arse cunts*": *A discussion paper on the law of offensive language and offensive manner*, written in June 2020 by Mark Dennis, SC. If it were only an incidental reference, I would have worked my way around the title, but I want to refer to it at some length. The paper looks at the definition of "offensive". It states —

It is suggested, however, that whilst the law appears well settled there is great scope for uncertainty in the interpretation and application of the judicial pronouncements on the topic.

He quotes one of the leading cases, which is a 1951 case of *Worcester v Smith* in which it was held that "offensive" meant "such as is calculated to wound the feelings, arouse anger or resentment or disgust in the mind of a reasonable person".

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: It begs the question: what is a reasonable person in this case? Ad Standards gets over that difficulty by having reference to a community panel. The paper states —

So just who is the "reasonable person" who may have their feelings wounded, feel outrage, anger or disgust? This can be difficult to ascertain. Suffice to say that the Clapham omnibus has not been sighted in Wilcannia, Bourke or Walgett in recent times.

The paper then cites the 1966 case of *Ball v McIntyre* —

“... I recognise that different minds may well come to different conclusions as to the reaction of the reasonable man in situations involving attitudes and beliefs and values in the community, but for my part I believe that the so-called reasonable man is reasonably tolerant and understanding and reasonably contemporary in his reactions.”

Also in the case of *Marland*, the reasonable person is not thin skinned. That is probably what I would say about community standards.

As I already said, in terms of freedom of speech, we are not lumbered with the First Amendment of the United States where such matters are much more problematic because of the constitutional right to free speech. We will allow scope for valid political debate, and I think the examples on the Wicked vehicles are pretty straightforward and do not lead us to have too much trouble working out that the majority of the community would be upset and wounded by some of the sexist and racist comment on the vans. To use the words of Aretha Franklin, this is about *Respect*, and those vans show a lack of respect for fellow road users. I commend the bill to the house.

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [11.57 am]: I stand to speak in support of the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022, which will help put an end to offensive advertising on vehicles, particularly the sexually explicit, racist, homophobic, fatphobic and misogynistic slogans seen from one company in particular. Wicked Campers, it is fair to say, deliberately made its name with its sexist spray-painted slogans that have been widely condemned by the community, tourism operators and caravan park operators who declined to have them in their parks, advertising watchdogs, the media and various state and local governments. A national petition to stop the vans from driving around gathered more than 125 000 signatures, of which 100 000 alone came in the first four days of the petition. This petition was started by an 11-year-old Sydney schoolgirl and her mother, Paula Orbea, after the girl saw “slut” on one of the vans. As a parent whose daughter had trouble learning to read, one of the strategies given to us was to read things out while in the car by identifying letters—that is, read registration plates and signs on the side of the road. Imagine if we had driven past a Wicked campervan and my daughter learnt that word, which is used only about women—never about men, and never as a compliment.

That petition is a great example of how community action or ordinary citizens using their voices can create effective and meaningful change. This petition spurred state and local governments around Australia to take action and to take a stand. Wicked Campers refused to respond to community demands to remove its offensive slogans in the initial aftermath of the petition, with its founder telling SBS television at the time that “bad publicity was better and easier to get”, and that he was in fact happy to see Wicked marketed not only in Australia, but also around the world. He later conceded and issued the only public apology he has ever made. It was at best a partial apology and at worst an insincere and meaningless apology. That apology began with —

It is impossible for us to conceive that a throw-away message written on a van could have such far-reaching implications for the community at large.

Calling women—calling us—denigrating names that seek to objectify us, that seek to reduce us to one or two roles are not throwaway messages; they are disturbing and offensive messages. They are also deliberate. When you stand with a spray can and write those slogans, it is not a throwaway action; it is a very deliberate action. Why it was impossible for the company to conceive the impact is far beyond me. The community feedback was pretty clear. I cannot understand it could not see that those slogans were a fundamental disgrace. The apology he made also came with an empty promise of removing just that one slogan. The company continued on its merry way with other sexist, homophobic and racist slogans. To add insult to injury, the company later referred to Paula Orbea, the instigator of that petition, as a mosquito that needed squashing. But this insincere, conceited apology was probably the biggest concession the company ever made because it is fair to say that Wicked Campers has not taken criticism well and has sought instead to punish those who have spoken out against it. In one well-known and publicised case, Wicked Campers responded with a threat of violence to a female journalist. Senior journalist Lucy Clark called Wicked Campers to account for its portrayal and treatment of women. Its response to her call to account came from the end of a spray can. A slogan, which I will not repeat, appeared on one of its vans. It named her, with her first and last name, and made an explicit threat of violence against her. The van was then sent to the neighbourhood in which she lived. They made her community unsafe for her. Obviously I cannot speak for Lucy, but I personally would find that intimidating, humiliating and denigrating, just as it was intended to be. As I said, that behaviour was deliberate and was intended to offend and, I dare say in this instance, to intimidate. Indeed, New South Wales police told Lucy Clark that the company’s behaviour was grounds for a charge of threatening to do harm. She instead lodged complaints with the Advertising Standards Bureau. However, the company has ignored over two dozen adverse rulings by both the Australian and New Zealand advertising watchdogs. Those watchdogs rely on corporate citizens to comply—to be good corporate citizens—but their rulings did not even raise a response from Wicked Campers, let alone any action.

Here we are instead with a need for legislation. I want to focus particularly on the sexist and misogynist slogans that this amendment seeks to redress. Let us be really clear: these are more than just slogans. They reflect, create and reinforce sexist and misogynistic attitudes. They signal that the authors consider it acceptable to speak about

women, victims of domestic violence, the LGBTQIA+ community and other minority groups in such ways. They intend to demean, humiliate and perpetuate an abuse of power. It is relevant then that we are considering this legislation as we move into 16 Days in WA, beginning tomorrow, 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The 16 Days in WA campaign seeks to drive change in culture, behaviour and attitudes that lead to violence against women and their children and change in the kinds of attitudes and beliefs that we have seen expressed on Wicked Campers. Stereotypical gender roles and constructions of masculinity and femininity are key drivers of violence against women—the kinds of constructions that see women being demeaned and objectified.

I have been a social worker for a long time. I have worked in government, in the not-for-profit sector, in hospitals, in child protection, in research and in tertiary education. In every single one of those settings, domestic violence is a pervasive issue. Sometimes I am asked as a social worker what I would do if I had a magic wand. I would address two things—poverty and domestic violence, both of which have impacts throughout generations and across our entire community.

I have worked with women presenting to the emergency department at Fremantle Hospital. I recall one woman who had been assaulted and locked out of the house, naked. Her husband refused to pay the bill for the ambulance that brought her to our emergency department, so she was left with that debt. She was left with a financial, emotional and physical recovery. Most sadly, it was in my time at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women that I saw some of the worst of family and domestic violence, working with women who very often were having their first experience of domestic violence. Pregnancy is a time when domestic violence often starts, as issues of power and control come to the fore. It is a time of great vulnerability for women. They need to protect not just themselves, but their unborn child. It can be a time of increased financial dependency. It is, of course, a time when women have a lot of increased contact with professionals, so there is much more opportunity to disclose. Often in these dynamics, there is an increase of suspicion and jealousy, changes in the couple's emotional, physical and sex life and a sense that the baby is getting between them. We would often encounter women having their first experience of physical domestic violence and times of greater financial control. We would routinely encounter men making sexual demands on their partners immediately post-delivery—in the delivery room. They would not allow their partner to breastfeed, because her breasts belonged to him, and would be asked to leave his name off the birth certificate. At that time that meant they could not be pursued for child support. In child protection, domestic violence was and still is very often a reason for children being taken into care. The lives of everybody in that family are then set on quite a different and traumatic trajectory.

I was involved in the 100 Families WA project that examined pathways in and out of poverty for Western Australians. This project built on the Family 100 project in Auckland. One of the findings of that work was the experience of what was labelled “sexually inherited debt”. For many young women, their relationship with debt began in a heterosexual relationship. The most common story would be that she would sign the credit papers for the purchase of the boyfriend's car. The boyfriend, and the car, would disappear, and the debt, of course, would not. The young woman would often then take out a credit card to pay off that first debt, and then take out another credit card to pay off that next debt. We met women in that research who at 25 years would have tens of thousands of dollars' worth of bad debt to their name. It is fair to say that domestic violence is a scourge on our community. We hold 16 Days in WA because as a community we continue to struggle to confront and end disrespect and violence towards women and to close other gender equity gaps that lay the groundwork for domestic violence. It means that when we see this kind of disrespect in action, wherever it occurs in social settings, in the workplace, in our communities, and on the side of a campervan, we must call it out. As community leaders, we must not only call it out, but also put measures in place to prevent it from happening.

A campaign kit is available as part of 16 Days in WA. The kit is designed to support the efforts of workplaces and community organisations to speak up and speak out. It provides organisations and people with key messages, facts and statistics, a list of 16 ways they can take action, social media tools, ideas for events, resources to help understanding and to support conversations, and, of course, information on services and supports where people can seek further assistance.

I would like to provide a brief extract from the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence's preface to the campaign kit. I note that the McGowan government is the first in Western Australia to appoint a minister dedicated to this important role. I am very proud to be part of a government that takes this issue so very seriously. Minister McGurk writes in the preamble to the 16 Days in WA campaign kit —

While not all disrespect leads to violence, all violence starts with disrespect.

The recent parliamentary inquiry into sexual harassment in the FIFO mining industry shone a light on just how widespread and damaging this behaviour is—unfortunately for most women, it isn't surprising.

But it's not limited to the mining industry—it's a reminder that our workplaces can, and should, do more ... to support women.

To make meaningful change everybody must play a role.

Our annual campaign starts on 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and finishes on 10 December (Human Rights Day).

It's about promoting change in the community, in businesses and in workplaces to end violence against women, by building a culture of safety and respect.

I'm heartened by the growing community of supporters who are making it their business to end violence against women, expect respect and take action.

Wicked Campers is clearly not a part of the community of supporters. It is important that we consider the kinds of attitudes it perpetuates and take action on the misogyny, objectification and denigration of women it engages in. It is meaningful that we take this action on the eve of 16 Days of WA.

The Western Australian McGowan government has been very proactive in addressing domestic and family violence. Since last year's 16 Days of action campaign, the McGowan Labor government has continued to work on addressing the effects of violence on women. In the 2022–23 state budget, the government invested \$7.7 million in family and domestic violence response teams. We provided \$7.5 million to fund a range of initiatives in the family, domestic and sexual violence sector, as part of WA's signing the commonwealth's national partnership on family, domestic and sexual violence responses. We have committed \$14.7 million to create WA's third one-stop family and domestic violence hub in Armadale, which builds on the success of similar hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie. Another family and domestic violence hub is set to be established in the Kimberley.

When I went worked at Curtin University, I was on the evaluation team that looked at the outcomes of the pilot hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie. Even in their establishment phases, they were a signal to the community that a collaboration of organisations and community members would not only not tolerate domestic violence, but also actively respond to it. That was a really important message to those communities.

