



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25 March 1997

# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

## **PETITION - BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**

### *Funding*

**MRS van de KLASHORST** (Swan Hills - Parliamentary Secretary) [2.02 pm]: I present the following petition:

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

The following signatures call upon the Western Australian State Government to increase its contributions to Breast Cancer Research from \$0 to \$2 million per year for ten years to fight against this disease. There are so many families already suffering from the effects of breast cancer, it is imperative that the issue of research into the causes, prevention and cure be addressed with urgency.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 211 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 9.]

## **STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

### *Paedophilia and Other Forms of Child Abuse*

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Minister for Education) [2.05 pm]: I inform the House of the development of policies and procedure by the State Government against paedophilia in our schools. At the July 1996 meeting of the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment and Training, and Youth Affairs Ministers agreed to develop a coordinated national strategy in schooling to prevent paedophilia and other forms of child abuse.

Since then Western Australia has worked with other States and Territories, through the Commonwealth and non-government school authorities to develop a national strategy. At a meeting of MCEETYA in Melbourne a week and a half ago, Ministers made a strong and clear commitment to this coordinated approach. A raft of recommendations that comprise the national strategy were agreed to and will be adopted by all education authorities, including the Education Department of Western Australia. Non-government school authorities in WA have also committed to establishing common strategies for screening of employees, coordination of information and effective liaison between sectors.

Most importantly, the national strategy will ensure that all education authorities maintain a system which records details of all allegations and criminal charges of sexual misconduct involving employees and will allow authorities to exchange information.

Under the new national strategy, when a person who has trained or worked in schools interstate or has unexplained gaps in his employment record seeks employment with an education authority, the authority must seek information from other relevant education authorities. All States and Territories will be required to provide this information when requested. Another significant part of the national strategy is that all school authorities must ensure that applicants for employment in school-based positions have undergone police record checks. Agreement was also reached on further specific strategies with regard to child protection.

We would be naive to think that in Western Australia we are somehow immune to incidents of paedophilia in our school system or that such incidents are too rare to warrant appropriate preventive measures. The Education Department has in place a number of policies and procedures against paedophilia, including screening for potential employees; procedures for managing reported incidents of paedophilia involving students; training for principals in identifying and managing possible cases of abuse or neglect; and an information package on child abuse and neglect.

However, as has been shown in New South Wales through the findings of the Wood Royal Commission, the State Government recognises that there is room to strengthen existing practice. Western Australia is currently developing and implementing specific strategies in line with the national strategy and is also implementing further measures against paedophilia in our schools. The Education Department is putting in place compulsory police checks for all

new employees in schools, including both teaching and non-teaching staff and teacher trainees in tertiary institutions; reviewing the files of all current Education Department employees where there have been allegations of sexual impropriety to ensure investigations have reached a satisfactory conclusion; and working with the Police Department, specifically on Operation Paradox, to exchange information. In addition, the Department will be developing a code of ethics, in consultation with the Volunteers Centre of Western Australia, with regard to volunteers in schools; and developing guidelines for schools to use in managing reported incidents of convicted paedophiles or known sex offenders who live near schools. This is a commitment by the State Government and all other Governments throughout Australia which transcends political boundaries to ensure the safety and security of children in our schools.

### STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR PLANNING

#### *East Perth Redevelopment Authority - Chairman, Appointment*

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [2.07 pm]: Yesterday I put forward a recommendation to Cabinet that the former Minister for Planning and Heritage, Hon Richard Lewis, be appointed chairman until 31 December, which will complete the term commenced by the previous chairman. The redevelopment authority has the function of planning, undertaking work, promoting and coordinating of land at East Perth, the preparation and review of a redevelopment scheme and the control of development. The infrastructure now being provided includes roads, sewers and parks and the Government is selling fully serviced land for housing and commercial use which is earning valuable profit for taxpayers.

I take this opportunity of acquainting the House with the qualifications of Richard Lewis, to assure everyone that his suitability for the position of chairman is unquestionable. A member of the Australian Institute of Surveyors, Richard Lewis began his professional career at the Department of Lands and Surveys. Later he worked in urban and unit development consulting, and urban design, and began a successful survey practice which was closely involved in matters such as town planning for many years.

He served on a local council for 14 years, with three terms as deputy mayor, and chaired the planning committee for nine years. He served on the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority, which is now the WA Planning Commission, and was the chairman of its parks and recreation committee and a member of its executive development, finances and transportation committees. He was also on the south west district planning committee, residential codes, ministerial advisory committee and the urban arterial roads fund advisory committee. These were the qualifications which made him exceptionally suited to be Minister for Planning, and why he is extremely qualified for this position at the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. The East Perth Redevelopment Authority is recognised throughout Australia as a prime example of forward-thinking inner city redevelopment. This Government acknowledges the part played by the previous Government in getting this major commitment underway.

### STATEMENT - SPEAKER

#### *Video - Swearing-in and Maiden Speeches*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Strickland): I am pleased to advise that a complimentary video showing the swearing-in of members and, in the relevant cases, the maiden speech will be forwarded through my office to each member. This is the first occasion on which we have had an opportunity to fully record the swearing-in, and similar provision will be made in the future for newly elected members of Parliament. Members should be aware that they can obtain a video copy of any program material made available to the media, at a set charge which aims to recoup the cost of producing the copy. That program material may be used only for the purposes of providing fair and accurate reports of Assembly proceedings or providing information about the proceedings and operation of the Assembly. It may not be used for party political advertising or campaigning; satire, ridicule or denigration; or commercial advertising.

I take this opportunity to advise that the current policy is that only question time and very significant events will be televised. Only items such as the opening of Parliament and the presentation of the state Budget have been televised as significant events. The policy was developed in the previous Parliament by the Presiding Officers on the advice of a committee which was representative of all parties and both Houses. A copy of the conditions for broadcasters, the guidelines for camera operators and the guidelines for access to video recordings of program material will be distributed to members together with their video.

[Questions without notice taken.]

### MOTION - DEBATE TIME LIMITS

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [2.50 pm]: I move -

That for the present session, the following order shall apply -

Standing Order 164 is amended -

- (a) by deleting from the section headed IN THE HOUSE, the time limits for the second reading of OTHER BILLS, and substituting -

"SECOND READING -

Mover	60 minutes
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Leader of Government or one member deputed by him	60 minutes
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Leader of Opposition or one member deputed by him	60 minutes
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Any other member	*20 minutes
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Mover in reply	45 minutes
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\* If the member speaking so requests during or immediately upon the expiry of a speech, the time for the speech shall be extended by a further 10 minutes. This does not preclude a further extension under the proviso to this Standing Order;" and

- (b) by deleting from the section headed IN COMMITTEE, the time limits for OTHER BILLS, and substituting -

"All Members - unlimited periods not exceeding 5 minutes each."

This motion is a result of the second interim report of the Select Committee on Procedure, which was presented to the House in September 1995. That report made two principal recommendations. The first recommendation was that speaking times at the second reading stage of Bills be reduced from 30 minutes to 20 minutes but that members may seek a further 10 minute extension. That was put in place late last year and, I believe, worked effectively. However, a pattern did emerge where members automatically sought a 10 minute extension. In my view, and members who are honest with themselves will agree, if a speech is well prepared, well researched and well presented, 20 minutes will be perfectly adequate on most occasions.

The other part of the recommendation dealt with speaking times during Committee. The process that had applied previously under standing orders was that each member could speak on any clause for 15 minutes, followed by a further 10 minutes and then a further 10 minutes. That meant invariably that whether it took members three, four, or seven minutes to make the point that they wished to make, they took 15 minutes, followed by a further 10 minutes and then a further 10 minutes. The committee recommended that that be replaced with five minute speaking opportunities that had no limit, where members could make the point that they wanted to make about a clause, and argue with or respond to the Minister, and not be restricted.

That was a good reform, and it worked well in the early stages. However, when we try to introduce a genuine reform in this place, it is almost as though members opposite contrive to get around it. Last year we did see, regrettably, a contrivance where members opposite would finish their five minute speech and sit down, and someone else would then jump up, say two or three words which were unrelated to the subject matter, and the member who had finished the speech would then stand up and continue. That sort of contrivance to make it a virtually unlimited speech is against the spirit of the reform and is not in the interests of this House. The five minute opportunity does allow members to make the point many times and to elaborate the point properly. However, for a member to make a five minute speech and to then be interrupted by a 10 second speech from someone else so that the member gets the call again is contrary to both the intent and the spirit of what was proposed. Nevertheless, those reforms were generally well used within this House. I hope we do not get cases of abuse, and I recommend that we continue with that procedure this year.

**MRS ROBERTS** (Midland) [2.52 pm]: I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the House, but I do not support his gratuitous, mealy-mouthed remarks about the behaviour of opposition members with regard to the extension of debates or the progress of the Committee stage. The reforms were worthwhile, and his comments were both incorrect and uncharitable.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.53 pm]: By and large, the five minute limit on speeches in Committee works well, but there are occasions when it does not work as well as it might. One of those occasions is when we are dealing with a state agreement Bill. A state agreement Bill has only one clause, which embodies the whole of the agreement, and if members were restricted to one five minute speech on that clause, they

could not cover all of the issues that might arise with regard to that agreement. Therefore, members do need someone else to make a few more remarks so that they can raise other issues in subsequent five minute speeches. On other occasions, members may want to raise issues in Committee which are difficult to deal with in five minutes. We may need to provide some way for people to give longer speeches in Committee on limited occasions.

**MR JOHNSON** (Hillarys) [2.54 pm]: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was the leader of opposition business last year, served on the Select Committee on Procedure with you, Mr Speaker, and me, and he is aware of my opinions about speaking times. I have always been in favour of reducing speeches at the second reading stage from 30 minutes to 20 minutes, because I believe, as the Leader of the House said, if members cannot say in 20 minutes what they want to say, they are not doing a good job. Therefore, I was happy to go along with the committee and the Parliament in trialling the 20 minute time limit, with an automatic extension of 10 minutes. However, that was abused by members on that side of the House; and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is smiling at me now, because he knows that what I am saying is true.

It was often the case when I was in the Chair that when members had virtually finished their speech during the second reading debate, the leader of opposition business would say, "You have to speak for 10 minute more", and that was done simply to prolong the debate.

Mr Carpenter: You have made your point. Sit down!

Mr JOHNSON: I have got a lot more to say. The new member should have a bit of patience; he is not on "The 7.30 Report" now. I have a right to say what I want to say in this place. A lot of time was wasted during second reading debates.

The member for Nollamara will know that I am probably the only occupant of the Chair in the past four years who has told a member to sit down for not speaking to the Bill in front of the House. The member for Nollamara was totally abusing parliamentary procedure because he was hardly mentioning the Bill - it was only a one line Bill - and was using his time to expand on matters which had nothing to do with the Bill. He then had the nerve to ask for a 10 minute extension, which is when I told him to sit down.

Mr Carpenter: The gag!

Mr JOHNSON: Not at all. All members who occupy the Chair do a good job because they have to do it with a perspective that is different from when they are on this side of the House or that side of the House. I do not believe anyone in this House can say that the people who have sat in the Chair over the past four years and the person who is sitting in the Chair now have not carried out their duty to the Parliament with the best intentions. I support the five minute time limit while the House is in Committee of the Whole, because previously opposition members have used the 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes and a further 10 minutes - the Opposition knows that what I am saying is true - just to prolong the time that it takes to get a Bill through the House.

Mr Ripper: You just do not like the lessons we are giving you! You are like the schoolboy who complains that the teacher is going on for too long.

Mr JOHNSON: Not at all. I would not have minded if the Opposition had been saying something constructive on those occasions, but it was not; it was just babbling on about everything. I support the motion, with reservations, because I would prefer the time limit for the second reading debate to be reduced to 20 minutes with no automatic 10 minute extension; it should be done by leave of the House.