We have committed another \$4.5 million to help address family and domestic violence in the Kimberley through two programs: the Derby Family Violence Service and the Change Em Ways Kimberley project. We have released a new women's report card to show a snapshot of the status of women in Western Australia in 2022. We are delivering on our \$1.65 million election commitment to expand the Safer Pathways program, which supports women who are experiencing family and domestic violence to remain safe and secure in accommodation.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr K. STRATTON: We are consulting the public on coercive control laws. Coercive control is an insidious form of prolonged abuse that undermines a victim's autonomy and is a red flag for further physical and sexual violence. We are releasing the \$3 million family and domestic violence primary prevention grants program to eligible organisations to deliver community programs that address the drivers of violence and prevent it before it occurs.

The 16 Days campaign kit outlines 16 different ways in which we can take action against domestic violence, build respect for women and address issues of gender inequity. Some ways include hosting an event or activity to raise awareness, wearing something orange, sharing 16 Days messages on our social media platforms, volunteering time to community organisations that assist women and children experiencing family and domestic violence, and getting informed. When we are invited to get informed, we are also invited to be prepared to learn. We can donate money, care packs, toys and clothing to women's refuges and other organisations. We can all be active bystanders. We can not only call out behaviour, but also be a role model for what respectful behaviour looks like. We can talk about respectful relationships.

I was really pleased last month to stand alongside Minister Ellery and Minister McGurk as they announced the expansion of consent education across Western Australian high schools. They are really important conversations for us to be having with our children and young people. We should think about how we would respond to a disclosure and, in a workplace, have policies, procedures and pathways ready and available. We should remember that changing perceptions is everybody's business. It is up to us as community leaders and community members to model respectful behaviours.

Next week, it will be my honour to attend the thirty-second annual silent domestic violence memorial march in Forrest Chase. We will pay our respects to the men, women and children who have lost their lives due to domestic violence and reflect on the impact of domestic violence across our community. I will represent the Minister for Health and lay flowers in memory of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.

Attitudes to and disrespect of women are the creators and perpetrators of family and domestic violence. Research about attitudes to violence against women is quite concerning. The Australia-based National Community Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women Survey is the longest running survey of its kind. It gives us a picture over time of how and whether attitudes to women and domestic violence are changing. The survey examines violence and the attitudes that excuse the perpetrator, hold women responsible, mistrust women's reports and experiences of violence, and minimise violence against women by denying its seriousness or impact and disregarding the need to gain consent.

In 2017, the most recent survey, it was found that one in five Australians believe domestic violence is a normal reaction to stress. One in five also believe that sometimes a woman can make a man so angry he hits her without meaning to. One in three Australians believe that if a woman does not leave her abusive partner, she is responsible

for the violence continuing. One in five believe that many women tend to exaggerate the problem of male violence. The same survey showed that many deny gender inequality is a problem, with two in five believing many women exaggerate how unequally we are treated in Australia.

Further to this, White Ribbon Australia has reported that 42 per cent of young men aged 18 to 34 do not consider physical violence, such as punching or hitting, to be domestic violence, and 44 per cent of men aged 18 to 34 do not believe that non-consensual sexual activity constitutes domestic violence. These findings are simply frightening. Too many of us are prepared to excuse violence as being a “normal” part of the gender dynamic in heterosexual relationships—the type of gender dynamic that Wicked Campers also helps to promote as normal.

Our attitudes are formed by the world around us—our families, our friends, our communities, our schools, our media, our government, and, of course, advertising. Many complex factors contribute to violence against women. Attitudes that endorse and condone violence and disrespect towards women and promote gender inequality are one of those factors. There is evidence that when we address these underlying factors, violence against women can be prevented before it even occurs.

Obviously, statements on Wicked campervans are not worth repeating here, but they perpetuate stereotypes about women’s place, objectify women, portray the relationship between men and women in very traditional and sexist ways, and reduce us to having only particular roles and functions. We need action, and this bill introduces amendments to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012 to provide the CEO of the Department of Transport the power to issue a licence warning notice and cancel, suspend or refuse to grant or transfer a vehicle licence. The CEO must receive written notification from Ad Standards that the advertising displays on a vehicle breaches the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics. The CEO will give a licence warning notice, and if the advertisement is not removed from the vehicle, the vehicle licence may be cancelled on a stated date at least 14 days from the date of the warning notice being issued. That will give the owner of the vehicle or the licence holder the time to remove the offensive advertising. The powers that are introduced by this bill will be limited to vehicles displaying advertising that is deemed offensive. It will not impact the overwhelming majority of those who use their vehicles to advertise. It is targeting the very worst and most offensive examples. Relying on the expertise of Ad Standards to determine whether an advertisement is offensive draws on existing evidence and structures for making such determinations.

Finally, I also welcome this legislation as a parent. Like a lot of children of this generation, my kids are immersed in the online world. Social media and the role of influencers have made it very hard for us as parents to really control the advertising that comes into our children’s lives. My daughter spends a lot of time on TikTok and is particularly, I think, influenced by social media influencers who disguise their advertising as other activities. She picks up a lot of her material desires but also her ideas of what is important and what is a priority from those places. Advertising on vehicles is, of course, visible to all road users. It cannot be blocked. We cannot switch it off. We cannot unsubscribe. Yes, we can drive on by, but I do not think we should have to. I think banning offensive advertising on the road makes our jobs as parents just that little easier in managing the values that our kids are presented with. If I want to have a discussion with my son and daughter about gender stereotypes and about misogyny and respectful relationships, I do not want that conversation to be prompted by driving past a Wicked campervan. We should be able to initiate that ourselves within the context of our family and community values.

Not only as a member of the McGowan Labor government but as a social worker and a parent, I recommend this legislation to the house.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.24 pm]: I rise to make a contribution on the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. I do so with some hesitation after having listened to a number of the contributions that have been made in the debate. I must say that the statistics that the member for Nedlands just referred to on attitudes to domestic violence amongst young people makes for some sobering listening. It sort of threw me off course in respect of the contribution that I was going to make. I was going to start by saying, firstly, that a lot of the touchstone issues that this legislation deals with have been widely canvassed by members who have already made a contribution.

Things I had in mind that I would like to speak to when speaking to this legislation were the minister’s brilliant comment that whilst not all disrespect to women leads to violence, all violence against women starts with disrespect. People have spoken about the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of speech. These were the touchstone issues that I wanted to stand up and talk on. The challenge is that when we turn our minds to gendered and sexualised violence and discriminatory and offensive language, the contributions made—I have in mind obviously the contribution that has just been made by the member for Nedlands and the contribution yesterday by the member for Kingsley—lead us with very little to add to the store of what is in the debate. Then I thought maybe I will make an argument about the legal aspects and about the point that has been made by some around freedom of speech, but I heard the contributions of the member for Landsdale and the member for Cockburn covered off on some of those legal elements. I think a multitude of contributions reflect the comments that I was going to make, but I want to say a couple of things.

I want to couch my comments by starting with that point about free speech because it has come up quite a bit in the speeches made. There is no constitutional guarantee to free speech. There is not even an express freedom of

political communication. The freedom of political communication in the Australian context that people talk about is an implied freedom. The High Court needed to distil that freedom through an interpretation of the words in the text on the page of the Constitution. People need to be aware that we cannot just go around throwing this phrase “free speech” around willy-nilly because it sits within a very specific context.

The reason that I wanted to make that point is that we as a political community face a really dangerous challenge by emerging elements on the right-wing fringe of political discourse—people who invoke these ideas that have no sound basis and say their freedom of speech is undermined or impaired. We really saw this concept come to the fore during the marriage equality debate. Victoria is called to mind because the state election is coming up this weekend, and I will touch on the consequences of the rise of this right-wing narrative—but it started with the marriage equality debate and was then accentuated by the Victorian state government’s response to the COVID pandemic and some of the health and safety emergency measures that had to be put in place by the Victorian government. I for one thank God that we in Western Australia were kept insulated from the worst ravages of COVID through a combination of community attitudes, our physical and geographic isolation and incredible management from the McGowan Labor government. I can only express my sympathy for what transpired in Melbourne and Victoria more broadly.

As a result of these fringe elements agitating in the Victorian political context, we have seen the rise of rather extremist candidates within the Victorian Liberal Party. I will quote here from an article by Mark Kenny that was published earlier this week on *The Conversation* news website called “Victorian Liberals embarrassed by extremists within: how does this keep happening?” Mark Kenny states —

By rights, Victorians marking their ballot papers in the 2022 election this week should be casting judgment on the unprecedented emergency powers enforced during the COVID-19 crisis, while also evaluating the health, education and economic policies put forward in Australia’s second-most-populous state.

Instead, anti-women and anti-First Nations sentiments expressed by hard-line Liberal candidates have dominated the headlines.

Days out from the November 26 poll, the Liberal Party led by Matthew Guy (for the second time) has been rocked by revelations that some of its endorsed candidates hold extreme racist, anti-gay and anti-abortion positions, and would cross the floor against climate targets.

The extreme views were either not revealed or never enquired about during the Liberal Party’s preselection and candidate vetting processes.

Personal convictions include opposition to: abortion, the constitutional enshrinement of the Voice to Parliament, and even kindergarten.

Most of these convictions, which are seriously out of step with community attitudes and official Liberal Party policy, appear to originate from the dogma of ultra-conservative Christian churches.

...

Hitherto undisclosed loyalties to hard-line fundamentalist Pentecostal groups have fuelled fears of an orchestrated strategy by extreme right-wing Christians to control the Liberal Party. From there, it could exercise unseen influence over the state.

The controversy suggests the Victorian Liberals have allowed themselves to be infiltrated by ultra-conservative Christians in exchange for the influx of new members, and the funds and organisational wherewithal they bring.

...

... new problems emerged concerning two ultra-conservative Liberal candidates. The first is Renee Heath, who heads the upper-house ticket for Eastern Victoria.

I am just pausing from quoting from the article at that point. Renee Heath is in the number 1 spot for an upper house ticket for a Victorian region. She is the first candidate endorsed by the Liberal Party to be elected to a relatively conservative part of the state of Victoria. What I find amazing about that is that the electorate for which she is standing is relatively contiguous with a very good member of the National Party in Victoria. I am conscious that the member for North West Central is in the chamber, so I say this for her benefit. I refer to a man by the name of Darren Chester, who, in fact, voted yes in the marriage equality debate. The Liberal Party deliberately preselected Renee Heath to be number 1 on their upper house ticket for the Eastern Victorian Region. That is despite the fact that Renee Heath allegedly attacked Darren Chester. The article continues —

It has been alleged members of the City Builders Church, to which Heath belongs, actively orchestrated a campaign of resistance against the federal member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, after the moderate Nationals MP advocated a “yes” vote in the marriage equality plebiscite.

After revelations came to light about these extreme right-wing views held by Renee Heath, Victorian Leader of the Opposition, Matthew Guy, said “No; sorry! It was all a big mistake!” This deliberately preselected candidate

for this obviously winnable position at the top of the ticket in a conservative part of the state was dis-endorsed. If she wins election to the Parliament of Victoria on Saturday, which she probably will because she is in that privileged position at the top of the ticket, she will not be able to sit in the Liberal Party room. That is the attitude they have taken to Renee Heath.