**MR BROWN** (Bassendean) [2.58 pm]: I listened attentively to the contribution of the member for Hillarys. It appears that a new trait is necessary in this Parliament: Mind-reading! The member for Hillarys suggested that some members on this side of the House had completed their speeches and then continued in order to use up the time available. The member for Hillarys must be an adept mind-reader. Not only is the member for Hillarys suggesting that this new trait is necessary for this place, but also this new trait has been put into legislation, because later this week, we will debate a Bill introduced by the Minister for Labour Relations that deals with secret ballots. That Bill provides that a person who thinks another person is thinking about going on strike must apply to the Industrial Relations Commission for a secret ballot to be conducted. The Government is putting into legislation this new requirement to be a mind-reader.

Mr Marshall: Was he right or wrong? Was he correct in his mind-reading?

Mr BROWN: Sometimes people can mind-read a little and expect to be correct. For example, on many occasions when the member for Dawesville rises to speak, many members may anticipate he will speak about football or the Dawesville Cut - and many times they are right! As to the question of whether he was right: It is true that sometimes members on this side of the House must repeat points again and again. That is particularly the case in the Committee stage when the Minister in charge of the Bill is obdurate and refuses to answer the most fundamental questions. Of

course, the Minister knows the answer - even Blind Freddie would know the answer - yet refuses to answer because the Minister does not want to make a commitment that will be recorded in *Hansard*.

In this Parliament views are supposed to be exchanged, as the Leader of the House said. The nature of the five minute debate is to try to get dialogue flowing between the Minister and a member. I support that. It is a good idea. It is better than the previous arrangements where members had only three chances to speak - for 15 minutes, 10 minutes and a further 10 minutes. Once that allocation was used, that was the end of the member's opportunity to speak on a clause. This is a better proposition because it can expedite the business of the House. However, it will not be expedited simply by members on this side abdicating their responsibilities. They will continue to question and probe, and ask Ministers to come forward with their views. To the extent that Ministers sit at the Table mute, in a high-handed, arrogant fashion and pretend they need not answer to this place, have their views put on the record, and say that we are not justified in asking for evidence as to their view of clauses in legislation, opposition members will get up time and time again without any hesitation to question the Minister who is handling the Bill about a particular matter.

The member for Hillarys should listen to the debate in Committee - if we get one - on the Labour Relations Amendment Bill, because it will be a showcase of how to keep a debate going in this place. Such a debate is normally conducted by the Minister for Labour Relations, who sits at the Table and obdurately ignores or refuses to answer questions, or tries to get away with the fancy trick of saying that he will deal with the matter later, as does the Premier; but of course later never comes. Then when one is searching through the *Hansard*, one can never find the answer. It is a nice little trick and it works quite well on those new members who have been here for only 10 minutes; but it is more difficult to make it work on those who have been around for a while. We genuinely know that if Ministers do not answer our questions there and then, they will not answer the questions at all.

I support the five minute time allocations in the Committee stage. However, for that to operate successfully, it requires a level of cooperation from members on both sides of the House, and it requires Ministers to answer questions frankly. If Ministers do not know answers - we appreciate they are not wise on every conceivable minor point in their portfolios - there has never been any hesitation about Ministers conferring with their experts also sitting at the Table, or Parliamentary Counsel, who can provide them with the answer or part of it. Some Bills that come before this Parliament are crafted in such a way that a single clause of the Bill is very long. In Bills that introduce a new Act each clause deals with a subject matter and, therefore, it may be possible to deal with that clause without amendment or with only one or two amendments. However, other Bills have a single clause that amends many sections of an Act or a single clause that introduces many proposed new sections to an Act. In those cases, there will be a lot of debate because the proposed legislation will go on for page after page and will need detailed consideration. In that regard members will seek to speak on a number of occasions on each of the parts or subparts of those proposed sections.

Having said that, I agree with the five minute proposal, but it should not be seen as a way of automatically expediting proceedings; it should be seen as a way of dealing better with the Bills in question and of trying to present to the Parliament the intent of the Bills and the arguments for and against, and to examine any proposed amendments thoroughly.

**MR TUBBY** (Roleystone - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.06 pm]: I have been around in this place for long enough to know that there is no perfect system. There were imperfections in the previous system where members could speak for 15 minutes, and then for two further periods of 10 minutes. The Opposition merely lined up all its members, and the debate on every clause in the Bill dragged on all night, if it wanted. The prime example of that was mentioned by the member for Greenough in a speech he made last week. He referred to a previous debate about changes to the leasing arrangements for the Kings Park restaurant. The debate was an embarrassment; it went on all night. It was a three clause Bill, and the whole night was spent debating the second clause after the title.

Mr Minson: It took six hours to debate the second reading stage.

Mr TUBBY: It was an absolute waste of time. However, there was a problem with that piece of legislation. It gave some time so that the general public could become aware there may be a problem with what was proposed and we were moving towards greater than 21 year leases on the Kings Park restaurant, almost a perpetual lease arrangement. In cases like that, there must be the wherewithal for extended debate. I have viewed the five minute debates and in the main they have worked very successfully. As the member for Bassendean mentioned, the only time they have been protracted was when there were contentious pieces of legislation or when there was one clause in the Bill and members could not debate all of the aspects of the Bill within the five minutes allocated to them. Both systems can be abused. There is no perfect arrangement. I think the five minute speeches are probably the best way to go; therefore, I support this motion.

Question put and passed.

**MOTION***Legislation Committees - Establishment*

**MR TUBBY** (Roleystone - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.08 pm]: On behalf of the Leader of the House, I move -

That, for the present session, the following order shall apply -

- (a) At any time after the second reading and before the third reading stage the House may, on motion by the Leader of the House or a member on his behalf, resolve that a Bill or a series of related Bills be referred to a legislation committee which may consist of between five and 11 members, excluding the person chairing the committee. Debate on that motion shall not exceed 20 minutes. The Leader of the Opposition or a member on his behalf shall nominate up to five non-government members to serve on the committee and the Leader of the House or a member on his behalf shall nominate members, including the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, to complete the membership of the committee. The interests of independent members shall be taken into account by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition when making nominations to the committee.
- (b) Each committee member shall have a deliberative vote only. A committee member may nominate another member as a proxy for speaking and voting in the committee, but any such change shall not take effect until notified in writing to the clerk to the committee and the proxy shall be cancelled immediately upon the committee member resuming a seat at the committee. The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition may each nominate another member of the House who may appoint a proxy by written notification to the clerk to the committee.
- (c) Members of the House who are not members of the committee may participate in the proceedings of the committee, but shall not vote, move any motion, or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
- (d) Meetings of a legislation committee shall be open to the public. A legislation committee shall consider the Bill in the way specified by Standing Orders Nos 265 to 276, during which time the member or Minister with carriage of the Bill or a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the Minister shall be present. Any amendments that have been published on the Legislative Assembly Notice Paper, or if the House is not sitting have been given in writing to the clerk to the committee, shall be considered by the committee if those amendments are published prior to committee consideration of the clause of the Bill to which the amendments relate.
- (e) Each legislation committee shall be chaired by the Chairman of Committees or Deputy Chairman of Committees and has power to sit during the sittings and adjournment of the House and to report from time to time.
- (f) Unless a specific reporting time is determined by the House, a legislation committee shall finally report to the House no later than the first sitting day that occurs after three weeks following the appointment of the committee. The committee report shall be presented in the House by the Chairman of Committees or a Deputy Chairman of Committees.
- (g) On presentation of the report, its adoption may be moved, or the Bill as reported may be committed to Committee of the Whole, or the report may be adopted and the Bill be committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration of certain parts or clauses only. If the report from the legislation committee is adopted unconditionally, the same procedure shall apply as if it were a report from the Committee of the Whole.
- (h) If a quorum or division is called for in the Legislative Assembly while the legislation committee is sitting, the committee meeting shall be suspended until the quorum or division has concluded and members have had an opportunity to return to the committee.
- (i) Voting in a division shall be taken by a show of hands of those committee members present when a question is put and tellers shall not be appointed.
- (j) For matters not specified in this sessional order the standing orders relating to select committees shall be used so far as they can be applied.

Because I am not full bottle on this motion, I will defer to the notes of the Leader of the House. The formation of legislation committees was a major recommendation contained in the second interim report of the Select Committee on Procedure, tabled last year. The proposals contained in this motion provide for the Committee stage of Bills to

be considered away from the floor of the House and to allow committee members to have a longer, detailed and more considered debate on Bills referred to the legislation committee system.

Bills with broader community implications or those that touch on social or moral issues, which if debated on the floor of the House would suffer a protracted, lengthy debate by four or five members, are the target of this system. The Government does not want the legislation committee system of this House to be an unnecessary duplication of the legislation committee in the upper House. For this reason the Government has resisted moves to give legislation committees the same powers as select committees.

I also point out that part 2 of the second report of the Commission on Government recommended that all Bills be referred to a legislation committee at the first reading stage. This proposal seems unnecessary as many Bills are self-explanatory and receive bipartisan support. We also have other systems in place to scrutinise legislation, including the Estimates Committee procedure. There is also provision for very broad debates in the Appropriation and Treasurer's Advance Bills. The first Bill trialled under this system was the Censorship Bill. The Leader of the House visited this committee a number of times during its operation and spoke to members of the committee. The feedback was that the trial worked extremely well. I was on that committee; it did work extremely well.

The committee debated in detail areas of concern to members. Members who had an interest in only a particular aspect of the legislation could come in and discuss that aspect, and then disappear, while members who were appointed to the committee remained for the whole of debate on the Bill. It worked very well. If that Bill had not been referred to a legislation committee that operated at the same time as the House, it would have taken an inordinate amount of time within the time frame of the House. The Censorship Bill was subjected to more than 12 hours of debate in the legislation committee. If the Bill had been debated on the floor of the House, this would equal almost a full sitting week, so the advantages of the system are obvious.

There were some problems in attending divisions in the House. Although I understand arrangements were made by the Clerks to notify the committee immediately a division was called, there could also have been some negotiation over pairs for committee members. These small problems can be worked out this year when legislation is referred to the committee system. Legislation committees are an effective tool to assist in dealing with the increasing workload of this House, and I hope this year more Bills can be dealt with by the process.

Perhaps the Restraining Orders Bill that is currently before the upper House could qualify for debate in the legislation committee system. I commend the motion to the House.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.12 pm]: The Opposition supports the experiment of using legislation committees to deal with the Committee stage of Bills. The Opposition was disappointed that last year only one Bill was referred to the legislation committee. The Government could have made more use of legislation committees in the latter part of the past year. However, I am encouraged by the comments of the Parliamentary Secretary, which suggest that more Bills will be sent to a legislation committee in this session of Parliament.

This form of legislation committee falls short of what was recommended by the Select Committee on Procedure. That committee recommended that some select committee powers should be enjoyed by legislation committees. I hold to that view, notwithstanding the comments made by the Parliamentary Secretary about the ill-advisability of duplicating upper House committee arrangements. It would be useful for members of Parliament to be exposed in some brief hearings to the views and expertise of major interest groups before they engage in debate in the Committee stage of a particular piece of legislation. It would enhance the role that members of Parliament play in the making of legislation. It would also result in a more informed debate.

I hope that the Government will reconsider its attitude to the form of the legislation committee. We have a bicameral Parliament and it is evident that there will be duplication. That is part of the meaning of bicameralism. I do not see why we in this House should be too constrained by arrangements in which the upper House decides it might involve itself. We should think about our involvement in legislation and the access to information that we have as members of Parliament, because many people would love to usurp our power and role without the inconvenient necessity of dealing with electors.

Question put and passed.

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**MR MARSHALL** (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.15 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.



The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust, which has management responsibility for Challenge Stadium - formerly the Superdrome - has for many years experienced traffic problems at the venue caused by patrons parking on roadways, in the internal drop off-pick up area at the front entrance, and in various hazardous positions in the car park areas. Such parking causes hazardous and potentially dangerous traffic situations, particularly during peak periods when many children are being picked up or dropped off by parents.

Various solutions have been tried, including signage, the application of notices to vehicles, and personal confrontation. However, these have all been ineffective because it is well known that Challenge Stadium does not have the power to issue infringement notices or remove vehicles. The Western Australian Sports Centre Trust wishes to amend the Western Australian Sports Centre Trust Act to provide it with the necessary power to adequately control parking at Challenge Stadium.

Generally, the amendments to the Act will provide the trust with the power to issue parking infringement notices by an authorised officer, impose a financial penalty for parking offences, and remove a vehicle by an authorised officer. The imposition of parking fines is intended not as a revenue opportunity but as a deterrent to assist in the control of parking to eliminate the potentially dangerous traffic situations at Challenge Stadium. Any net revenue from the imposition of parking fines will be returned to consolidated revenue.

With the staging of the eighth World Swimming Championships at Challenge Stadium in January 1998 there is an even greater necessity to resolve this matter now. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Brown.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

#### *Motion, as Amended*

Resumed from 20 March.

**MR GRILL** (Eyre) [3.17 pm]: When debate was adjourned last Thursday about two-thirds of the way through my remarks, I was saying that we needed the right sort of regulatory and taxation environment for a robust, or seemingly robust, industry like the mining industry to prosper even in this State. I am concerned that we are beginning to move towards a combination of so-called legislative reforms by coalition Governments in both Canberra and Perth to destroy the benign environment for mining and resource development which has existed in this State on a bipartisan basis right up to the present time. I indicated that pressures of taxation that it was finding hard to meet were now coming to bear on the mining industry. I said that an example of that was the way in which the diesel fuel rebate was being partially removed from the mining industry in circumstances which amounted to treachery on the part of the Federal Government. I outlined those elements of treachery to which I was alluding.

I will outline another area where changes in the taxation regime will have a deleterious effect on the mining industry. All of these changes will add up to a situation where the mining industry will be under considerable pressure. The second area is the removal, as a result of an announcement made in the last federal Budget, of the longstanding exemption from taxation for mineral leaseholders on the sale of their tenements. That exemption was removed for a short time during the Whitlam Government, but was reinstated. It was given further consideration during the Hawke-Keating Government when Gerry Gutman made inquiries into the goldmining industry, particularly regarding whether a tax should be imposed on goldmining. It was an ancillary issue about whether section 23PA of the Act should remain and leaseholders should be exempted from the tax. He considered the issue very closely and strongly recommended that the exemption be continued. He did that on the basis that the mining industry needed encouragement at exploration level. He believed that a large amount of exploration was carried out by prospectors and small miners who needed an incentive to get out into the field. History supports that view because most of the major mineral deposits in Western Australia have been found by small companies and prospectors.

He strongly recommended to the Federal Government that that exemption be continued. However, the Federal Government has removed that exemption in circumstances which do not heap credit on the Federal Government. Prior to the last election it campaigned on the basis of no new taxes and, although the issue concerns the removal of an exemption, it amounts to a new tax. The Opposition has every good reason to oppose it. I was amazed that the State Government did not more strongly oppose the removal of that exemption. That new tax will impact more on this State than anywhere else. Surprisingly, Andrew Murray of the Democrats has moved in the Senate to grandfather the clause. This tax is not only a new tax but also retrospective. Prime Minister Howard has a reputation for introducing retrospective legislation for which he was condemned. This is a clear example of retrospective taxation. The Andrew Murray amendment in the Senate endeavours to grandfather current tenements for five years. Unfortunately that attempt will not work. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will move further amendments that will properly grandfather this tax exemption for at least five years.

I refer lastly to the announcement made in October last year by the then acting Minister for Mines, who is now sitting next to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. He indicated that the State Government would endeavour to legislate to transfer to the mining companies the cost of compensation for future acts under native title legislation. The Government has indicated to the mining companies that they should accept that Act because they cannot quantify costs in either amount or duration. Claims can be made for a very long period. That sends shivers up the spine of mining companies because they will have to pick up those costs in due course. I am told that two-thirds of those compensatable future acts will be in the eastern goldfields. Those costs are to be transferred from the State Government to the mineral leaseholders.

I could say much about the prospect of a gold tax. However, we have a number of new tax impositions on the mining industry. Some will create unlimited penalties and others will be imposed when the industry cannot afford to pay them. This Government must think carefully about the direction it is taking with the mining industry and in which sort of regulatory and taxation environment the mining industry should operate.

**MR TUBBY** (Roleystone - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.25 pm]: Before I make any comments about my electorate, Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your promotion. I am sure you will be an excellent Speaker and that in the next four years many changes will be made to not only the operation of this Parliament but also the facilities within which we operate. I also congratulate all the new members on their election and hope they have a successful, long and rewarding career in Parliament. Being a member of Parliament is not the easiest vocation, as I am sure they will find out in due course if they have not already done so. It might even be more difficult than journalism. We must try to satisfy as many people as possible and remain in the job for as long as possible.

My electorate is now vastly different from the area that I represented for the past eight years. It is the largest metropolitan electorate - more than 1 200 sq km - and takes in a large slice of four local authorities - Armadale, almost all of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Gosnells and Kalamunda. It also encroaches on Kwinana and Rockingham Shires. My area comprises approximately 30 different suburbs and localities, all with their own community of interest, and 37 schools. It is an area of rural production. One of the largest dairy farms in the State is contained within the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire. Most people think dairying takes place in the south west; however, a fairly substantial dairy industry is in my electorate. Throughout the hills are activities such as orcharding, horticulture and to a significant degree horse breeding, and training for both the racing and pacing industries.

Alcoa of Australia Ltd, which has been operating since the 1970s at the Jarrahdale mine, intends to close its operations and move further south. Although Alcoa first opened the mine amid great controversy it will be sorely missed for its contribution to our area over the years. Quarrying is another major industry and many people are trying to prevent the commencement of mineral sand mining, the possibility of which is on the horizon. However, large holdings exist particularly between Serpentine and the coast, where mineral sand mining can take place without interfering to any great extent with the community at large.

Tourism is another rapidly growing activity within my electorate. In addition to the hills, most of the catchment areas and dams and many national parks are within my electorate.

A number of problems exist in this large outer metropolitan area; probably the most significant of which involves transport. During the previous Parliament I chaired the Select Committee on Heavy Transport which made many recommendations. Quite a few of those recommendations have been taken up by the Government or are in the process of being taken up. My electorate probably has more highways within it than any other electorate in the State. The Roe Highway extensions will go through Beckenham and divert many of the 24 000 heavy and light vehicles from William Street, which is a residential street. In my electorate are Brookton Highway, Albany Highway, Tonkin Highway and the South West Highway. When the freeway extensions are completed from Thomas Road to Foley Road, this section will be within my electorate.

Heavy haulage vehicles are a problem in the electorate. A study is under way to determine whether heavy haulage vehicles can be diverted from the heavily populated areas in my electorate. Consideration is being given to a route from Brookton Highway through the hills. When I first became a member, all I could speak about was Brookton Highway. I have pleasure in advising members that it is now being completed and that is why I have not mentioned it for a couple of years. Many of the heavy haulage vehicles will be diverted around Roleystone and Kelmscott, to Albany Highway south of Bedforddale. This traffic will be taken from that highway down to an old Alcoa haulpack road once it is vacated by that company. These roads which are large and substantial were designed to take much heavier traffic than are roads on the normal road system. One of those haulpack routes lies conveniently between Albany Highway and almost to the South West Highway. If a connection is made into that route, it will bypass many of the heavily populated areas. The traffic could be taken along an upgraded Mundijong Road to what is hoped to become the extension to Tonkin Highway in the near future. The heavy haulage vehicles can then use Tonkin Highway to the other parts of the metropolitan area or continue across to the Kwinana area. These are planning processes taking place at the moment. The Tonkin Highway reservation was put in place late last year, and I am

urging the Government to allocate funds to acquire the reservation and then construct the heavy haulage route which will take much of the heavy traffic from both the Albany Highway through Kelmscott and the South West Highway through Byford.

Another significant problem in my electorate is the population growth. Until four years ago the south east region was somewhat neglected. In the late 1970s and early 1980s some planning took place in conjunction with planning for other regions and corridors. When there was a change of Government in 1983 the focus was on the northern suburbs, and the south east was neglected. When this Government came to office it recognised that, and I pay a great deal of credit to the former Minister for Planning, Richard Lewis, for the tremendous effort he put into pursuing the planning processes in the south east region. It will be a growth centre over the next few years. The population centre based around Byford is anticipated to be approximately 30 000, which is equivalent to the urban part of the City of Armadale. Another population centre further south in the Mundijong area is predicted to be 30 000.

Unfortunately, because planning was not in place for these centres prior to this Government's term of office, the infrastructure could not be developed. As a result there is now a backlog of sewerage, water, power and other infrastructure that must be constructed prior to the development of the urban areas. The Premier has promised that a sewerage system will be installed at Byford by the end of 1998. When that happens we shall see growth and progress in the Byford area. Many of the people in that area have owned large farm holdings for many years. Often it is no longer viable and before they retire they would like to realise on their investment. Some of those people are towards the end of their working lives and they should be allowed to capitalise on their investment. There is nothing worse than a family which has held land for 50 years, selling out and within a short space of two to five years a developer capitalising on their property. Those who had owned it for many years may receive only a pittance for it. It is a shame when that happens, and I urge that the sewerage headworks be constructed as quickly as possible to allow people in this situation to realise on their capital investment.

Another problem that will emerge in this area with increasing intensity relates to the use of land. It is possible to carry on intensive farming activities in outer metropolitan areas and also allow urban populations to develop. A determination must be made as to which activities are appropriate in built up areas. Activities such as emu, alpaca and llama farming and aquaculture are appropriate in close proximity to large urban centres and many of these are taking place at the moment. Of course, chicken farms, of which there are many in my electorate, cannot be located close to urban centres. The urban development must be very carefully planned to take account of the many chicken farms scattered throughout the electorate. It must be done sensibly. Other countries have intensive agricultural activities on the doorstep of densely populated urban areas. With proper planning, and slightly larger buffer areas in some cases, the two can co-exist.

My final point relates to the planning process. The previous Minister for Planning came under a lot of criticism for some of the decisions he made while Minister for Planning and after the election. I agree with the process by which the Minister for Planning is the avenue of appeal and his decision is final. I do not accept that power and responsibility should be taken from elected Ministers and given to non-elected small tribunals comprising two or three people or even one. They are not elected by anybody and neither are they responsible to anybody. Their decisions are not open and accountable. The Minister for Planning is. If people do not like his decisions, those decisions are in the public arena and the Government can be made accountable. The Minister can be replaced but ultimately the buck stops with him. For too many years Ministers have not accepted that responsibility. They are elected representatives and are empowered by the people to make decisions. They should not run away from making those decisions. I have not always agreed with the decisions made by the Minister for Planning, nor with the decisions in my electorate made under the previous Government. However, I accepted the decisions they made. When I was involved with appeals to the Ministers for Planning from both sides of the House, between 30 per cent and 50 per cent were approved, because the Ministers were able to take account of personal circumstances. They were also able to make planning decisions on compassionate grounds. Non-elected and non-responsive tribunals cannot do that; they must stick to the rules and they have no flexibility. Neither should they have that flexibility because they are not elected. The Minister is the only person with the flexibility to make planning decisions based on compassionate grounds. I have not always agreed with the decisions made but I have accepted them because the Ministers had the right to make those decisions.

One will never please all the people all at time; no matter what decision is made, some people will always disagree. For instance, the WA Shooting Association Inc wanted to locate a shooting complex at Jarrahdale, and I tried to convince the then Minister that this area was not suitable for such a facility. I live in the hills, and I know that no buffer or hill can stop the sound of gunfire. A shooting range is located about 3 kilometres from my house, and sometimes it sounds like a shotgun is being fired in my backyard. A hill, a forest and all sorts of buffers stand between my home and the range, yet on still mornings in the hills the sound travels for many kilometres.