The problem is that it is not limited to one person. Another candidate running in the lower house is a chap by the name of Timothy Dragan, who is a candidate for Narre Warren North. Timothy Dragan is a 26-year-old man and president of the local Liberal Party branch. I quote from an article of 20 November by Sumeyya Ilanbey in *The Age* —

The Liberal Party's candidate for Narre Warren North says Australia should not recognise First Nations people because "we won this land fair and square", that waste from nuclear energy should be dumped in Alice Springs, and that he would vote to ban abortion.

He made all these outrageous comments such as —

"There's no such thing as traditional Australians," ... "Because Australia is a post-colonial concept ... It's like telling Britain to give the land back ... I mean, come on man, it's bollocks. It's absolute bollocks."

I am just quoting his comments. Lo and behold, the journalist went to see him at the pre-poll station in Narre Warren North, and he declined to comment in response to questions about the views that he expressed in the audio interview. In a statement released by the Liberal Party—you can't write this stuff; it is beautiful—shortly after, he stated —

"I apologise unreservedly for my insensitive and inappropriate language," ...

"These comments do not reflect the views or policy positions of the ... Party."

Dragan is still the Liberal Party candidate. He has not been dis-endorsed by the Liberal Party. There are volunteers out there today handing out flyers for Dragan to get him elected as the candidate for Narre Warren North because of this contentious and thinly veiled apology. He is of the same ilk as Tim Smith.

The member for Caulfield, David Southwick, is a Liberal member and shadow Attorney General. Tim Smith criticised David Southwick because David Southwick criticised Renee Heath. Tim Smith defended Renee Heath and said that David Southwick, who is an Orthodox Jew, did not understand his own religion. I hope that David Southwick loses and I hope that Labor wins the seat of Caulfield on Saturday, and if it does, it will be the first time it has ever won that seat. However, the problem for the Liberal Party is that people like David Southwick are being lost to the cause of the Liberal Party, while people like Tim Smith, before he crashed his car into the fence in Camberwell after having had too much to drink—reminds me of Troy Buswell—had been made the shadow Attorney General. Perhaps his complaint against David Southwick was that David Southwick is now the shadow Attorney General. There is Tim Smith, former shadow Attorney General, supporting people like Renee Heath when Matt Guy is trying to get his party into line and say, "You know what; this is not who we are." The fact is that the Liberal Party faces a watershed moment: it is facing a fundamental challenge to its beliefs.

The National Party in Victoria is sticking true to its values, I think, by supporting people like Darren Chester. I am very sad to say—this person does not know me, but I have watched her career with interest—that Steph Ryan, the member for Euroa, and the former Deputy Leader of the National Party in Victoria, is standing down at this election. I wish her well. People like Steph Ryan, Darren Chester and David Southwick are the sensible and moderate voices within the National Party and Liberal Party that will enable those political parties to play the role they are required to play within a mature, sensible and moderate modern democracy like Australia.

The voices of Tim Smith, Renee Heath and Catherine Cumming, who is running for the Freedom Party of Victoria or the Angry Victorians Party, whatever party it is, are getting preferences from the Liberal Party. People like Timothy Dragan grab these concepts like free speech and wrap them around really extreme sentiment and a radical right-wing political agenda. I am sad to say they adopt this political agenda from the United States. I refer back to Mr Dragan in that regard. I was flabbergasted by this. He said he would cross the floor if his party voted in support of climate change, and he has twice signed a statement on social justice petition written by a group of Christian leaders in America's south; it reads —

The statement supports 'complementarianism', a Christian theological belief that men and women have distinct roles that should be obeyed.

It says while women may assist in the decision-making process, "the ultimate authority for the decision is the purview of the male in marriage, courtship, and in the polity of churches ...

Mr R.R. Whitby: There you go—your modern National!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Modern Liberal! Remember, minister, this is the one who is still a Liberal. He has not been dis-endorsed; it is the other one, who is guaranteed to win, who has been dis-endorsed!

Timothy Dragan said he did not care about his party's position on achieving net zero and he would cross the floor if it tried to legislate for it. He is opposed to a treaty with our First Nations people and a voice to Parliament; he is obviously a sexist and misogynist based on his views in supporting this southern Evangelical Christian organisation from the United States—and he is still the endorsed candidate! He is trying to undermine the moderate sector of his

party. I do not need to go into it, but the article goes on. He lives in the neighbouring seat of Berwick, and he confessed to not voting for the Liberal member for Berwick. He did not vote for him—he gave him third preference—because he does not like the guy! He holds a different view.

This is not confined to the Liberal Party in Victoria or other conservative parties. Everyone here remembers Katherine Deves, the Liberal candidate for Warringah, who was endorsed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in the lead-up to the last federal election. Probably a significant part of the reason why Kate Chaney is the member for Curtin, Zoe Daniel is the member for Goldstein and all the other teal candidates were successful on the eastern seaboard is that the sensible centre that the Liberal Party should represent has now been abandoned as it races over to the right-wing fringes. We talk about concepts like freedom of speech, but it is not an absolute right. It has to be exercised in moderation. My call to those Liberal Party members is to do away with the extremist fringe, if they want to. If they do not want to do that, do not worry about it, but it will be very hard for them to win back the seat of Mount Lawley, that is for sure. It is not good for democracy. They should do away with their extremist fringe.

Mr R.R. Whitby: They are running the show.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: That is a fair point, but their time is up. If it continues the way it is going, they will continue to be represented by a small number of members in Parliament. I imagine that if the sentiments being expressed by those candidates in the Victorian state election were expressed in an upcoming Western Australian state election, at the very least the seat of Cottesloe would become a very attractive target for a teal candidate. Members should beware of absolutist positions. They should take nuanced, thoughtful and moderate positions and think about what the consequences of their actions might be. Members should do what they can in order to keep themselves at arm's length from this sort of behaviour.

As I said at the start of my contribution, others have spoken more accurately, eloquently and appropriately on what the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022 sets out to achieve. I have used it as an opportunity to highlight some concerns that I have around extremist political ideology. I commend the McGowan government for being a government of the sensible centre and introducing legislation that garners the support of people in the opposition like Shane Love, member for Moore, whose comments I commend. I commend the bill to the house, I commend the minister for bringing this legislation forward and I thank members for their patience.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.41 pm]: I rise to add my contribution in support of the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. I am going to begin with a quote that speaks to the underlying subject matter or subtext to the higher purpose of what may be seen on the surface to be a relatively minor piece of legislation: the critically important societal issue of hate speech, in particular gendered hate speech, and the far-reaching consequences associated with such behaviour. Alongside the narrative of freedom of speech, the intent and express purpose of the bill before us is to enable the cancellation of the registration of vehicles that display advertising deemed by the Ad Standards Community Panel to breach the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics. I will look at some of the detail contained in the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022, but it is the underlying theme of hate speech, particularly gendered hate speech, versus freedom of speech that I will reflect on a little further.

In May 2019, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated —

Addressing hate speech does not mean limiting or prohibiting freedom of speech. It means keeping hate speech from escalating into something more dangerous, particularly incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence, which is prohibited under international law.

The UN article states —

The need to preserve freedom of expression from censorship by States or private corporations' is often invoked to counter efforts to regulate hateful expression, in particular online.

Freedom of opinion and expression are, indeed, cornerstones of human rights and pillars of free and democratic societies. These freedoms support other fundamental rights, such as to peaceful assembly, to participate in public affairs, and to freedom of religion. It is undeniable that digital media, including social media, have bolstered the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. Therefore, legislative efforts to regulate free expression unsurprisingly raise concerns that attempts to curb hate speech may silence dissent and opposition.

To counter hate speech, the United Nations supports more positive speech and upholds respect for freedom of expression as the norm. Therefore, any restrictions must be an exception and seek to prevent harm and ensure equality or the public participation of all. Alongside the relevant international human rights law provisions, the UN Rabat Plan of Action provides key guidance to States on the difference between freedom of expression and “incitement” (to discrimination, hostility and violence), which is prohibited under criminal law. Determining when the potential of harm is high enough to justify prohibiting speech is still the subject of much debate. But States can also use alternative tools—such as education and promoting counter-messages—to address the whole spectrum of hateful expression, both on and offline.

Although the quote relates to the more extreme end of the outcome spectrum, it is the far-reaching and incredibly damaging impacts along the way of hostility and violence that should cause us to have the same level of concern, because we know that all hostility and violence directed towards women begins with disrespect.

This brings us to the focus of this bill: to address offensive advertising on vehicles that put at risk vulnerable social groups such as minority groups, young people and the victims of domestic violence. The passing of the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022 will remove an opportunity for the disrespect of vulnerable groups through the prohibition of all gender-based and hate speech advertising on vehicles. As other members have noted, advertising on vehicles is visible to all road users. Unlike other forms of advertising, one cannot switch it off, turn the page or unsubscribe to avoid seeing it or prevent children from being exposed to it.

As a family-run small business owner, I know firsthand that advertising, specifically advertising on vehicles, is an important and, in many cases, necessary part of doing business. The overwhelming majority of advertising on vehicles is perfectly acceptable and a legitimate means by which to advertise a business. However, there has been longstanding community concern about the sexually explicit, misogynistic or otherwise offensive advertising that has appeared on some vehicles. This is simply not acceptable. As the member for Collie–Preston noted in her contribution earlier today, many clever and amusing examples of vehicle advertising exist that can give a small business an advertising advantage without causing offence through disrespectful images and the use of hate speech. Humour is a powerful marketing tool, but there is nothing funny about gendered hate speech, disrespectful images and casual misogyny. Although I am fortunate to have had no personal experience of gender-based violence, I, like all women, encounter casual misogyny on a daily basis. Misogyny can be defined as hatred of, contempt for or prejudice against women. It is a form of sexism that is used to keep women at a lower social status than men, thus maintaining the societal roles of patriarchy. Misogyny has been widely practiced for thousands of years. It is reflected in art, literature, the structure of human society, historical events, mythology, philosophy, religion and, as we know, very often in the media. On the topic of misogyny, an online article in “odyssey” lists 10 misogynistic behaviours that somehow still exist but need to end now. It states —

You may not realize what you’re doing, but make yourself aware of who you’re hurting or disrespecting.

The word “misogyny” gets thrown around a lot these days, though a lot of people aren’t certain about what it exactly means. “Misogyny” and “sexism” are frequently used interchangeably, but they’re actually different things. Sexism refers to discriminating because of sex, whereas misogyny is a hatred or mistrust of and prejudice against women. Misogyny is very much present in everyday life ... but because of our society’s acceptance of the mistreatment and degradation of women, that they’ll accidentally or unknowingly act misogynistically.

That is in reference to men and some of the casual language that is used on a daily basis.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 5942.]

COTTESLOE PRIMARY SCHOOL — 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.50 pm]: This Saturday evening, Cottesloe Primary School is celebrating its 125th anniversary by holding a gala fair featuring a student-made art installation and a customised drone show. I must say that the art installation is a truly impressive achievement that features a large flock of 1 000 origami seagulls that have been created by the students in conjunction with artist Melanie Gray. The flock is being installed in the trees at the front of the school as we speak, and I am sure it will make for a stunning entrance feature. Each student has also had the opportunity to make a seagull to contribute to the installation and will be asked to make a wish for their Cottesloe community. I could not think of a better way for the school to celebrate its 125th anniversary than to showcase the students’ innovative and clever designs for the local community to see firsthand.