I opposed that rifle range proposal on behalf of my constituents, but the then Minister said that on planning grounds he could not support my point of view. We discussed the matter at length. At the end of the process, I said, "Minister, I am not in your position as you know all the reports and other information put before you, and I can see the matter only from my constituents' point of view. Therefore, I accept your decision." I have not criticised the former Minister for making that decision even though I disagree with it and dislike it. He had the right to make that decision, and as a result of my knowledge of the Minister, I know he never made a decision without weighing up all its relevant components. I looked at the matter from a narrow perspective.

I support the ministerial process. It will be a sad day for the people of Western Australia if, through a hard push in the political arena, the ministerial appeals process is removed. It is the only cheap and easy avenue available to the little person by which he or she can be heard without undertaking a legalistic process. Under this system, people can present a case to the Minister. If he accepts that case, a decision will be made which suits the applicant. I support that process. At the end of day, the Minister is responsible to the electorate, and I would hate the process to be disbanded.

I look forward to the next four years, during which I will pursue many issues in my electorate. The major Armadale hospital issue, which has had a fair run before in this place, must be addressed. The Premier is taking a personal interest in the development of that hospital, and I am sure we will see a substantial institution under way or constructed during the next four years in the electorate of the member for Armadale. Of course, that hospital will also serve my electorate.

Many issues must be dealt with in the next term of this Government. I hope that more money and attention will be directed to my part of the metropolitan area in the next four years than was the case for probably the last 20 years.

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [3.43 pm]: I use this opportunity of the Address-in-Reply to speak on one key issue; that is, employment and jobs for Western Australians. Before doing so, I congratulate all members on their re-election or election for the first time to this House. Also, I congratulate the Speaker and offer my support and good wishes as he establishes his authority in the House so we might see an improvement in the standard of debate and general conduct in this Chamber.

I also place on record my great admiration for the Leader of the Opposition in the way he fought the election campaign. The result was clearly most disappointing for the Labor Party, but the member for Victoria Park had been leader of the parliamentary Labor Party for only a short time before the election was called. He positively presented the policies of his party, and his approach was admired across the political spectrum. In fact, this approach was recognised in the unprecedented action by the Premier in calling for an early election. In living memory, we have never been to an election before Christmas. It was an astute political move - one might say trick - by the Premier and his advisers as it did not allow time for the Leader of the Opposition to establish himself in the broader electorate.

I congratulate the Premier and the many people who put together his election campaign for his substantial victory. One campaign tactic was to promise a social dividend to the people of Western Australia. I see that promise as ensuring that all Western Australians who need and want to work will have the opportunity of a decent job; that Western Australian children will have the opportunity to receive a first-class education; and that Western Australian families are guaranteed access to the medical and hospital facilities they need. Clearly, we are currently falling a long way short in those areas. We must see major improvements in those areas if the social dividend is to be provided.

Another key area is public safety. If that social dividend is not delivered, the Premier's promise will be seen as a cynical political trick. It would be the height of arrogance for the Premier to continue to turn his back on the social dividend, and he must provide a balance between the State's economic growth and the provision of a range of social services in areas such as health, education and law and order.

I turn now to employment. The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released over a week ago refer to February 1997 and indicate that Western Australia continues to achieve a lower unemployment rate than most of the rest of Australia. Although we have done well in this regard over a number of years, one does not necessarily measure how well one is doing through a simple comparison with other States. One must consider the resources and opportunities available in Western Australia, which are much better than those of most other States. Are we taking maximum advantage from the State's economic growth? The figures indicate otherwise.

The people of Western Australia are being sold short. The State is undergoing major economic development, mainly through the resources sector, but the results of that economic development are not flowing through to the families of Western Australia. The figures released relating to February of this year reveal that we have a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent; that is, unemployment grew by 700 individuals. That is not of great significance as the number is small and is open to fluctuations in monthly figures. Nevertheless, we are not seeing a real attack

on the unacceptable unemployment level in this State. Currently, over 70 000 Western Australians, which is far too many, cannot find work, yet the Government has no real policy to tackle unemployment.

The Government claims that the market will take care of unemployment, but I have no confidence in market forces creating jobs for people and looking after Western Australian families. The national unemployment rate was 8.8 per cent for February, and our figure is marginally better. However, I remind the Government that when it was first elected in 1993, job growth in Western Australia was nearly 5 percentage points higher than the national average. This Government inherited an economy experiencing a rapid increase in jobs at a rate well in excess of that of the rest of Australia. During the first term of this Government, although we continued to do better than the rest of Australia in that regard, the gap between the national average and Western Australia has narrowed. We remain ahead, but the gap is nowhere near that which applied when the Court Government was first elected.

I will now compare our employment situation - our need for jobs, the creation of jobs and, on the other hand, unemployment - with the forces in our economy leading to very high levels of growth, and why we have such high levels of growth but are not reaping the benefit. We are well aware that the Western Australian economy is narrowly based and, as a result, we have boom and bust periods. This Government and most Governments try to flatten that cycle so that, while we have good times, we do not slip, as we did in 1991, into a deep trough and experience negative growth and perhaps even a recession.

Over the past four years, Western Australia has enjoyed a high level of growth; in fact, we are clearly at the top of the cycle. That is reflected in the words the Government included at the beginning of the Governor's speech, where he stated -

... we are in the midst of the most significant resources development in Australia's history.

This Government does not like to talk about booms because that tends to suggest there will be a bust. While it does not like to use the word "boom", that is what it is saying: We are experiencing the most significant resources boom in this nation's history. But where are the jobs? What will be the employment situation when the economy comes off the boil, when we slip back to a more stagnant period? Where will we then find jobs for Western Australians so they can look after and support their families?

When one looks at the situation in that context, one sees that there is a question for this Government to answer. It cannot simply say that we are doing better than the rest of Australia. The rest of Australia is not experiencing the resources boom that is occurring in Western Australia. How will this Government or any Western Australian Government bring the benefits of development to the ordinary families of this State? As I have already said, this Government has failed to do that.

No-one would argue about the need to ensure that our economy is internationally competitive. We have seen that change in approach in the past 10 years. We must be internationally competitive, particularly when the resources area is so important to our economy. We must ensure that we do not price ourselves out of international markets. However, with that emphasis on being internationally competitive and deregulating the labour market to drive down the cost of labour, we are forgetting our own state economy. The industries directly related to export competition provide only some of the jobs for Western Australians. There is a strong local market and when we reduce the employment standards and wages of ordinary Western Australians we attack the local economy. That is what we have seen this Government doing in the past four years: While it has tried to reduce costs, it has done it in a way that has hurt Western Australian families.

I am not saying that the Government is solely responsible for a number of the moves or indicators to which I will refer - they are general trends in our society and economy. However, this Government has fanned the flames; it has been a leader in reducing job security and the take-home pay of the working men and women of Western Australia. That has added to the problem. Job insecurity is causing people not to spend. Because they do not know whether they will have a job next month or next year, they will not take out a mortgage and buy a home or a better home; they will be slow to make major investments in a car or whitegoods. Therefore, the people providing those services and products are experiencing a very slow period. A little while ago one might have said they were on the downward slide. These things go up and a down; we have heightened activity for a while and then the activity slips away. We are seeing a slight improvement, and I hope it continues. However, through all that we are witnessing the dampening effect of the decisions made by the Court Government in the past four years.

Seasonally adjusted figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics about a week ago show that in February 1997 there were 3 500 fewer Western Australians in full-time employment than there were in January. One should not rely on monthly figures and I would not base a case on one month showing a drop in the full time employment figures - a survey approach can show the figures jumping up and down. Part time employment is going up, and I will address that issue in a moment. However, full time employment in Western Australia has fallen in four of the past

seven months, and this is occurring in the middle of the biggest resources boom this nation has ever seen. Where is the benefit for the families of ordinary Western Australians? I find this trend extremely worrying. If we cannot provide an increasing number of jobs in the middle of our biggest resources boom, when will we ever be able to provide them?

When the State and Federal Labor Governments came to office in 1983 they faced a very serious economic situation with very high unemployment - much higher than it is today. At both the national and state levels, the housing industry was driven to create jobs, and commentators would say that it did so very successfully. There were spinoffs, and the housing industry created jobs and got the economy going. However, we have seen a stagnant housing industry for past three years largely because people do not have confidence to invest in a home. Why do they not have that confidence? It is because of the cutbacks in government and large business and the new industrial legislation that attacks permanent jobs and job security. The Court Government is clearly responsible for that situation. Similarly, we have seen the retail industry at a very low ebb for a few years, again because people do not have confidence to spend.

The Government can use all the rhetoric it likes about helping small business and taking the monkey off its back, but if it does not create confidence in the local economy, small business will not go anywhere. This Government has attacked the confidence of ordinary families and has done nothing to ensure that people have secure jobs with good levels of pay so they can buy the goods and services that drive small business in Western Australia.

This Government repeatedly states that we must reform the labour market - by which it means that we must drive down pay and conditions. If we do that, suddenly things will get better. As I said earlier, clearly we must be internationally competitive, and wage costs are a component of that competitiveness. However, this Government has not presented any arguments showing that our labour costs are high when compared with those of other OECD countries.

We know that labour costs here have been driven down to the extent that in many other countries, including some in South East Asia, labour costs are considerably higher than in Western Australia. If we drive our labour costs down to those in India or small African countries, we will not have a situation that reflects the present Australian society. The argument is totally absurd. One cannot continue to drive down the remuneration of ordinary Western Australians on the basis of trying to make us more competitive. We are killing confidence in our economy and stopping people from purchasing locally, which drives our economy. We must see greater security in employment and ensure that people have confidence because they know they will have a job next year and have a reasonable return for their labours.

I want to touch briefly on some of those factors. I have indicated that they arise from a number of sources. The Court Government is seen to be driving the same programs that led to this job insecurity as part of the economic rationalism that I have no truck with. As a result we see things such as downsizing. The State Government has reduced the size of its work force in line with major companies, and banking and finance. The added cost to Western Australia of the banks and finance companies reducing the number of people they employ is that they tend to move to Melbourne or Sydney. We see those jobs transferred from Western Australia to another State. We can see that also in a number of moves by the State Government. When it closed down Midland Workshops it ensured that some of the jobs shifted to other States. The Government no longer retained in Western Australia the expertise to do the work necessary to maintain the railway system. We have also seen in private industry, as in the Court Government, a flattening of the structures. Therefore, people no longer have available the promotional paths through a company or government department. The redundancies offered have led to a reduction in the numbers of people in full time employment, with people moving to part time or casual employment. When the Government does that alongside the private sector, the labour market in Western Australia has no stability. Both the public and private enterprises are reducing the number of people they employ and the standards of employment and wages.

Figures previously showed that people employed in the public sector represented about 20 per cent of the work force. If people do not see that significant minority of the work force having some security, repercussions flow through the community. We have growing concern about security of employment and the likely level of remuneration. The move to casual employment is quite a difficult proposition for Western Australia. People who take redundancy payments often have to find another job. Because of the difficulties in the labour market, many of them are going for casual employment. It does not have the level of security they are looking for to be able to support their families. Furthermore, the moves in industrial relations legislation are forcing more people into what may be seen as casual employment. The minimum number of hours has been done away with in the legislation brought in by the Court Government. People may be asked to work all sorts of odd hours regardless of their family commitments. We have seen a whole range of moves to undermine security in employment. Is it any wonder that Western Australians are unwilling or unable to spend in order to support the economy? This insecurity is reflected in housing construction and the retail sectors.

I return to resources development and the failings of the Court Government to ensure that benefits flow to the ordinary people of Western Australia. The resources sector of the economy is extremely important, and has been so since the 1890s, when the gold rush brought both my mother's and my father's grandparents to Western Australia. It may be true for many of us that our first antecedents came then. We saw the iron ore development through the 1960s and then a whole range of resource developments through to the current major developments in oil and gas. This is a very important but narrow base of our economy and is strongly driven by the international markets, over which we have no control. If there is a major shift in the world market for petroleum and mineral products, we have to take the current price. That has implications right throughout the State's economy. We all want to see downstream processing and value adding to broaden the base and to ensure that some of the benefits of our huge mineral wealth flow through to the people of Western Australia. It has become a shibboleth. The Leader of the Opposition has put forward a very positive proposal in suggesting a standing committee of Parliament to look at major resources development.

Although both sides of Parliament strongly support the resource industry, the details that go into the developments to ensure that the benefits flow through to the people of Western Australia are a more complex matter. As I indicated earlier, we must be competitive internationally, particularly with our minerals. We must drive the very best deal for Western Australia to ensure that a project goes ahead and is successful. Because of the complexities involved in the development of projects, it is not possible in general public debate or even in this Chamber to weigh up as effectively as one should the relevant costs and benefits of various resource projects. However, a parliamentary select committee would be well placed to do that. I hope that the Government will give serious and positive consideration to the proposal put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, so that we as members of Parliament can contribute in a positive way to ensuring not only the continuation of resource developments and the establishment of new projects, but also that the benefits will flow through to the people of Western Australia. We must maximise the benefits to Western Australians. To do that we must ensure the largest possible local content. We cannot handle local content in a prescriptive way, where we lay down the percentage of jobs and work flowing into Western Australia. We must be much more sophisticated. However, when we look at what has happened with local content, we see it has been reduced drastically in the past four years of the Court Government. Different types of projects will by their very nature have the potential for various amounts of local content. The general figure used in developments in the 1960s and 1970s was that about 70 per cent of costs of those projects arose from work given to local firms. That has slipped drastically. Although no figures are available, plenty of indicators exist to show that we have fallen 10 per cent or 20 per cent from that figure.

That is due to a whole range of issues, with perhaps the key one being the move to modularisation. It is quite easy for the units that are required for the offshore oil projects to be constructed in Singapore or Indonesia and simply shipped to where they are required. With the expansion of modularisation, prefabricated units for the prospective project at Kintyre in the middle of the desert, for example, could be manufactured in another country, shipped here, and taken by road to the site and assembled. The move to modularisation is costing Western Australians jobs that should be done here, but which are going overseas.

I refer to a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia supporting that view. It wrote to the federal Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism saying that it was concerned that the fabrication and assembly for offshore units was running into problems and a facility was required at Jervoise Bay to pick up more of the work. One paragraph of the letter states -

A stage has now been reached where Federal and WA State Government inaction over committing funds to the required infrastructure is directly affecting industry's ability to bid for major contract packages. An escalating loss of work to overseas construction yards for key sections of project construction is leading to a deterioration of industry competitiveness, a loss of technical capability and the addition of hundreds of millions of dollars to the nation's trading deficit as plant, equipment and services which have been traditionally sourced locally, are imported.

Quite clearly, the writer of this letter is a supporter of our State Government and is saying to the Federal Government that inaction by both Governments is costing hundreds of millions of dollars, which we should be getting from resource projects. That means jobs in Western Australia. Again we see the failure of this State Government to bring home the benefits to the ordinary people of Western Australia from the tremendous riches of resources growth in this State. It is no good talking about 6 per cent growth rates in isolation. We must ask this: If we have a 6 per cent growth rate in Western Australia, why can we not get at least a 3 per cent increase in the job growth rate? That job rate is nowhere near commensurate with the level of economic growth because this Government is killing confidence among the workers and failing to give support to projects to ensure the jobs flow to Western Australia.

*Amendment to Motion*

Mr KOBELKE I move -

That the following words be added to the motion -

but we regret to advise Your Excellency that our society is experiencing signs of stress, disconcertingly exemplified by increased crime rates, increased violence in schools and feelings of frustration, hopelessness and fear and this House calls for a broad and united community response to the problem.

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.13 pm]: I encourage the House to look seriously at what is becoming a grave issue in our community generally. It is often the case in politics that we make assumptions about certain things. We take certain things as given in our political agendas, in our political programs and even in our political philosophies. From time to time the things we take as given actually become the issues of the day. We are now working in an era where what we took as a given is increasingly becoming the subject of most concern in the community.

A classic case study in history relates to an assumption, which had a very big impact on public policy making, by the early writers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries who defended the development of a free market. If we look at most of those early defenders of the free market, we must always remember that they made an assumption that a particular form of religion was a very active force within society. They were quite happy to say that the free market should operate, because they believed that self-interest would lead to the common good. Built into human nature was a degree of sympathy for others and a degree of sociability. It meant that in all contractual relations that were entered into in a free market society, we could assume a degree of restraint would be involved; therefore, the outcome would be the common good.

That classic assumption was made in the literature. Today many people look at the literature and say that these people were advocating a winner take all, a free for all position; however, in their arguments, these early writers assumed a restraint was built into the process by what they believed was the active force of religion in society. Of course, they saw religion in very active terms, as something that influenced the behaviour of people in a significant way. That comment is pertinent to what I will say, and I will come back to it later.

In recent times those of us in politics on both sides of the House will have been struck by the degree to which the assumptions which we make in our own politics, the foundation stones, have become the issues of politics. In other words, we believe we can assume certain things about society and then differ one from the other about how the cake should be distributed or how the Government should be organised in terms of ownership and regulation of the economy and all will be well, with the Labor Party advocating one thing and the coalition another, and with the voters determining the outcomes.

The fact of the matter is that the assumptions behind both the left and the right have now become the issues of politics, rather than the outcomes of politics. I will illustrate that by talking about a few trends in our contemporary society. One of the major issues people raise with us as members of Parliament, when they come to our electorate offices or talk to us in the street, is the breakdown in family and community, and the presence of very significant dysfunction in our social relationships. This causes enormous concern to people. They see the manifestations of this in many areas of our social life. They believe a lot of the things we argue about in Parliament are not issues of importance to them. This is partly behind the alienation of the people from the political process. We see the manifestations of this break-up of our society in many different ways. However, it can be summarised very simply in these terms: People now believe the forces which hold us together, which tie us together - the social cement in our community - seem much less effective than those which seem to pull us apart, cause us to enter into conflict and to feel isolated from society. That leads some people into a life outside the mainstream of society.

When we look at our school communities or our neighbourhoods, we see manifestations of that breakdown. Recently a study published by the Western Australian Institute of Child Health Research into education, health and competence indicated that 7.5 per cent of 12 to 16 year olds have attempted deliberate self-harm or suicide. We all know the rates of youth suicide in Australia are very high, and our State is no different in that respect. Nearly 10 per cent of our young people commit self-harm and suicide. This bothers people. It worries the community enormously and they ask why it is happening. This study found that in our schools 26.5 per cent of students report bullying; 23.5 per cent report students fighting; 20.5 per cent report stealing; 19.8 per cent report vandalism; 17.4 per cent report drug use; and 13.3 per cent report the frequent consumption of alcohol at schools. These facts bother people in our community. These issues are of more concern to people than many of the matters we debate in Parliament.

In our neighbourhoods, the record on crime is patchy at best. Certainly the feeling in the community is that the rates are rising. In the annual crime statistics report of last year Assistant Commissioner Mott reported that in many areas crime rates had reduced. He also reported that the same cannot be said for offences against the person where there was a 9.5 per cent increase although our clearance of these offences remained at 82 per cent. He said -



The main increases in this category were in areas of armed robbery 17.2% increase, serious assault 21.5% increase, common assault 9.2% increase, assaults on police officers 15.8% increase and deprivation of liberty 5.8% increase.

The Police Service does a community perception survey. In last year's Budget Program Statements it was reported that people in the community can be put into categories according to their perceptions of safety. I quote -

20.5% always feel safe, 36.4% only feel safe during the day, 23.9% feel fairly safe most of the time, and 19.2% feel unsafe most of the time. Over the last three years there has been a trend for some people who previously felt safe during the day to move into the group who feel unsafe most of the time.

At a deeper level a most important trend is occurring in our society, such that the concept of the future is being taken away from people. They do not have hope. A significant proportion of the community talks of doom and gloom for the future; dystopia rather than utopia; breakdown, rather building. This is very much a major set of issues confronting us as politicians. The tradition of my party, the Labor Party, is that certain economic and social forces lie behind these problems. In other words, we need to get the right balance in the community between equity and efficiency and equality and liberty. The theory is that if we get that right, everything will be okay. Historically, the Labor Party has led the way to create the welfare state, promote equal opportunity in the community and redistribute income and wealth.

It is the Labor Party's view that a fairer society would be a more civilised society because there would be more balance in the community. That is a necessary condition, but certainly not sufficient for overcoming many of the problems referred to us by the community and which I mentioned earlier. In the light of the nature of modern political philosophy, it is true that liberalism, which has been the dominant philosophy over the past two or three centuries, went off the rails and needed to be corrected by social democracy which sought to promote equal opportunity. True liberalism, which I support - that is, defence of self-expression and difference and the promotion of tolerance and respect in the community - must stay intact. In other words, the rights of groups in our community, such as the homosexual community, who express themselves differently from the mainstream must be protected. That is a core principle of liberalism. The rights of women to take roles in a society that establishes their identity as people rather than as simple, functional units within some biological order must also be accepted as part and parcel of our community.

The other aspect of liberalism that went off the rails and required social democratic correction was the view that society was simply an avenue or arena in which people should obtain as much for themselves as they could. It required the Labor Party and social democracy to check that self-interest and free market to ensure a guaranteed degree of equality of opportunity.

However, even that is insufficient. As social democrats, members on this side of the House must recognise that the social democratic view of the world is an insufficient expression of what must be done to overcome the problems in our community. Why is that? One thing the Liberals and the social democrats share is this view -

Mr Barnett: Is the Labor Party going to change its name?

Dr GALLOP: Not at all; the Leader of the House has not let me finish my speech. We must recognise that the equal opportunity and the liberal models of society are insufficient. Both of them have the same view of individuals; that is, individuals connect with one another through a contract. I believe that the contract view of society is basically inadequate in dealing with the nature of the modern community and the problems facing it. We must go beyond the social contract and the individualistic view of society if we are to answer the questions that people are asking. As I said, this should not be seen in any way as an excuse - as it is seen by some people on the conservative side of politics - to argue that those who express themselves differently in our community should somehow be discriminated against. A most disturbing feature of modern society is evidence of a resurrection of views that those who are different should somehow be pushed into the mainstream.

The bottom line in our modern society is that certain things hold us together but they have been ignored by an enormous amount of social and political philosophy and political programs generally. I quote from the Chief Rabbi in the United Kingdom who has recently written a book called *The Politics of Hope*. It is a brilliant book which all members of Parliament should read -

But in one respect it simply failed to understand the nature of human society. We are not atoms, held together by the force-field of the State. We are children and parents, neighbours and friends. We are self-conscious beings, knowing what it is to feel the pain of loneliness, yet not willing to abdicate our selfhood in total fusion with others. We seek individuality and relationship - individuality through relationship. We learn to pronounce the "We" the better to be able to say "I". Thus is born the intricate dynamic of society, beginning with the family and extending outward, through which we learn to trust others and to act so that

others can trust us. This requires us to internalise a complex of rules, virtues, dispositions and habits mediating between the self and others, allowing us to sustain relationships without the use or threat of force.

The Chief Rabbi in the United Kingdom has written this book which is a fundamental critique of the notion that society is simply the sum total of individuals. That conception is propagated by the extreme right of politics in a very radical version of that theory which has it that there is no such thing as society. Indeed, a former Prime Minister of Great Britain said that there is no such thing as society; it is just people having contractual relationships, one with the other. That concept of society does not allow for the essence of those features which hold us together rather than take us apart. If we are to build a better community, two preconditions must be met. First, we must guarantee equal opportunity for our citizens. If we enter into society and cannot be guaranteed equal access to what is important to us as individuals and to our families, the basis on which we participate in society will be undermined.