Cottesloe Primary School opened its doors on 1 October 1896, with an enrolment of 30 children, and not even 20 years later, by 1915, the school had grown to almost 500 students. The school has been built on the strong traditions of the local area and is committed to offering all students pathways to future success through a quality and innovative education program. I thank Principal Graham Dart and the school staff for the outstanding work they do, and I congratulate the school on its numerous successes over the past 125 years and wish it all the best for the next 125 years and beyond.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Statement by Member for Nedlands

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [12.51 pm]: Ronald McDonald House in Nedlands is a home away from home for families whose children are receiving treatment at Perth Children’s Hospital. In October, I was taken on a comprehensive tour by the chief executive, Peter King, and the board chair, Andrew Sullivan.

Having been a social worker at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, I know the impact on a family of having a child in hospital—anxiety, worry and grief; navigating complex systems; trying to make sense of, and decisions about, diagnosis and treatment; and very practical concerns about accommodation, meals, education, care for siblings and transport. Ronald McDonald House not only takes care of these practical concerns, but also, with its social support, creation of community and home-like environment, provides a safe space for families to be supported in their grief and worries. On my visit, I was struck by the warmth of all the staff and volunteers, including the director of hugs and pats, Gus, by the warmth of the building itself, and by the way in which families and children are at the centre of all decision-making and planning.

I congratulate Ronald McDonald House on the significant partnerships formed with the community, local businesses, Lotterywest, the state government and philanthropists to provide a holistic care service. My team and I are looking forward to being in the kitchen in January 2023 for Home for Dinner, when we will have the privilege of preparing and serving dinner for families. This is just another example of the way in which Ronald McDonald House has engaged the community to be involved and to better understand the impact of illness and hospital care on families. I thank it for its significant contribution to our community.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE — KATANNING

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [12.53 pm]: Katanning Environmental founded the Katanning Containers for Change cash-in service in October 2020. Since that date, the not-for-profit centre has saved more than 5.7 million containers from landfill. In its first year of operation, Katanning Containers for Change received more than 2.5 million containers. It also secured a new shed for its receipt point, employed more locals and returned thousands of dollars to the local community through refunds.

Every 10¢ container that is returned to a refund point in WA gets another chance to be turned into a product and re-used. Refunding containers is creating benefits for local communities by cleaning up the environment and saving containers from landfill, bringing volunteer and employment opportunities, providing a new way for groups to fundraise for their community, raising awareness and engaging the community.

Currently, the four staff at Katanning Containers for Change—Joe, Paul, Jade and Bailey—manage to process an average of 50 000 containers per weekend. Over 5.7 million containers have now been collected locally and returned for a refund at Katanning Containers for Change, which means a whopping \$500 000 has been returned to the local community. Congratulations to Katanning Environmental chairman Matt Collis, Bev Lockley, Ron Lockley, the Shire of Katanning and all the volunteers and staff who have made this project possible.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS — SUBSIDISED TRAINING PROGRAM

Statement by Member for Victoria Park

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park) [12.54 pm]: I am proud that the McGowan government has announced the extension of our subsidised training program to include refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Western Australia's collective heart broke for the people of Ukraine when Russia invaded their country in February this year, with Russia continuing to wage war. Our hearts also broke for the Afghan people when the Taliban swept through Afghanistan and into power in August last year. Soon after, we witnessed the largest humanitarian airlift operation in Australia's history, as our military evacuated over 4 000 people from Kabul.

Our government's newly extended subsidised training initiative will support these new and often vulnerable members of our community to gain skills and sustainable employment. Access to subsidised training will be available from January for Afghan and Ukrainian nationals who hold various types of temporary humanitarian visa, as well as for many bridging visa holders. These groups will have access to free and low-fee courses, covering 210 qualifications, including courses at the Carlisle and Bentley TAFE campuses in my electorate of Victoria Park.

I would like to thank the Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education, the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees, and other organisations for their proactive and tireless advocacy and for working with the Minister for Education and Training and the co-conveners of the Parliamentary Friends of Refugees group—Hon Kate Doust, MLC; Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, MLC; Hon Dr Brad Pettitt, MLC, and me—to help secure this decision.

TOURISM AWARD WINNERS

Statement by Member for North West Central

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [12.56 pm]: I take the opportunity to congratulate Western Australia's leading tourism and hospitality operators, who were recognised for their innovation and commitment to excellence at the recent 2022 annual awards nights—the Tourism Council Western Australia's Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards and the AHA-Aon Hospitality Awards for Excellence. Congratulations to the Australian Hotels Association of Western Australia and the Tourism Council Western Australia for the support they provide to industry. As the shadow Minister for Tourism; Commerce, it was great to attend these important premier award ceremonies at

Crown Perth. Tourism and hospitality businesses have navigated a tough few years, with many under huge pressure due to barriers such as a shortage of workers and accommodation, and due to natural disasters and supply chain issues making it difficult for some businesses to survive, let alone thrive.

Small business owners are resilient, and it was great to see hundreds of guests at these events, including some very deserving winners and finalists from my electorate. The 2022 AHA-Aon Hospitality Awards for Excellence saw Finlay's Kalbarri winning the tourism initiative award, with high commendations going to Exmouth's Froth Craft Brewery for the community service award and to Whalebone Brewing Company for the live entertainment venue award. In the Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards, Onslow Beach Resort and Live Ningaloo won gold, Finlay's Kalbarri and Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef won silver, and the Shire of Ashburton and Coral Bay Ecotours won bronze. Congratulations to all award winners and finalists. Let us hope that tourism can flourish in every part of our amazing state in 2023.

DON ROLSTON

Statement by Member for Geraldton

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [12.57 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Don Rolston, a long-serving member of the Geraldton community and recently retired inaugural warden of the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial. Don has held the position of warden for 13 years and recently passed on the duties to Peter "Spike" Jones. Over the years, Don played an instrumental role on the leadership committee of the Rotary Club of Geraldton, working tirelessly to raise funds and coordinate the design and construction of this popular memorial.

Don has given a significant portion of his life and time to the benefit of the Geraldton community, having been a founding member of many steering groups and service organisations. He has been the managing director of the Geraldton TAFE and has a six-year service history as a local government councillor and deputy mayor. I am not the first to stand to give public recognition of Don's achievements. Don has been recognised three times as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for dedication of service. Don has received many accolades over the years for citizenry and volunteering. As a tribute to his dedication to education and training, Don has an award named in his honour, the Don Rolston Honorary Fellow Award. This award is given to members of our community who do not necessarily operate within the industry but, just like Don, give their time, knowledge and support to growing, inspiring and developing our future workforce. Thank you, Don Rolston, for being a tireless advocate for Geraldton. Our community is all the richer for your service.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: Members, I would like to acknowledge some special guests in the Speaker's gallery and also some guests in the public gallery this afternoon.

On behalf of the member for Riverton, I would like to acknowledge a very distinguished visitor to our Parliament, Dr Ashok Panchanahalli Chandrashekarappa.

On behalf of the member for Darling Range, I would like to acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer Mitch Merritt and the students from the Follow the Dream program at Byford Secondary College.

On behalf of the member for Scarborough, I would like to welcome to the Speaker's gallery students and the principal from St Dominic's School.

On behalf of the member for South Perth, I welcome the school group from Aquinas College.

On behalf of the member for Hillarys, I welcome the principal, year 6 students and counsellors from Mullaloo Beach Primary School.

On behalf of the member for Balcatta, I welcome Peter Carlino, the president of the Balcatta Etna Football Club, and its members; welcome to all of you.

On behalf of the member for Mandurah, I welcome guests from Coodanup College.

Welcome, everyone! It is great to know that public interest in question time is very high. Thank you all for coming. I will now open question time.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NURSES — INDUSTRIAL ACTION

765. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I refer to tomorrow's planned rally by WA nurses and the Premier's support for federal Labor's industrial relations bill on the basis that it will lift wages, noting that "there has been a problem with wages growth in Australia". How does he reconcile his desire to see wages lift nationally with his failure to make an adequate offer to lift the wages of our hardworking nurses?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The opposition's Treasury spokesperson is Hon Dr Steve Thomas—correct? Hon Dr Steve Thomas said on 14 September 2022 that it is a reasonable offer that we put to nurses. That is the position of the opposition, but now it is changing its position. Members opposite see unlawful strike action going on and they try to politically capitalise on it by changing their position. That is what the opposition is doing.

The nurses' union is ignoring the orders of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission; it is deliberately flouting them and engaging in unlawful action—against the law—and the opposition is supporting that. That is what is happening in Western Australia today. It is totally and utterly outrageous. We have put in place many of the things that the nurses' union asked for, and when the negotiations were going on, the union indicated to our negotiating team, "If you give us this, we will settle." We then provided for nurse-to-patient ratios, but it did not settle, even though it said it would. We provided for a three per cent pay increase, plus a half a per cent superannuation increase, plus a \$3 000 sign-on bonus, plus improved allowances for a range of nurses at various levels, upon which the union said it would settle and agreed to do so, and then it reneged. That is what has occurred. Now the union is going to engage in unlawful strike action at our hospitals tomorrow. It is utterly outrageous, and it is outrageous that members opposite agreed with our offer a little while ago, but now they are backflipping.

NURSES — INDUSTRIAL ACTION**766. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the inability to attract and retain staff in the health system, would it not be helpful to reward nurses properly?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

We have recruited 1 500 additional nurses over the last year or so. It has been the biggest nurse recruitment campaign in history. We have 400 additional doctors. In the last two budgets, there has been \$6 billion in additional funding for the health system. It is the strongest funded health system per capita of any health system in any state in Australia. That is what has occurred. For decades the nurses' union has argued for nurse-to-patient ratios. We have agreed to put it in place in the next two years. It has complexity around it that requires a period to embed it, but we have agreed to do it. The nurses won that—they won. Now they are engaging in strike action. It does not make any sense. The opposition's Treasury spokesperson said publicly that what we offered to nurses was a reasonable offer. In fact, he said that it was generous at one point in time. Now members opposite are rushing into Parliament the day before unlawful strike action and supporting unlawful action. They should be ashamed of themselves!

STATE ECONOMY**767. Mr H.T. JONES to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's world-leading response to COVID-19 and its efforts in supporting business, creating jobs and driving economic growth. Can the Premier update the house on what the latest national accounts figures show about Western Australia's economic performance during the COVID-19 pandemic and outline how it has been this state that has underpinned the rest of the country?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Darling Range for the question.

It is true that Western Australia has the strongest economy in Australia. This has been confirmed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics' state accounts figures for the last financial year. It puts beyond doubt that Western Australia has led the country and supported the rest of the country. That was, as I said, the ABS's state accounts figures for the last financial year. To quote it, our economy grew by 3.1 per cent. The domestic economy did the heavy lifting. That is business investment, household consumption and dwelling investment.

We are now in our fifth consecutive year of a growing economy. Obviously, when we arrived in office, the economy was in recession under the last government, but we have restored it back to growth. In fact, the only state that did not go into recession during the COVID pandemic was Western Australia. This means that for the last three years, Western Australia's economy has grown by a cumulative 7.9 per cent—the strongest of all the mainland states. As I said, we avoided a recession, whilst our competitors or our colleagues in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria all went into recession during the COVID pandemic. As we understand, this government, despite the efforts of the Liberal Party, managed to keep COVID out of Western Australia.

Since the start of the pandemic, WA has accounted for 23 per cent of the nation's growth, with only 10 per cent of the nation's population—the largest contribution to Australia. Of course, we receive only 70¢ in the dollar back for our GST. We continue to fund the other states. We continue to provide much company tax revenue, which goes to other states. Of course, the other day we announced our resources community investment initiative, which was a terrific thing, by which we will secure support from the resources industry for important state government legacy

projects. The only people who opposed that were those in the Liberal Party. Steve Thomas went out there and criticised it. I really do not understand the way members opposite think. We will have secured hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars, hopefully, by the end of this project that we are engaged in for the people of the state, yet they go on to criticise it. I do not understand the way they think sometimes. I would have left that one alone if I were them or even said, “This is good.” Sadly, that is not the way they act.

The good news is that the figures that came out the other day show that Western Australia is once again leading the country.

FORCED ADOPTIONS

768. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the tabling of a petition in the Legislative Council calling for an inquiry into forced adoption practices in Western Australia, the grievance that I presented to the minister in October and the correspondence sent to both the minister and the Premier on this matter.

- (1) Has the minister considered the request from survivors for an inquiry?
- (2) If yes to (1), when will the government take action on this important issue?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) I note that the Leader of the Opposition did a grievance on this not that long ago and she asked the same questions then. I note that in the eight and a half years that she was in government, she did not do an inquiry. There was an apology that was in place —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms S.F. McGURK: — but there was not an inquiry and there was no other action that has been requested by those who have been affected by forced adoption.

I will say at the outset that this was a terrible practice thought to have occurred largely between the 1940s and 1980s, in terms of the people who are still with us. Largely young mothers were forced or coerced to give up their babies at birth. It was usually single women. Some of the stories I have either heard directly from these women or read in accounts about what they have suffered have been heartbreaking. Obviously, it is not only the women who are affected; it is their families and the children who are affected by that. The children often did not know for many years what their backgrounds were. We are very conscious of that. I gave an undertaking to some of the advocates for those affected by forced adoption that I would meet with them before the end of the year, and that meeting has been arranged, and I will give them feedback.

I do not know whether people in this chamber have noticed a theme in what the opposition is doing; that is, they want an inquiry on any matter that is going on at the moment. That is a way to spin their wheels and perhaps get some more political mileage out of a question. In fact, there has been a Senate inquiry into this very matter and Victoria took a very thorough look at this matter as well. We are actually aware of a lot of the requests that have been put by largely women, who have come and advocated to me on this issue.

Something that came to me more recently that made an impression on me is that the women are saying they would like a way to tell their stories publicly. That might be identified or de-identified. It is a way to put their stories on the record so they are known. I have heard that request and I am looking at ways that we could meet that request. By and large, the policy or the initiatives requested by those affected are well known; there are no new issues that would be uncovered by an inquiry in Western Australia. I have undertaken to meet with other advocates and those affected before the end of the year. I think a meeting has been set up for early December. I look forward to continuing to work with them to address their concerns.

FORCED ADOPTIONS

769. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Child Protection:

I have a supplementary question. To be clear: is the minister ruling out an inquiry as requested by survivors and that the petition tabled by one of the government’s own members in the Legislative Council clearly called for?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I do not support an inquiry because I do not think it will give us anything new or that we do not already know about the specific requests put by advocates. They have already been well canvassed in an investigation by the federal Senate and in the Victorian inquiry as well.

ORGANISED CRIME AND OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

770. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented efforts to crack down on organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how the first round of firearm prohibition orders have kept guns out of the hands of organised crime figures and domestic violence offenders?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how these orders are making our suburbs and streets safer?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question and his fulsome support of the Western Australia Police Force, particularly in his own patch of Forrestfield.

- (1)–(2) I can tell the member that the first round of firearm prohibition orders have been served on some of the highest-profile organised crime participants, the outlaw motorcycle gang leadership in Western Australia and some of our worst domestic violence offenders.

On 21 November, the gang crime squad served 15 notices on people in Western Australia and another six on people in other jurisdictions. These orders are serious. It means, of course, that the people who receive a firearm prohibition order can no longer be anywhere near a firearm. They cannot have a licensed firearm, cannot be near a firearm, cannot be in a place where it is expected there might be a firearm and cannot be with anyone else who has a firearm. That means that on the day, some 12 firearms were removed from people. They were seized by police. Six of them were licensed to one individual and another six to partners or family members of others who were served with firearm prohibition orders. From now on, the people who received these firearm prohibition orders are subject to search without warrant at any time. They can be stopped and have their vehicle, the people with them, their home or their place of employment searched to confirm that they are not carrying firearms and they are not with someone who has a firearm.

That is a very serious matter. It is a very serious power, but it targets them for a very serious reason. In March last year, the Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police came to the government and told us that during COVID, they learnt that we can stop meth coming into Western Australia. It is brought here and distributed by outlaw motorcycle gangs—organised criminals. It does the most harm. In 2020, when the borders were closed tightly and everyone entering was met by a police officer, meth consumption in Western Australia dropped by over 50 per cent. Crime went down by a commensurate level. There was about a 41 per cent drop in crime. A lot of the damage done in Western Australia can be traced to meth. If we can stop meth coming into the state and being distributed by the people who bring it here, we can have a serious impact. That is the intent.

At the end of the media conference this morning, I reflected on how it has been received. It has been universally commended or accepted as positive by those present. At the time, I was thinking it probably would be universally recognised as a good thing by people across the state, with the exception of those who had received an FPO, I imagine. Then I thought there are probably some other parties in Western Australia who might not be as supportive or receptive. I remember when we brought this legislation to Parliament. Not so much in this house, but in the other place the opposition—the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA—sought to delay the passage of the legislation for no other reason than to get to the end of the sitting week and go into a recess of six weeks so that it would delay these laws and the regulations being delivered to the state. The Liberal and National Parties of Western Australia are probably, with the bikies and some of these FDV offenders, the only people who did not accept and did not support the legislation.

I know that is the case because only last week the Liberal Party was writing op-eds that referred to the exorbitant amount of time I spend beating up on bikies as being a bad thing. I hope that now we have served these orders, the Liberal and National Parties—the opposition in Western Australia—might reflect on their behaviour and contemplate which side they are going to support in the future as we pursue disrupting the bikies and the harm that they do to our community.

SCHOOLS — CHILDREN WITH HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

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

Before I ask my question, I would like to recognise Simone and Victoria from Accountability for Children in Education and Square Peg Round Whole.

My question is to the Premier in his capacity representing the Minister for Education and Training. I refer to questions asked in the other place about the Department of Education's multiagency protocol for education options for young people charged with harmful sexual offences.

- (1) What protocols are in place to protect schoolchildren after a student charged with a sexual offence is moved to their school?
- (2) What is the difference in protocols for a child who is charged with a sexual offence versus one who is convicted of one?
- (3) How many police notifications does the Western Australia Police Force have for public school students who have been charged with a sexual offence?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the Leader of the Liberal Party. That question is different from the one that was provided to my office. In any event, I will answer as best I can.

- (1)–(3) In 2017, the Departments of Education, Communities and Justice and the Western Australia Police Force formalised a multiagency approach to manage young people charged with harmful sexual behaviours. The multiagency protocol for education options for young people charged with harmful sexual behaviours provides for these agencies to cooperate and lawfully share information in the best interests of all students and staff.

Although it is still an offence to share information with parents or members of the public about a child accused of sex offences, stronger measures were needed to protect all students and maintain community confidence that schools are as safe as possible. A protocol was put in place to manage safety arrangements for all school students in Western Australia when a young person attending school is charged with harmful sexual behaviours. The protocol provides the Department of Education with the ability to determine the most appropriate education placement for students charged with harmful sexual behaviours as notified by the Western Australia Police Force.

When a student is charged with a harmful sexual offence, it indicates that there may be a level of risk in the school environment. Upon notification through the protocol, the department manages the risk by ensuring that planning is in place at the school to support students charged, as well as known students harmed. These plans are called risk assessment and management plans, or RAMPs. There are currently 60 RAMPs in place for students who are enrolled in public schools. Education is assessed on an individual basis, as was emphasised in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as being necessary, and may include a range of different education options.

The Minister for Education and Training has asked the Department of Education to ensure that the safety of victims is the paramount consideration in this decision-making process and in the development of a RAMP. When a student transfers from one school to another, including between the public system and the non-government sector, relevant information is shared in the interests of student safety. Regardless of the outcome of the WA police investigation and/or court outcome, the school manages the risk associated with the student's actions that led to the charge.

SCHOOLS — CHILDREN WITH HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

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

I have a supplementary question. Is the Premier able to provide greater transparency by publishing the number of sexual offences committed at schools, as is done in other states such as New South Wales?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I have just advised the member that 60 risk assessment and management plans are currently in place for students enrolled in public schools.

Dr D.J. Honey: On an annual basis.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We will examine the suggestion that the member has just made. The rules that we have in place are individualised for perpetrators and victims. It may involve alleged perpetrators being moved to another school. There are individualised plans for, in particular, perpetrators so that they do not share classrooms with the victim. Alleged perpetrators are supervised at lunchtimes and so forth. They are kept separate from any victims in relation to these matters. These are difficult matters to manage in a school. A lot of effort has gone on over the last few years since the royal commission handed down its report.

HOMELESSNESS REFORM PACKAGE

773. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Homelessness:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to reducing homelessness in Western Australia. Can the minister update the house on how this government's homelessness reform package will help rough sleepers into more secure housing and ensure that they have the wraparound services they need?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for her question.

We understand this simple truth: providing a roof over somebody's head is a critical way of transforming their life. It not only provides a sense of belonging and security, but also enables someone to actually reset their life and take a journey. That is why, as a government, we are investing \$2.4 billion over the next four years in social housing and homelessness. That is why we are spending \$225 million this year on homelessness programs.

But I know we can always do better, and we always look for opportunities for reforming and leveraging from that investment. Therefore, I was very pleased this morning to announce a package of \$24.2 million so that we can leverage the best we can and, in particular, in alignment with the 10-year homelessness strategy, focus on rough sleepers. Today, we announced a new program of 100 social homes that will be specifically allocated for rough sleepers, with a supported landlord model. The landlord will be Housing Choices—it will provide that supported landlord model—and the tenants will have access to the Housing First support services. We will spot purchase 50 homes and Housing Choices will provide 50 homes.

Given the heated construction market, we know that this is the fastest way that we can enable rough sleepers to transition to social housing. This is innovation. It is a bold step. It is a jump from a pilot program of eight homes in Bunbury to 100 homes. But I am very confident that Housing Choices will be able to deliver this initiative.

We have also announced other reforms and other parts of the package. That includes boosting transitional accommodation right now at St Bart's with 18 beds. We have also provided funding to boost data collection through the by-name list and transfer that to the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness. We are reforming the way we do assessments of rough sleepers. We have a lot of people working in this space. Each of the major centres of Albany, Geraldton, Bunbury, Mandurah and Perth will have one rough sleeper group that will provide a referral service. We are integrating outreach services to create one outreach service program in the city.