The second precondition we must meet is the renewal of the bonds that hold us together through our primary associations in the family, community and neighbourhood. It is through those associations that we learn the difference between right and wrong, what it is to be in a community, the limits of our participation, that we must share as well as take, and that there are important features of our community that we all share together. Unless we believe in those and support and prosper those, the social trends - breakdown rather than construction and building - will continue. This politics is the politics of citizenship; the politics of identity and involvement, rather than the simple politics of rights and interests. In my view we must add that to the equation if we are to answer the questions the community is asking of us about what we do in this Parliament.

That agenda will become increasingly important in the political process because those are the questions people are asking. They see the violence, they see the frustration and they see the hopelessness expressed by some of our young people, and they are most concerned about it. They want us as politicians to promote and support the primary institutions in our society. To do that requires us to rethink some of the assumptions that lie behind our political positions. That rethinking must be conducted by the conservative side of politics, which in recent years has been far too prone to adopt the radical market view of society. The rethink is needed also on my side of politics because we have been too complacent about the degree to which a simple redistribution of wealth and income would produce the balance in community that would ensure a degree of civilisation and sociability, which would guarantee a better society. The rethink must occur on both sides.

Today's motion is cast to encourage all sides of the House to think about these issues, and it calls for a broader united community response to the problem. The Opposition is not being political in this motion. It is trying to encourage all members of Parliament to look beyond that which has perhaps engulfed their thinking to this point and to take up the new agenda that is laid down by people such as the Chief Rabbi.

**MS MacTIERNAN** (Armadale) [4.33 pm]: I endorse the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. He set out in a powerful way the dilemmas that confront society. I share his concern that an economic fundamentalism in our community, to which our party has not been immune over the past decade, has taken our eye off the ball and off the focus on community and put it on the fact that the primary relationships in our community are not contractual. This applies even in situations in which relationships have been dominated by economic considerations. That applies in the work force. If we continue to seek to analyse relationships purely in a contractual way, we will never reach the economic fulfilment that we as a community can meet, let alone the broader social objectives of living in a civilised society where every individual can have a reasonable chance of reaching his or her own fulfilment. More of a siege mentality permeates our society. In every area people are becoming more isolated.

This will not be the major theme of my comments today; however, in passing I indicate that this is one of the great tragedies of the Government's approach to industrial relations. The focus on individual work contracts has been to the detriment of building a strong collective team in the workplace. There is a fundamentally wrong approach - I do not mean just ethically wrong, but a misconceived approach - by certain elements in the Government who think that if the work force were divided into individual units, it would be more productive, because the work force would be less able to assert itself. However, that is a wrong approach because a sense of teamwork must be developed in the workplace. That is precisely why the economic fundamentalism policies of the Government have seen us go down a different route.

Today I will talk about an area in which there are real problems in security and safety; namely, the passenger trains in suburban areas. Although the Leader of the Opposition said that the Opposition does not aim for a politically partisan approach, I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Government has made a bad blue in the way it has responded to the issue of security on trains. In response to the ever-increasing incidence of violence on trains the Government has attempted to put in place a comprehensive security program. However, this service has been undermined by the pursuit of the irrelevant ideological objectives of the Minister for Transport.

The Minister for Transport has given the State a bifurcated system. The security service on trains is split into two. First, the Westrail-employed officers undertake 15 weeks' training and are sworn officers who are capable of taking on various quasi-police roles. They have the capacity to arrest persons and to lay complaints. Operating in tandem with those Westrail-employed officers are staff who are engaged by the Government under contract to Chubb Security Australia Pty Ltd - a private security operation - and those staff are divided into two categories. The first group comprises those who have undertaken an 11 week training program and who at the end of that become sworn officers. Although they do not have the full range of powers that are available to the Westrail officers, their powers are similar.

The second group is a class of persons who have undertaken only three days of training on the basic electrics. They are not sworn officers and they have no powers of arrest and no powers to lay complaints. Unfortunately, these distinctions are generally appreciated by the troublemakers on the trains, who respond differently to the untrained officers than they do to the trained, sworn officers. The reason given by the Government for the presence of these untrained officers is that it is simply building up the level of trained officers. The program has been set up at the Edith Cowan University and obviously it will take time to get a full complement of staff on board. Superficially it seems that may be right, but when one considers what has been happening one reaches the conclusion that the reason the untrained officers have been engaged on the trains is that there is an enormously high turnover of the Chubb Security Australia Pty Ltd staff. For example, in the last three months 20 per cent of the Chubb staff have resigned their positions; that is, 12 officers.

Why is there such an extraordinary attrition rate in this area? The result is that the very important issue of security on trains is being handed over to people who are untrained and who clearly have inadequate powers to deal with this issue. I have spoken to a number of current security officers as well as to those who have decided to leave the employ of Chubb Security. The reason for the staff turnover is that, firstly, they are paid \$7 000 less than Westrail staff and, secondly, they are doing the most dangerous job of all. They actually ride the trains. They stay on the trains whereas Westrail staff travel by motor vehicle from station to station and are called on by the Chubb staff when that is required. Thirdly, the Chubb staff are working 12 hour shifts as opposed to the nine hour shifts worked by the Westrail staff. Fourthly, Westrail staff receive a bonus on their work. On any roster a bonus is paid when staff meet the various performance indicators which have been set. On these shifts the work of the Chubb Security officers is taken into account in the calculation of the bonuses which are then given to Westrail officers. Chubb Security staff are unable to benefit from the bonuses received from the work they do. Not only that, the final insult that many Chubb Security officers have raised with the Opposition is they are obviously not trusted by the Westrail staff. They are prevented from access to a range of facilities that will enable them to discharge their job more fully. For a start, they are not trusted with keys to the patrol room. If a sworn officer from Chubb Security arrests a person on a train, he and that person must leave the train at a railway station so he can interview that person, prepare the brief and lay the complaint. However, the sworn officer does not have access to the patrol room because he is not trusted with the keys. He must wait on the station with the person whom he has arrested until a Westrail officer appears at the station to unlock the patrol room and give him access to it. These officers are performing a very important role and they have the responsibility to lay complaints under the railways and other legislation, yet they are being impeded in the exercise of their duties and a lack of confidence is displayed in them. It does not add up and Western Australians must look very carefully at the advantages of this system of bifurcation. What are they gaining from a system where one-third of the staff members are employed by Westrail and two-thirds are employed by a private security agent when it is quite clear that the very act of bifurcation and the difference in the working conditions of these two groups is creating a problem with morale and turnover?

One of the very extraordinary things is that the turnover does not appear to be of great concern to Chubb Security. Why should it be? One of the extraordinary provisions of the contract that governs the Chubb Security staff is that the Government picks up entirely the tab for the turnover. I understand it costs approximately \$10 000 to train a person to become a sworn officer. That means that every time a disgruntled Chubb Security officer leaves because of the style of Chubb management or because his pay is too little, the tab is picked up by the State Government not by Chubb. This is another prime example of no-risk privatisation where every possible risk to the supposedly private entrepreneur is covered by the Government. We have set up a system where Chubb can be completely cavalier about its staff turnover because the cost of covering that turnover is met by the Government.

There appears to be no limitation in the contract on the number of untrained persons Chubb can put in place. If Chubb's management is such that the level of staff turnover continues, it has an imprimatur to continue to place in service these untrained officers.

The issue of security on trains is far too important to be messed around in the way the Minister for Transport has dealt with it. It is time the whole operation was reviewed and very deep consideration given to restoring the entire service to Westrail. Economically it simply does not add up. The taxpayer is paying directly for the cost of the high turnover by having to pay \$10 000 to train each security officer. More importantly, the result is that Western Australians are getting a second-rate service in which there is a fundamental conflict between Westrail officers and

Chubb staff. There is an appalling lack of morale among the Chubb staff because they are underpaid and undervalued. The only way these issues can be addressed is by having a single class of person performing an integrated service under an integrated management. The system we have does not make sense and it is compromising security in a very direct way because there is absolutely no doubt that many of the troublemakers on the trains are fully aware of the persons who are unsworn officers and they are taking advantage of them when they can.

I again endorse the statement made in the amendment moved by the member for Nollamara and urge all members to carefully consider those points.

**MR McGOWAN** (Rockingham) [4.38 pm]: I support the amendment moved by the Opposition. In 1993 I backpacked around the United States of America with my younger brother and one of my most enduring memories of that trip is of what is called a drive by shooting, which occurred at a hotel we stayed at in Chicago. The front windows of the hotel were shot at by somebody using a machine gun as he drove past. One of the most important lessons I learned from that trip is that it is extremely important for Australia to avoid the problems encountered by the United States. It is true that most of the surveys show the general public is very concerned about crime. It is at the top of their list of concerns.

I am not naive enough to think there is a simple solution to the problems of crime and law and order. There are a number of solutions. Although higher penalties are partly the answer in some areas, they are not the total solution. We need to make a greater effort to prevent crime. There is a definite lack of confidence in the community, not in individual police officers, but in the distribution, the funding, and the number of police officers on the streets. That is particularly the case in the outer suburbs of Perth. I do not hold individual police officers responsible for that. My experience is that they do a good job under trying circumstances. However, there is concern in the community that there is not enough of them, that they are under-funded, and that their distribution is poor.

The Western Australian community's concerns about crime are not unfounded. Figures issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that, in 1995, Western Australia had the worst rate of sexual assaults, burglary and motor vehicle thefts in Australia. The number of rapes increased by 17 per cent, offences against persons by 9.5 per cent, and 8 per cent of Perth's households were burgled or subject to home invasion. These statistics are quite damning and something dramatic must be done to solve the crime problem.

As I am the shadow spokesperson for local government, I will outline the steps local government authorities are taking to try to address the crime problem. The first example I want to give the House relates to my electorate of Rockingham. I served on the Rockingham City Council for three years and have some experience of the pressures that local government authorities face over security for residents and businesses in their areas. When necessary, local government authorities appeal for more police officers. The Rockingham council has made a number of appeals to the State Government over the last three years for increases in police numbers. In that time the population of the City of Rockingham has grown by 20 000 and three extra, fully qualified police officers have been allocated to the Rockingham station. Although I realise the Minister was referred to the matter on Sunday, there has been no indication when the new police station or courthouse will be constructed.

Many local government authorities are being pressured by the public to do something about crime. The public is telling its local government representatives that, because they get involved in education, community services, and matters relating to health, all of which overlap with responsibilities of the State Government, they should also get involved in solving the crime problem because that is what the community is most concerned about. In a number of areas, business groups carry out an industrial watch scheme which involves a security vehicle patrolling the streets. The vehicle has responsibility for ensuring that an industrial business area is secure. The Dixon Road industrial area in Rockingham was experiencing 35 to 40 burglaries every month before the industrial watch scheme was introduced. Since this vehicle has been patrolling the area, there are now only two to five burglaries a month because the businesses in that area did something about it.

As I said, local governments are being pressured to do something about crime in their areas. A private firm which is redeveloping Kwinana - the Satterley group - has put in place a security program which involves a vehicle and a security officer being on the street all night. That person speaks to suspicious people and investigates burglaries. People who have prowlers in their yards can call the security firm, which will investigate. This has reduced the number of break-ins in Kwinana.

The Bayswater City Council is the best example of a local government authority introducing a security program. That council, which covers the suburbs of Noranda, Morley, Embleton, Bayswater and Bedford and contains approximately 60 000 residents, has employed a security company known as New Breed Security to improve security on the streets of Bayswater. Five vehicles patrol the streets of the city between 7.00 pm and 5.00 am and will investigate concerns of residents or business. That scheme has been instituted at a cost of \$320 000 per annum. Ratepayers pay \$15 in their rates to finance the program.

Prior to the implementation of the scheme, the City of Bayswater surveyed its residents and 90 per cent were in favour of instituting it. This scheme is designed to ensure a greater feeling of safety and security on the streets and in households every night of the week, 365 days a year. The community security schemes work in with the Police Force; in one way the security company acts as the eyes and ears of the Police Force.