We are also boosting and extending the highly successful Homeless Engagement Assessment Response Team homelessness outreach program in the CBD.

It is really pleasing to see that the sector has embraced these reforms. I note that Deb Zanella from Ruah Community Services, a highly credible leader in the homelessness field, said today, and I paraphrase, that this government has been at the forefront in investing in an approach that has been proven in other jurisdictions around the world. I also note the editorial in today's *The West Australian*, which states in part —

It is heartening see real concrete solutions to a problem which has flummoxed policy-makers for decades.

This is bold. It is an innovative reform. But I have a strong belief in our homelessness sector, in Housing Choices and in St Bart's that together we can make a real difference to transform the lives of some of our most vulnerable Western Australians.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT

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

Some notice of this question has been given. I refer to the independent inquiry into the Perth Children's Hospital report that was tabled on 9 November 2021. Will the minister please provide or table the status of each of the 30 recommendations from the inquiry, as well as a time line or priority order for the implementation of the recommendations that are still outstanding?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

All recommendations are being implemented as a priority. As at November 2022, the Child and Adolescent Health Service has completed 11 recommendations, and a further 11 are due for completion by early 2023. Eight of the recommendations are part of a longer transformational journey and require further time to be embedded in the health system.

In the time provided it is not possible to collate up-to-date information from every health service provider. If the member puts the question on notice, we can provide more detailed information from across the health system.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT

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

I have a supplementary question. Is the minister able to provide or table the time line for those recommendations?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

They are all being implemented as a priority. A number of them are systemic and cultural changes. All that work is ongoing at the moment. A tranche of 11 has been completed and a tranche of another 11 will be completed early next year. The remaining eight are system-wide changes that need to occur and are being rolled out as we speak.

CORONAVIRUS — LONG COVID CLINIC

776. Ms H.M. BEAZLEY to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in our health system and world-class response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Can the minister update the house on the support this government has provided to Western Australians experiencing COVID-19, including the new long COVID clinic?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the member for Victoria Park for her question.

It has been a priority of the McGowan Labor government to support Western Australians through the challenges of the COVID pandemic and to put Health front and foremost in our response to that pandemic. Most notable is the WA COVID Care at Home program that was set up on 31 January 2022 to provide home monitoring care for COVID-positive people deemed at greater risk of serious illness due to medical and social risk factors and to mitigate against unnecessary hospital presentations of COVID-positive people. The program has successfully monitored over 17 000 eligible Western Australians, which has significantly minimised admissions to hospital, with less than four per cent of those patients requiring escalation to hospital. The program is finishing, given that it was developed with Delta in mind and WA now has stronger protection from serious infection from COVID-19. We have some of the highest vaccination levels in the world, there has been significant prior infection in the community, access to antivirals is much improved under the current federal government, and there is better medical and public understanding of how to manage COVID. This is reflected in the recent ending of WA's state-of-emergency powers. COVID-19 has transitioned to business-as-usual supports and care pathways. This is consistent with our transition to managing COVID through sustainable public health measures, vaccination and targeted testing processes.

I can also inform the house of a new trial for a long COVID clinic that was opened by the East Metropolitan Health Service on 30 October this year for people experiencing long COVID symptoms. The trial, which is being led by a senior physiotherapist, is located at Bentley Health Service and is available by GP referral to patients living within the East Metropolitan Health Service catchment who meet the referral criteria. The trial is for people over the age of 16 years who are at least 12 weeks post-COVID diagnosis and experiencing significant ongoing but non-urgent symptoms, and have objective physical findings that have failed to resolve with primary care and cannot be attributed to any other obvious cause. The clinic will offer patients further assessment and management of those symptoms. We will continue to monitor long COVID in the community. Other clinics may be established if there is a need and should the trial prove successful.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

777. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I refer to the *Australian infrastructure budget monitor 2022–23* report released today by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia. Does the Premier think it is acceptable that Western Australia is the lowest-ranked jurisdiction in the country for general government expenditure on infrastructure, and why is Western Australia lagging in eighth spot, spending less than half as much on infrastructure as Victoria?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am unaware of the organisation that the member referred to. I understand that it is a private organisation. I do know this: a remarkable amount of infrastructure is being built, and our biggest problem is that we have too much! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition's complaint is that we do not have enough, but we have so much that the industry itself is having difficulty building it all. We can compare that with the opposite problem, which was the opposition's problem in office, when it had us in recession and there was a 6.4 per cent unemployment rate. Our unemployment rate is now down near three per cent and we have an infrastructure pipeline worth around \$32 billion or \$33 billion. We have had to smooth some into future years to keep up the pipeline. I do not wish to quote Joh Bjelke-Petersen, but I will. When you look out across the city and the suburbs, all you see is cranes, because there is so much infrastructure being built out there! I always had a very dim view of Joh Bjelke-Petersen when I was a student at the University of Queensland, but his crane theory is starting to grow on me. The more cranes you see, the more activity is out there. That actually has a bit of sense to it. We have a massive infrastructure pipeline being built, and we are very proud of it.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

778. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. It is an authoritative report and I am sure ministers have read it, even if the Premier has not. Why has Western Australia remained in last place in the budget monitoring rankings for the sixth —

Mr M. McGowan: I cannot understand you; you speak too quickly.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Why has Western Australia remained in last place in this budget monitoring rankings for the sixth consecutive year?

Mr W.J. Johnston: Because they are a privatisation business.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

According to the minister behind me, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is into privatising things. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition might recall that when he was last in office, his government had a policy to privatise Western Power. That is exactly what occurred in Victoria and New South Wales. Their electricity systems are now in complete chaos—so much so that the government in Victoria is promising to renationalise the electricity system over there. If that is what the member is advocating and saying, he should be honest about it. Of course, the last government said that the only way to pay off debt was to sell off all the assets. That occurred in New South Wales: it sold off all its assets on the basis that it would pay off debt. What has happened now? NSW's debt is climbing to \$150 billion or thereabouts. Its credit rating is in freefall. Its deficits are massive. It sold off its assets and still blew out debt. We have not sold off our assets; we kept our electricity and water assets in public ownership and we have paid down debt. Ours is the only government in Australia to have done so. When members opposite left office, debt was heading to \$44 billion; it is now down to \$29 billion. When members opposite left office, the unemployment rate was 6.4 per cent; it is now down near three per cent. Our participation rate—the number of people engaged in the workforce—is the highest of any state in the history of Australia ever. It is a remarkable story in Western Australia, basically because we did not follow the ideas that members opposite put forward.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS — GENDER EQUALITY**779. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to gender equality and its ongoing efforts to boost the participation of women in all facets of public life. Can the Attorney General update the house on this government's efforts to increase the representation of women among the judiciary?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question. When this government came to office in March 2017, the representation of women as presiding and judicial officers in the various Western Australian jurisdictions was not high. Of the six jurisdictions—the Supreme Court, Family Court of Western Australia, State Administrative Tribunal, District Court, Magistrates and Children's Court, and Coroner's Court—women made up 38 per cent of those roles compared with 62 per cent for men. This was despite there being more women in the legal profession than men in every state and territory of Australia. Nationally, 53 per cent of solicitors are women. The rate of growth of solicitors joining the profession in the decade to 2020 was 67 per cent for women, compared with 26 per cent for men.

This government introduced the justice pipeline model to facilitate planning for how to increase the number of judicial officers on a supply–demand model. As a result, under this government, the number of judicial officers has risen from 135 to 167. In filling these new judicial positions and replacing retiring judicial officers, I have tried to correct the gender imbalance that I inherited. Of the 90 judicial appointments I have made as Attorney General, 57 have been women—so almost two-thirds. These efforts have had a historic effect. I am pleased to announce that after recent appointments, the proportion of women in judicial roles in Western Australia is now slightly higher than men—51.5 per cent, against 48.5 per cent for men. This equates to 86 women and 81 men amongst the 167 jurists. This is the first time in Western Australia's history that women have outnumbered men on the bench. This has been driven by an increased number of women on the Magistrates and Children's Court, up from 19 to 33; the District Court, up from seven to 17; the State Administrative Tribunal, up from 11 women to 19; and the Supreme Court, which has doubled from three to six women. I further note that of the six jurisdictions, four—the Family Court, Coroner's Court, District Court and SAT—have women as head of jurisdiction. The Magistrates Court and Supreme Court have men as head of jurisdiction.

Additionally, in recognition of the role of women as primary family carers, this government, for the first time, recently appointed two female magistrates part time—one is on two days a week and one is on three days a week. I am not aware of any other jurisdiction in Australia in which gender equality has been achieved on the judicial benches. I wish to thank the Premier and cabinet for the solidarity they have shown in achieving this historic milestone in Western Australia.

TAB — SALE**780. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the recent failed sale process for the TAB that has cost the WA taxpayer at least \$3.5 million.

- (1) Will the government entertain another sale process in the future with either of the bidders who expressed an interest?
- (2) Has the Treasurer prepared a submission for the midyear review for greater investment in the TAB to ensure that it can compete in the market?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1) No, I do not expect that will be the case. We have engaged in this process twice now, unsuccessfully on both occasions, through really no fault of the government. It is just the nature of the market at this point in time. On the first occasion it was because the COVID pandemic interrupted the sale process. That is what occurred. The TAB will remain in public ownership; it is self-funding and it will continue to have that model.

- (2) Additional investment the government makes through the midyear review and the like will go into important areas like health.

TAB — SALE

781. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Is the Treasurer concerned that the intrinsic value of the TAB will now diminish over time?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I cannot control that. The TAB is a business. It depends upon the nature and success of the racing industry and its capacity to compete against other bookmakers out there. We attempted a sale process twice in order to try to put it into private ownership, which is understandable. The TAB will remain in public ownership because the sale process did not work on both occasions, as I said, for reasons outside our control. Our focus as a government, certainly in terms of our budgetary processes, is on continuing to invest in health—we invest the most in health of any state government in Australia per capita—and important infrastructure projects, diversifying the Western Australian economy and paying down debt. They will remain our focuses.

The SPEAKER: The member for South Perth with the last question.

FUNERAL PRICING

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

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's new regulations aimed at providing clarity around funeral pricing.

- (1) Can the minister outline how these changes will provide transparency and certainty for those making difficult decisions at a difficult time?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on how the McGowan Labor government is ensuring that the WA community is supported and not subjected to unscrupulous sales practices at a difficult time?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question; it is an important one.

- (1)–(2) At times of grief, families are often in a vulnerable situation, particularly in circumstances in which they have to negotiate complex contracts with funeral operators. I will say from the get-go that the vast majority of funeral operators provide professional and sensitive services, and an important service to the Western Australian community. However, as a result of some feedback on consultation conducted by Consumer Protection earlier this year, it is clear that there is very strong support for consumers to have a code that protects them and makes sure that the industry continues to operate in a way that I think people would expect, particularly at a time of grief when people are most vulnerable.