The results from the introduction of the schemes in Kwinana and Bayswater have been dramatic. The introduction of one security vehicle in Kwinana has meant a reduction in burglaries from 119 in 1995 to 102 in 1996. Rockingham, the adjoining municipality, which does not have this scheme in place at present, has undergone an increase in burglaries from 342 in 1995 to 664 in 1996. I will not suggest that the introduction of the Kwinana scheme is responsible for the increase in burglaries in Rockingham. However, there may be a relationship. Someone doing the job that the Police Force should be doing has meant that there has been a reduction in the number of some crimes in Kwinana and a corresponding increase in Rockingham. I am sure that the patrols in Kwinana have contributed to that increase.

The Bayswater scheme has been in operation for only a few months. However, in January, patrol cars travelled 28 388 kilometres, there were 318 contacts, and 99 alarms were attended. That means that the security firm now investigates the alarms that police once investigated. There was also a number of requests for aid from people in their homes. They did not want to wait for the police to arrive and the security firm was very prompt in meeting that demand. A number of local government authorities, including the cities of Wanneroo, Stirling, Rockingham and Mandurah and the Shire of Carnarvon are now considering introducing a security scheme similar to that at Bayswater. A local firm has applied to implement the scheme in Mandurah. The idea is to place a car in every suburb of Mandurah every night and day, controlled by a roving command vehicle. The intention is that the security personnel work closely with the police. The cost to each ratepayer will be \$32 a year, which is a substantially higher cost than that imposed at Bayswater. I understand that the Mandurah scheme would operate longer each day. I understand also that the introduction of such a scheme will result in the consideration of a reduction in house insurance premiums by insurance companies in the areas where the scheme operates. As I said, the scheme would cost each ratepayer \$32 a year but each ratepayer who takes out a home insurance policy will benefit from a \$32 reduction on that policy each year. From what I have been told by insurance companies, there will be no net cost to ratepayers for the installation of such a scheme.

Why are such schemes being introduced now? In my opinion, the public lacks confidence in the distribution of funding and the number of police officers allocated. The Government needs to do a number of things in response to these schemes: First, there needs to be an increase in funding to police; secondly, if a fairer distribution of police officers is not achieved, consideration must be given to providing assistance to local government authorities which will need to instal such schemes. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, consideration must be given to regulation of the schemes because often many people employed in the security business are unsuitable. This is the case in many hotels. We should have some regulation; we need a checking process or a code of practice to ensure people with this responsibility are suited to the job. If people call the local community security officers for assistance in the middle of the night, they must have faith that the officers providing that assistance have undergone the appropriate checks and training to ensure they know what to do. Consideration must be given also to the appropriate powers and responsibilities of security personnel. The State should undertake that process, and I implore the Government to do so.

I emphasise that, first, an increase in police numbers is necessary. Secondly, police funding should not be reduced, and consideration should be given to funding for these schemes. Thirdly, we should have some proper regulation of the schemes.

**MS WARNOCK** (Perth) [5.03 pm]: I wish to address the public safety issues of this amendment to the Address-in-Reply. When the previous Labor Government opened the Joondalup railway and provided many shiny, new rail carriages for our suburban rail system, those of us who support a good public transport system and think it is important to have one, were delighted. As members would have heard us say many times, the Opposition strongly supports the provision of good public transport. Good public transport is central to the smooth functioning of a modern society. It provides equity in transport for those people who cannot afford vehicles or who simply want to travel to work by public transport. Therefore it provides equity for various people, and it protects the environment by cutting down pollution about which we are all concerned. Therefore when the new railway was opened by the previous Labor Government it was worth celebrating.

One of the factors which is always crucial to the smooth running of a new addition to our public transport system, is public safety and security. The feeling that people are not entirely safe, will put them off using a public transport system. People must feel that not only will the trains be on time, come often enough to suit their needs, and be clean - because that was frequently the problem with the old trains - but also when they get into the trains they will be safe. Very early, it was clear that safety would be a large issue, and one about which many people would be concerned.

Nothing is more likely to put people off travelling on public transport than having a bad experience, by being threatened in some way, or alternatively reading constantly about such events in the media. People must feel that their personal safety is not at risk, otherwise they will not have confidence in our public transport system. Anything that puts that confidence or personal safety at risk - any unfortunate personal experience, or hearing stories from friends that adversely affect them - will affect their choice as to whether to use a public transport system.

Since the new rail system began operating some years ago, safety has become an issue. We have witnessed episodes of outbreaks of violence in the evenings and on the weekends; gangs fighting either on the trains or on suburban stations; and drunks have caused problems of intimidation or discomfort to travellers. Some incidents have been rather bizarre. I recall one incident when a young boy was attacked by another teenager in order to get his expensive boots. These events are, of course, deplorable. They cause fear and discomfort to travellers, and cause them to think they do not want to use the train system. One cannot say that these incidents are unique to travelling on a train or bus. They happen in our city streets and suburbs on the weekends. However, when one is in the confined space of a railway carriage, one can feel vulnerable, and people do not want to feel that their safety is at risk. Whether one is a private or public transport operator, it is necessary to remove from the transport system that fear or fact of harm.

Since safety became an issue for the public railway system, different security systems have been trialled. Presently, as the member for Armadale pointed out, we have a system which combines private security people employed by Chubb Security Australia Pty Ltd, and Westrail staff, some of whom, but very few, were part of the previous Westrail staff. The two groups have similar powers and tasks, although, according to information from people who have worked there or do work there, the private security officers are paid less, work longer shifts, and do the tougher jobs riding on the trains to maintain security and give the general public confidence in the system. There appears to be a split between the two security groups. Train security would be improved if that were not the case. If the security people belonged to one group, worked under the same conditions and did the same job, morale would improve. I spoke to one of our contacts today and was told that morale was fairly low, and that split was one of the reasons for low morale. If morale is high and people feel they are doing an important job, and doing it well, the security system would be improved. I have spoken to a number of people who work in the field. A former officer told me that he believed that we should have the same system as that in South Australia where the security people are trained as police - in his view, the police training, discipline and accountability are better - and have the same powers and constraints as police, because they use handcuffs and batons. According to my informant, we do have not have the best system possible and we should strive to get it by having these special constables, as they are called. In other words, we should follow South Australia and institute that system.

Train security is important for the comfort and security of passengers, both old and young, and is crucial to the successful running of a good public transport system. We need to re-think the way we run that system. We must ensure that we have the best system possible and that our citizens neither feel at risk nor are at risk when travelling on our trains.

I have mentioned several times previously in this House that I am a member of a community policing committee called Citysafe. That committee is the neighbourhood watch for the city and Northbridge. It is a group of volunteers who have at heart the safety of people who live or work in the city or who go to the city for leisure activities. Its aim is to reduce the violent and antisocial behaviour that occurs in the streets and about which people have spoken, and also, because the centre of Perth is a commercial area, to prevent shoplifting. Some of the people who approach the committee are concerned about the activities of young people in the streets, and others are concerned about drunks who roam the streets at night and intimidate people.

This group meets regularly, and I have been meeting with it for about four years. It wants to do the best thing for the city. This group persuaded Perth City Council to introduce the video surveillance cameras which are now found throughout the city and Northbridge. This group has also been involved in a number of safety initiatives in the centre of the city. It wants people who come to the city to either work or enjoy themselves in the evening to feel that they can walk around Perth's streets unmolested. They want old people and young people to feel that the city is their place and they can come to it freely.

Mr Omodei: Should the provision of those cameras be the responsibility of the police?

Ms WARNOCK: They were provided by Perth City Council, but they are monitored by the police, and the police take action if any incidents are detected. The Minister may recall that although there was tremendous concern in the beginning among the media and members of the community that people's civil liberties would be at risk, everybody would agree now that those cameras have done a good job in picking up not only incidents of crime but also serious health incidents, such as where people have had heart attacks. However, some people believe we need more cameras, or a more visible presence of either security guards provided by the council or police on the streets at night.

Since I was elected to this Parliament in 1993, I have repeatedly written to the Minister for Police, whoever that Minister might be, asking for better policing of Northbridge and for a more visible police presence on the streets of the city and Northbridge. Two or three years ago, I asked for community patrols to help control the gangs of young people who were, and are still, roaming the streets late at night and causing great concern for people who work late in the city or have dinner in an outdoor restaurant in Northbridge.

I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and I do not deny that improvements have been made and that there are now more police on the streets in the city and Northbridge, in both plain clothes and uniform, and the committee is pleased about that. However, I still receive letters regularly from my constituents, and from people who are not my constituents but who work in the city, expressing their concerns. A collection of these letters arrived on my desk in Parliament today. People are concerned that drug taking and drug dealing are taking place visibly on our streets; that people are being harassed and intimidated by drunks and gangs of children and are not finding it enjoyable to be in the city; that stealing is taking place from shops in the area; and that there is vandalism and graffiti.

One letter was from a couple who cannot get rid of a graffiti problem. All members of this House will have received complaints from their constituents about graffiti. These people are getting fed up because their front wall is being tagged two or three times a month. They say -

This is both frustrating and expensive to rectify. We planted 8-10 ivy plants to cover the front wall recently and all but one of them was promptly stolen.

Obviously these people believe we need a more visible police presence and also more action from the police in that area. I see that the Minister for Police is in the Chamber. I will be writing to him about these matters, and his correspondence file will expand as a result of the letters that I received today.

Another letter was from one of the schools in my area. I will not mention the name of the school because it has not asked me to make the matter public. The school wrote as a result of my intervening on its behalf and asking the Police Service to carry out some surveillance activities in the area. The school was pleased to note that police activity in the area has increased, but states -

However, used needles/syringes continue to be found in neighbouring streets including verges in . . . adjacent to the lower primary school. Members of the school community are asked to report such finds and a record will be kept. We are lobbying local councillors regarding the landscaping of verges in an attempt to overcome the problem of hidden syringes.

Local residents have also reported other incidents of drug-related activities in the area to P & C members which are of grave concern. Anecdotes include the witnessing of persons injecting substances whilst parked in their car . . . and persons injecting substances in the street.

The letter concludes -

Whilst our immediate concern is the safety of school children (and their families) coming to and from school, we recognise that problems in the area require a comprehensive, long-term policy and solution. As members of the local community, P & C members would welcome the opportunity to participate in and contribute to future initiatives.

These people want to take part and are concerned not only for themselves but for the community as a whole.

I have also received a series of letters about the methadone clinic in William street. The Minister has received letters from me, and the three letters that arrived today I will pass also to the Minister. I do not want him to feel that nobody is interested in his activities and that he does not have enough to read over the Easter weekend. Not many of my constituents have written to me about this matter, but many people who have businesses nearby have become seriously concerned and detail the reasons that they have become concerned.

I draw attention finally to a matter that came up when Citysafe went public a week or 10 days ago about safety in the city. Reverend George Davies, who has been well known for many years as a youth worker in the city for one of the church groups, and who belongs to the Juvenile Justice Network WA, had always said strong things about how the community should deal with crime. Mr Davies said that our committee was constantly wishing to sweep young people out of the city because we wanted greater surveillance of them, and he accused us of having a poor understanding of the issues surrounding young people in the city. He said that the surveillance cameras in the city of which the council is so proud are ineffective, and he criticised the authoritarian measures which are used to remove young people from the central business district.

This is a traditional point of view which Reverend Davies has been promoting for some years. He is very concerned about young people. He has been working with generations of young people in the city for a long time and has a

strong concern that the community should begin to approach the problem in an entirely different way. I first met him when I was a member of a committee looking at solutions to young offenders' problems for the previous Government. We were trying to approach it in a holistic, and unusual and perhaps innovative way as well. It is a difficult problem for which this Government has responsibility. Reverend Davies will no doubt take his views to this Government, just as he did to the previous Government, and to anybody who will listen.