The McGowan government has put in place new regulations that will provide clarity on the costs associated with funerals and make it easier for those grieving to make informed decisions at a very difficult time. Funeral companies operating in WA will be legally required to publicly display prices, enabling funeral organisers to access information up-front, compare the costs of those services and avoid the need to necessarily meet with a representative of the funeral company to obtain that information in the first place. Funeral directors will also be required to provide itemised fees for all goods and services supplied under a funeral agreement, including the total cost of the funeral before entering into the agreement. The funeral pricing code of practice brings to an end the unscrupulous sales practice relating to bundled packages. The pricing and contracts in these packages have often resulted in funeral organisers not understanding the total costs involved. As a result of these bundling practices, they opt for measures that they believe are mandatory, even though they are not mandatory, when carrying out a funeral service. In many cases, the final cost of a funeral was unknown until it was held, and grieving families and friends were left feeling overcharged or misled.

As I said, the vast majority of funeral operators do the right thing and make sure that they provide sensitive, informed services that assist people in their time of grief. It is important that this new code supports the Western Australian community, particularly grieving relatives, and protects people financially when they are at their most vulnerable. It will allow families to make an informed choice of a funeral provider. The code will become mandatory from 1 May 2023, and more information on the funeral pricing code of practice is obviously available on the Consumer Protection website.

This is a very important initiative. We want to make sure that under our consumer protection regime we protect people who are most vulnerable from unscrupulous practices. I think we all agree that a person who is preparing for the funeral for a loved one they are grieving is most vulnerable. From that perspective, this is a really important measure to make sure that we look after those folk.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLES) AMENDMENT (OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING) BILL 2022*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [2.45 pm]: Before the break, I mentioned the list of sexist and misogynistic behaviours that need to stop now. I will begin with the first behaviour. This term is used alarmingly frequently, particularly by people who play a lot of video games. The list states —

Stop using the word “rape” to say you win.

... “I got *raped* last match.” I don’t care how bad you lost or if you completely dominated. It’s insanely disrespectful to use the word “rape” like it’s something completely casual. The word has one and *only* one connotation—negative and harmful ...

The use of it needs to stop —

Don’t use the word “bitches” to loosely refer to women.

Outside of being a female dog, evidently the word “bitch” has a negative connotation being used as an insult ...

Stop doing it —

Only respecting women you find attractive isn’t respecting women.

...

Unsolicited comments on appearance or physique are disgusting.

...

And there’s a line that’s been crossed with compliments, too.

... If your compliment is sexually charged in any fashion, chances are, she doesn’t wanna hear it ...

Stop doing it —

Don’t assume a woman’s position in her work environment.

This isn’t the ’60s anymore. Every woman that sits in an office isn’t a secretary ...

Double standards come from everywhere and attack at every angle.

When a man’s hair greys, he’s a silver fox. But when a woman’s does, she’s an old hag ...

Do not do it —

It’s nobody’s place to ask a woman about marriage or starting a family.

...

Mansplaining and maninterrupting ...

I hate that one; do not do it —

No woman owes you just because you’re nice to her.

I think we can all agree on those. We know that inequality and disrespect lead to bad outcomes for women and for our society. I think we can all agree that that is a problem. In order to fix the problem, we need to be able to call it out when we see it.

It seems that casual misogyny is a stealthy beast and further awareness is greatly needed. Further to this, I will share with members the following casual misogyny and sexism identifiers from a 2017 report by Diversity Council Australia, titled *Men make a difference: Engaging men on gender equality*, which also looks at the issue of casual misogyny or everyday sexism. The page titled, “What is ‘everyday sexism’?”, is particularly about the workplace. It states —

- **Evaluating women less positively** than men (e.g. in job application and promotion processes)
- **Ignoring and talking over** women
- **Sidelining women** in social and work networks
- **Calling women “girls”** but not calling men “boys”
- Criticising others for **acting “like a girl”**
- Comments that women **are not as good as men at certain things** (maths, sports, cars, leadership) or that they are too easily offended

- **Seemingly harmless comments about women**, such as that they are naturally better at collaborating, detailed work child care, cooking or shopping
- **Not offering women work opportunities** out of misplaced concern that they may not be able to manage it (e.g. assuming that women can't travel or work in male-dominated or heavy industries)

In this place we smash a lot of those misperceptions.

The list continues —

- **Choosing women for stereotypical assignments** or tasks such as taking meeting notes ...

I was asked to do that when I was at an Australian Institute of Company Directors course. I said I was probably the worst person to do that. Apart from being offered that role because I am female, I would be absolutely hopeless at it. It is not my skill set. The list also states —

- **Unwelcome remarks** about a woman's body or clothing

In my opening remarks I mentioned being disrespectful to women and hostility and violence towards women. There is no doubt that one is associated with the other. It is timely, therefore, to acknowledge the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence for her role in working with the Minister for Transport in bringing this bill to the house. In particular, I would like to acknowledge that tomorrow is the beginning of the 16 Days in WA campaign, which aims to stop violence against women. Its theme for 2022 is "Respect starts with you". This important campaign aims to raise awareness and increase positive actions to stamp out family and domestic violence in our community. It is also a call to action for public sector employees and agencies, which, as the state's largest employers with responsibility for delivering services to all members of the community, are well positioned to drive cultural change in the mindset and behaviours that lead to violence.

Further to the core issue of respect, it is important that we understand the cycle of violence. Again, not all disrespectful behaviour towards women results in violence, but all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour. I know that phrase has been mentioned many times in this house today on this topic and others, but it is really important and I encourage other members who will speak on this bill to repeat that phrase, if they feel so moved, because I think it is incredibly important that it is heard, and heard often. The 16 Days in WA campaign and, more broadly, the work of the minister and the McGowan government, including the introduction of this bill, are making an overall and important difference.

I will now get back to the detail of the bill. The bill introduces amendments to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012 to provide the CEO of the Department of Transport the power to issue a licence warning notice and cancel, suspend or refuse to grant or transfer a vehicle licence if the CEO receives written notification from Ad Standards that the advertising displayed on the vehicle breaches the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics and the responsible person for the vehicle has failed to rectify the advertisement in the prescribed time, being at least 14 days from date the CEO issued the licence warning notice.

This bill does not seek to erode an individual's right to express themselves freely. The powers introduced by this bill will be limited to vehicles displaying advertising that is deemed offensive. The CEO will act only when notified by Ad Standards that an advertisement on a vehicle breaches the advertising code. The amendments will specifically provide that the CEO may issue a licence warning notice to a responsible person notifying that because of an Ad Standards determination that an advertisement on the vehicle breaches the advertising code, the vehicle licence may be cancelled on a certain date unless the advertisement is removed from the vehicle. The intended cancellation date must be at least 14 days after the licence warning notice is issued to the person responsible for the vehicle. The CEO may cancel a vehicle licence if an advertisement has been deemed offensive and is not removed by the intended suspension or cancellation date. A new licence cannot be granted when a vehicle's previous licence was cancelled due to offensive advertising and the advertising has not been removed. An owner cannot transfer a vehicle licence to another person to avoid or delay the cancellation of a licence if a licence warning notice is in force. If a licence warning notice is in force, the person responsible for the vehicle must satisfy the CEO that the advertisement has been removed from the vehicle before the licence warning notice can be withdrawn. The CEO can determine the methods by which the removal of the advertisement can be demonstrated.

I acknowledge the contributions of my colleagues on this bill, which, as I said at the outset, might look to be a fairly simplistic bill, in essence, but underpinning it is a far greater and much more noteworthy set of issues. They have been well examined by those members who have spoken before me and, I am sure, by those who will speak after me. It is absolutely fundamentally important to have respect and do away with the opportunity for hate, and particularly gender-based hate speech and imagery. The bill does not in any way inhibit people from advertising in an appropriate and humorous manner. People will continue to have freedom of speech. To be clear, that freedom of speech does not give anyone the right to freedom of hate speech.

In conclusion, the legislation will not impact on the overwhelming majority of vehicle advertising; it is targeted at only the worst examples that have no place whatsoever on our roads. I commend the bill to the house.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [2.56 pm]: I rise to speak on the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. This is an important bill and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak on this issue. Many of my colleagues and I have been energised to make a contribution on this. I congratulate the Minister for Transport for progressing the bill and bringing it before the house. I am sure all of us have had the misfortune of seeing offensive advertising on some vehicles, most notoriously, Wicked Campers. A number of members have spoken about Wicked Campers and I will too because that is what we understand to be the most widespread use of very offensive material on campervans for the purposes of attracting free publicity. Presumably, that is the advantage Wicked Campers gets, but it is incredibly offensive material. Probably every member in the house can recall, as I can, seeing those vehicles and, frankly, wishing they had not.

This is an important bill that seeks to make sure there is accountability for organisations like Wicked Campers that have vehicles displaying very offensive material on spray-painted designs. I think we can all understand the difference between those vehicles and a vehicle with advertising on it for a company that is fairly straightforward and normal. Clearly, this bill does not seek to in any way impact on that type of advertising; it deals with very specific circumstances of large signs on campervans.

This bill introduces amendments to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012 so that the CEO of the Department of Transport will have the power to issue a licence warning notice to cancel, suspend or refuse to grant or transfer a vehicle licence if the department receives notification from Ad Standards that the advertising on that vehicle breaches the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics and if the responsible person for that vehicle has failed to rectify that advertisement in the prescribed time, which has to be at least 14 days.

The principle behind this is quite clear. When there is a breach of advertising standards, the CEO of the Department of Transport will have the power to issue a sanction after giving suitable notice to the organisation responsible for the offensive material. There are important safeguards in the bill with how it goes about addressing the issue but what is most important is that it provides a sanction. Those standards are contained within the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics, so there is some mechanism to make sure that the standards are upheld. Although I think we understand from the previous submissions, it is worth reiterating that these Wicked campervans, which are the most notorious example and the one that is most widely known, are very popular with backpackers. The company obviously sought to position itself in a particular way in the market. The vans are most notable for offensive slogans, most of which are sexist and misogynistic but are also homophobic, racist and, many times, just plain obscene. There were examples of the vans effectively inciting violence, particularly against women.

Wicked Campers is apparently a Queensland-based company, so it obviously attracted a lot of attention in Queensland. Anna Bligh, who was Premier of Queensland at the time of the 2012 state election, was invited to design her own van in response to public concern about this. She rebuffed that invitation, so Wicked Campers depicted her on a van, naked and in a position—I feel almost embarrassed to say; that is how offensive it is. I will not share it because I feel like it actually gives credence to its approach. They painted her on a van, naked and in a sexually alluring type of position. It was reported by a newspaper journalist and apparently never made it onto the road. Notoriously, when journalist Lucy Clark, who then wrote for *The Sunday Mail*, took Wicked Campers to task in print in 2008, it responded by spray-painting a van with her name and made some very pointed comments effectively suggesting that she should be gagged. It then sent that van to the community in which she lived. It was a very deliberate set of actions that were not just about having a joke or going too far with something that was intended to be humorous. These were clear steps to humiliate women and, in fact, threaten and intimidate them in a fairly deliberate way.

I know many people in this place are parents, as am I. When my children were younger, I also had the unfortunate task of explaining to them some of the offensive slogans that Wicked Campers chose to use. When they were old enough to read but perhaps not yet old enough to understand what they were reading, they, of course, asked “What does that mean? Why have they written that on a van?” Many people felt similarly dismayed by having to have such a conversation with their children. I think there have already been a few references to the petition that started in Sydney when a mother and her young daughter encountered one of the vehicles and had a similar experience. It generated over 100 000 signatures.

I think these stories really illustrate the very intrusive nature of the offence when we talk about road vehicles. All road users are subject to it; people can come across those vans at any time of the day or night. We cannot turn it off or unsubscribe from it. It is really impossible for a person to avoid encountering those vans as they go about their daily business at any time of the day or night whilst they are able to circulate freely on our roads. One of the things about Wicked Campers in particular is that it blatantly disregards the advertising standards. Over the years, there have been many complaints and adverse rulings, both in Australia and New Zealand, but the company simply refuses to heed those warnings. There has been a lack of mechanism to enforce those findings so it simply continues to go about its business and delight in the notoriety that comes from the complaints.

This bill is really important because it is a way of ensuring that organisations must comply with advertising standards of vehicles. A number of states have implemented similar legislation and it is important that Western Australia also does so to ensure that some kind of sanctions are in place and offenders do not just simply skip jurisdictions and move around to states without these sanctions in place. I am delighted that our state government is taking these

steps and joining many other states in legislating to ensure that we have an effective sanction to uphold community standards. I think it is very clear from the stories that we have heard, the number of complaints and the way that Wicked Campers has blatantly disregarded those complaints, that it is necessary to have some kind of sanction to ensure that it behaves in a way that the community expects.

It is important to note that we are debating this legislation the day before we begin the 16 Days in WA, which commences tomorrow. This is a very important campaign introduced by the McGowan Labor government and WA's very first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Simone McGurk. It is now in its sixth year, and it has grown since it was first implemented. I think it has actually become very successful in ensuring that we are having a community discussion about respectful relationships and appropriate standards of behaviour. These 16 days always begin on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is the 25 November—tomorrow. It will run until 10 December, which is Human Rights Day. It draws from a global movement, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which is 16 days of activism recognised around the world to draw attention to gender-based violence. This year's theme is very pertinent in that ending violence against women is everybody's business. I think that really underlines that part of having 16 Days means having a concentrated effort to raise awareness; motivate positive action; and highlight organisations, employers and communities who are taking action but reinforcing a community message about respectful relationships and appropriate standards of behaviour.

Clearly, this bill seeks to call-out the bad behaviour of Wicked Campers and other organisations like it. It is clear that we still have a long way to go to address underlying community attitudes that contribute to family and domestic violence. I think others before me have made contributions about how attitudes are one of the things that underpin or allow for family and domestic violence and violence against women more generally to grow. Statistics tell us that we still have deeply ingrained attitudes underpinned by sexist assumptions about women's place in society and in relationships. The National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women survey, which I should note is the world's longest-running survey on these attitudes, found that one in five Australians believe that family and domestic violence is a normal reaction to stress and that, sometimes, a woman can make a man so angry that he hits her without meaning to. One in three Australians believe that when a woman does not leave her abusive partner, she is also responsible for that violence continuing. Frighteningly, two in five Australians would not know how to get outside help for a domestic violence-related issue. If we ever needed an example of why we need to change community attitudes, I think Wicked Campers is perfect. There are widespread beliefs in the Australian community and companies like Wicked Campers actively incite misogyny and sexist beliefs and behaviour. As I discussed earlier, they are also effectively inciting calls to violence against women who speak out.

I am really proud to be part of the McGowan Labor government, which has introduced a great number of initiatives to help reduce family and domestic violence. I want to talk a little bit about some of those today—not all of them. One key thing that I think has been incredibly important is ensuring that we have a plan and strategy to raise awareness about family and domestic violence and to make sure that we are encouraging community-level conversations about what respectful relationships should look like, and that that is done in a way that also encourages other community leaders to step forward, speak up and call out sexist and misogynistic behaviour wherever they see it, whether in the community, workplace or home.

The 16 Days in WA campaign has been a really important part of raising awareness. As part of those 16 days, we encourage people to wear orange—the campaign colour—as a way of showing our commitment to having those conversations and our support and solidarity for bringing an end to family and domestic violence. People can wear badges, which I understand are in relatively short supply, but that is a really powerful way to send a message. The badges simply say “Stop the violence”. Buildings and landmarks will be lit up in orange, again as a really important symbol of the community's collective commitment to ending family and domestic violence. I want to commend the minister for this initiative. I think it is a really powerful thing to do, and it is a really powerful way to encourage others to recognise and accept their responsibility to get involved, as well.

This responsibility not just is confined to government leaders, but also involves business leaders, union leaders, people in the community sector and people in sport—a whole range of community leaders are encouraged to make a stand on the issue. I know that one thing that has been quite effective is having a launch event—I think the minister has held one every year—which brings together a large group of people such as community leaders. The minister manages to get all the attendees of that event to wear at least a touch of orange, which is no mean feat, but it brings people together to wear that colour and make a stand that we all have a responsibility to speak up to end domestic violence.

Awareness raising has been incredibly important, but it is not the only thing that our government has been doing, and we have not been doing it only during the 16 Days in WA, either. It is clearly something that we have been committed to since we won office in 2017. We have made good progress, but I think we all understand that there is much work that we still need to do. We know that women are overwhelmingly the victims in family and domestic violence incidents, and, as I said earlier, there are still underlying community attitudes that really point to the fact that we need to do much better.

As a government, we are also taking strong steps to hold perpetrators to account and to support victims. One of the great things this government has done is to introduce family and domestic violence leave, particularly for public sector workers—the public sector is the single biggest workforce in the state—whereby on this government being elected, those workers became eligible to access paid leave when they were dealing with a family and domestic violence-type issue. This government has also made changes to residential tenancy laws, provided funding for the Pets in Crisis program, and introduced a whole range of other things that are perhaps small but add up to a significant amount of support for victims, as well as making sure that we have strong laws and strong accountability for those who engage in violence within their family or domestic relationships.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: We have also put in place a 10-year plan, *Path to safety*, which is WA's strategy to reduce family and domestic violence. It is committed to action. The strategy was implemented in 2020 and will run to 2030; it is a 10-year plan to reduce family and domestic violence. It has four key focus areas: working with Aboriginal people to strengthen Aboriginal family safety, ensuring we act now to keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account, growing primary prevention to stop family and domestic violence, and reforming systems to prioritise safety, accountability and collaboration.

One of the ways we are supporting victims of family and domestic violence is through the use of hubs like the Naala Djookan Healing Centre in Mirrabooka. Naala Djookan provides integrated wraparound services to enable people experiencing family and domestic violence to get help sooner and to access the services they need closer to where they live. It is also a way to ensure that people who are escaping family and domestic violence only have to tell their story once, rather than over and over again to different service providers. The service operates as a consortium of organisations that deliver services, including the City of Stirling, a range of health and mental health services, alcohol and other drug services and legal, housing and financial counselling services. People who are experiencing family and domestic violence might need to access a wide range of services, and these hubs bring them all together in one place. Naala Djookan has a focus on providing culturally safe and trauma-informed services and supports for people from all backgrounds. The consortium partners with culturally and linguistically diverse services, ensures that supports are tailored for people from these communities, and partners with Aboriginal organisations to ensure the provision of Aboriginal-led services for Aboriginal people. As we begin the 16 days of action in WA, I want to give a special shout-out to the staff, board members and volunteers of Naala Djookan and thank them for all the important work they do in our community. I am so proud that we have the first family and domestic violence hub in Mirrabooka, and I am incredibly proud to be part of a government that has opened a further hub in Kalgoorlie, with hubs in Armadale and Broome to follow.

People in my community of Mirrabooka will have the opportunity to participate in activities for 16 Days in WA at all six City of Stirling libraries, including the library in Mirrabooka. Naala Djookan is encouraging people to colour in a butterfly or leave a note on a butterfly to be displayed at the libraries and make a comment about what respect looks like to them. It is a simple activity, but I would encourage all members of the community to engage with these displays. It is a really easy but important way in which we can send a collective message about respectful relationships.

As others have also commented, I will also be participating in the Annual Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March, which will be held next Tuesday, 29 November. This will be the thirty-second occasion on which the march has been held. It will take place in Forrest Place in Perth. It is held every year as a way to honour and pay tribute to those people who have lost their lives as a result of family and domestic violence in the preceding 12 months. I think that it is an opportunity to reflect on the very profound impacts that family and domestic violence has in our community. Every year, I find it incredibly moving and almost shocking to understand the personal lives of the people who have been affected. I think that is a very important event. It brings a large number of community members together, and it always sends an incredibly strong message about our shared responsibility to work towards making change. It digs behind the statistics on family and domestic violence and ensures that we understand the personal stories and tragedies that lie behind those tragic deaths each year. I would encourage other members to also join in this event. I believe it starts at 11.00 am with the march starting at 12.00 pm.

There are a number of other excellent ways that people can get involved. Again, I want to commend the minister for producing a really great campaign resource kit, which is easily accessible; people can google "16 Days in WA" and find that resource kit. It provides a lot of examples of ways that people can get involved and take action either in their communities or, indeed, in their workplaces, and includes a whole range of activities—everything from wearing orange or wearing a badge, right through to donating their own time or resources to services, or, indeed, learning some skills about how to have a conversation with someone in the event that they are approached by someone who wishes to talk about their own experiences with family and domestic violence. I think it is an important opportunity in the community to talk about this issue and recognise that we all have a responsibility to make a difference and to speak up.

As we consider this bill, it is an important time to stop and reflect that if we do not call out bad, disrespectful or misogynistic behaviour, and if we do not call out these sexist comments, it allows for poor behaviour to flourish, and that supports attitudes that can lead to violence and inequality.

I am really proud to be a member of the Labor Party, and of the McGowan Labor government, because we are a party that has a strong set of values at the core of everything we do—at the core of all our decisions and all our actions in government. Unlike those who sit in the corner, we do not just chase issues when it is expedient to do so; we work on doing what we know to be right. We believe in fairness, justice and compassion for all people, no matter who they are or where they come from. We are committed to the pursuit of economic and social justice for all Western Australians so that everyone in this state can live a good life, a life of dignity and a life of fairness. That is why we as a government have been pursuing important changes in the area of family and domestic violence.

We are serious about women's social and economic equality, so it is important to reduce the violence, harassment and discrimination experienced by too many women in our community. Our strategy has not been just to hold perpetrators to account and keep victims safe; we are also ensuring that we address community attitudes to ensure that women are not denigrated or harassed or subject to misogynistic messages. This bill is part of not only an important national strategy to rid our roads of the misogynistic, racist and homophobic slogans that have appeared on rental cars and vans, but also our ongoing mission to deliver equality, fairness and justice for all people in Western Australia. It is an important bill that will ensure that we are no longer subject to the kinds of terribly offensive messages that I know people in this house have seen. As I said, I have seen them on way too many occasions myself. This bill will give us levers to pull to ensure that vehicles on the road are required to maintain an appropriate standard of advertising—a standard that is consistent with what the community wants and expects. We will be able to ensure that when there is a blatant disregard for those community expectations, the CEO of the Department of Transport has appropriate levers to pull to ensure that those standards are not continually flouted, as they have been in the past by Wicked Campers.

I want to commend the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence for her excellent work. I commend the Minister for Transport for bringing in this bill, which I think is an important piece of the puzzle. With that, I commend the bill to the house and end my contribution.

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

GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES BILL 2022

Appropriations

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

House adjourned at 3.23 pm