His plain message to the community is that a pile of research recognises the need for young people to have meeting places and related low cost facilities in the city as well as elsewhere. He says that Perth City Council has a major enterprise for seniors in the Citiplace Centre and should give similar recognition to young people. I agree with him. A number of people on the city safe committee to which I belong have been saying for some time that we need, for example, a skateboard facility in the centre of the city because too many young people ride them illegally, either on the road or the pavement. We also need activities for young people. They stand around in large groups both in the daytime and at night. It is obvious that more activities in the city would be very welcome.

A press release that the Juvenile Justice Network WA sent out to the community states -

The youth agencies believe that the "image" of the city will be better served by addressing the roots of the problem rather than trying to sweep it under the carpet. They believe that a recognition and resourcing of young people's rightful inclusion in the city would enhance a "win-win" scenario where business, shoppers, tourists and young people all benefit.

Reverend Davies urges us to be more creative, to listen to young people more, and to think of a solution other than trying to remove them from the centre of the city. He says that the way we now carry out our activities by placing a heavy policing hand on these young people is causing alienation and anger, and is probably increasing the problem rather than reducing it. I believe we must listen to this point of view.

It is well known that the community has a big drug problem. All people of good will are trying to work out some way to draw people away from the need to take illegal drugs and find a better approach to their young lives to try to prevent youth suicide and to find alternatives for young people. Although I believe it is obvious that we must police the streets as well and to provide a strong police presence to reassure particularly those older people in our community that their interests are being looked after and they will be safe, we must also approach the problem from the other end. I am sure my colleague the Minister for Police will agree. We must carry out preventive activities, what used to be called community development, so that not so many people are alienated from the community, feel uneasy within it and, therefore, carry out illegal activities that my constituents complain about to me all the time, and which I pass on with due deference to the Police Minister. Let us find other solutions. We need the policing solution; that helps people to feel at ease. However, we must also approach the problem more creatively and not simply suggest policing as a solution to the harassment of other people by young people in the city. Clearly, the community feels uneasy about these groups of young people and we must provide other solutions for those young people so they do not find themselves in that situation.

**MR CARPENTER** (Willagee) [5.23 pm]: I support the amendment. Disconcerting signs of stress in society are exemplified by increased crime rates, violence in schools and feelings of frustration and hopelessness. It is an aspect of our society that becomes more obvious when one takes on the role of political candidate, or politician, as opposed to other walks of life. That is because people's problems are flung at one and one is asked to try to do something about them. My experience in doorknocking a very large number of the 12 000 or so houses in my electorate is that a lot of anxiety exists in the community and some people, especially the elderly, are fearful about personal safety. There was a lot of anxiety about issues which go beyond strictly law and order and policing, and generally the way people perceive society is heading. Many people said they were concerned that the certainties they used to have in life - that there would always be a Public Service and a public sector; that their neighbours would look out for them; that they could expect to have lifetime employment; and if they were in trouble or they were the victims of crime, they would be promptly attended to by police - had started to break down. That is an undeniable fact. Every member probably experiences their constituents telling them those very things.

I surveyed every household in my electorate asking what were the most important issues that were confronting them. I listed about 20 or so points they might number. Overwhelmingly, the issue numbered at the top of the pile was crime and law and order. However, the general theme running through the survey was that people were concerned about the degeneration of their public institutions, about the direction of privatisation from government, the lack of security in employment, and the notion that more and more they were expected to fend for themselves rather than be part of a community. I heard more than one person paraphrase Margaret Thatcher's statement that there is no such thing as society, only individuals, when they talked about the direction of government policy in recent years. They were talking about policies from Governments of both political persuasions. People believed they were being left to their own devices. The notion that Government was the glue to hold society together had gone out the window. They wanted something done about that; they were concerned about it. People who had never and may never vote



Labor came to my morning teas and meetings, expressing concern about what was happening because they felt they needed to tell somebody who might be able to pass those remarks to people in higher places. It was a very powerful issue. Perhaps it is the most important issue that faces our community now.

How do we address the problems of rising insecurity in the community, and rising levels of fear and pessimism about what life holds for people? It was sad for me to meet people in the later stages of life who were living in virtual fear and were very distressed. As members will know many people, when they should be enjoying a happy and comfortable retirement, are locked up in their units or homes, virtually prisoners, afraid to come out. Often they have never been and never will be the victims of crime; it is just their perception of what is waiting outside the door or trying to get in the door that puts them in this position. It is something that politicians, as leaders of the community, should be working on together - regardless of political persuasion or philosophy - and trying to overcome, because it affects people from both sides of politics.

I interviewed Kevin Mountain, the uncle of Paul Mountain the footballer. Kevin Mountain had been a long time employee of Westrail at Midland Workshops and lost his job when they were closed. I interviewed him at his little house in Midland. I asked him what it was like now that he had no job to go to. He was a man in his fifties. He said it was devastating. He said that he had no core or centre in his life. He said that he was still waking up at 5.30 am to get dressed for work. He then realises that he has nothing to do. He said that he sits around home and then he might wander over to the Midland Gate Shopping Centre to meet some of the other fellows who used to work at the workshops and then he comes home again. One must say that in his life the certainty of his employment and his contribution to the community through his endeavours at work have been torn away from him. He was experiencing a high level of stress and anxiety about his role in the community. That is happening to many people.

Norm Rogers, the former great East Fremantle footballer volunteered to help my political campaign for very much the same reasons. Norm had been a long time employee of the Building Management Authority.

Mr Graham interjected.

Mr CARPENTER: I think he flattened the member for Dawesville more than once at training. Norm volunteered to help me. Norm had been a long-time and loyal servant of government through the Public Works Department and the Building Management Authority and lost his job through a redundancy program. He felt it was a disgraceful development in his life which should not have happened to him. He could not come to grips with it. It has happened also to a number of other people. Governments and political parties must take seriously the value of the people we represent in this Parliament. The employment policies of the Government are devaluing people, and it has been happening for a long time. The Government is treating people more like numbers and less like people. It is no surprise that people feel distressed, anxious and upset about their personal circumstances even if they do not become victims of crime. Of course, more and more people are becoming victims of crime. They understand there may be deeper social reasons for that criminal activity, but they want something done about it. As the previous speaker said, this problem should be addressed in a multifaceted way. It cannot just be allowed to happen with the view that somehow or other society, through the mythical marketplace, will sort out these problems and everyone will be happy once the Government puts people on short term workplace agreements or makes them redundant. It will not happen. The Government must be proactive and action is needed across the range of government policy making. It is no good my telling the Minister for Police how to do his job when the problems from which criminal activity arises will result in further offenders replacing those being arrested by police officers - if ever a police station is built in my electorate.

The overwhelming desire of the people to whom I spoke in my election campaign was to have a visible presence of security in their lives. For the majority of people that means a police officer. In my electorate there are approximately 12 000 households spread over 11 suburbs, including Kardinya, Samson, Willagee, Hilton, Coolbellup, Hamilton Hill and Melville. Only one police station is located in my electorate - at Hilton. The Minister for Police knows that this station operates during office hours from Monday to Friday, and outside those hours calls are directed to the Fremantle Police Station. That is not satisfactory to most people. The psychological value of a police station in their suburb is very important to many people. The psychological value of police officers who might know them or the area is important to many people, even though they may never be victims of crime. They want a police officer around their suburb who knows them and knows something about the area in which they live.

I gave my constituents a commitment to do something about the problem because it is the first problem they identified. I sought more police resources for my electorate. I advise members that in the Premier's electorate there are three police stations, the Deputy Liberal Leader has two in his electorate and I have only one in my electorate. I queried whether that discrepancy could be removed and whether my electorate could have increased resources. The Minister for Police undertook to look into the situation. I went to see the regional directors of the Police Force in Fremantle who told me there was little hope of an extra police station being established in my electorate, but they offered to make an arrangement with the community policing vehicle. That has been done and I am most grateful

for it. It was put into the Coolbellup shopping centre. Coolbellup has a relatively high crime rate and people want something done about this problem.

It was pointed out to me by people in Coolbellup that the Government is planning to build a new police station in the Murdoch electorate, and I was asked why one was not being provided in Coolbellup which obviously needs one. I obtained figures from the regional office in Fremantle which give an indication of the relative incidence of crime in the Coolbellup and Murdoch areas. In the Fremantle police region, which extends to Rockingham, there were 5 771 home burglaries in 1996 and in the last two years there were more than 12 000. Most people indicate they are worried about their homes being broken into and about being assaulted in their homes. People identify home burglary as a major problem that must be addressed.

In Willagee, a small suburb in my electorate in which many of the older houses have been demolished, there were 149 break and enters last year. In Hilton there were 183. My electorate officer's home in Hilton has been broken into four times this year. In Coolbellup there were more than 600 in the last two years, and it is not a large suburb. In Hamilton Hill there were more than 700 in the last two years, and in Kardinya, which is a large suburb, there were more than 700 in the last two years. In the Murdoch electorate there were approximately 90 break and enters in the last year. People instinctively know that Murdoch has a low crime rate. They also know that Coolbellup and Hilton, for example, have relatively high crime rates. They cannot understand why police resources will be located in Murdoch when, according to logic, they should be located in an area such as Coolbellup. Unfortunately, the member for Murdoch is not in the Chamber at the moment. That is a shame because he could lend credibility to my argument. Only 12 months ago in this House the question of crime and police resources was raised and the member for Murdoch, then the member for Jandakot, is reported in *Hansard* as saying -

I am a great supporter of smaller police stations. I am a supporter of not necessarily having any police stations. Perhaps we should have residential premises scattered throughout the community in which the police not only live but also operate.

If that is the view of the electors of Murdoch, as represented to the Parliament by their member, why is a major police station being built in that electorate and not in mine? I cannot figure that out. The people in my electorate who are demanding a police station cannot understand it either. I ask the Minister for Police to look into this. I know it may be late in the day, but I have only recently become a member of Parliament and as far as I know the construction of the proposed police station at Murdoch has not yet begun. Therefore, it may not be too late.

Mr Day: Is there a police station in Palmyra?

Mr CARPENTER: The police station at Palmyra is not in my electorate but, in any case, I understand it is open only from Monday to Friday. I had lunch on Sunday with Steve Marsh and George Doig, who live in the area covered by that police station, and they also have been victims of several break and enters. They would like the Palmyra Police Station to be upgraded. This problem affects all areas, but some more than others as I have indicated in the statistics I have quoted.

In the last few days I have been distressed to discover that not only is the Hilton Police Station not to be upgraded, but also there is a proposal to downgrade it further. I have brought that to the attention of the Minister for Police and I do not know whether he has information on that yet. As the representative in this Parliament of the people in my electorate I cannot stand by and see the only police station in my electorate further downgraded. The scope of its activities is currently very limited. When an insurance company released figures on the number of break and enters and indicated that Hamilton Hill was high on the list, I commented on the activities of the police and expressed the hope that there would be a greater police presence in the area. The honestly given response from the Hilton Police Station was that Hamilton Hill was not in the area it covered anyway, which caused me some surprise as the Hamilton Hill boundary is 300 metres from the police station. I wonder how broad the scope of the activity at the police station is now, and how narrow it will become if it is downgraded. Unless one commits the crime inside the station itself, one will probably be safe!

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the problems outlined in the amendment go beyond law and order, crime and punishment and the narrow confines of policing policy. A broader government issue needs to be addressed.

I spoke in my maiden speech about the need for Governments to invest in the physical and social infrastructure of the community. If Governments do not do that, not only is the infrastructure run down, but also the psychological impact on the community itself is profound. People believe, rightly or wrongly, that they are left to cope alone, to fend for themselves, by a Government not prepared to invest money in the community.

I have spoken about the problems at Melville Senior High School, where I attended a meeting last night. To their credit, the parents of students at that school are working desperately to keep the school going by making it attractive

to students. However, the parents have received no assurances from the Government that the required money will be invested in the school. The Government has a responsibility to make that investment.

During the election campaign I identified a problem in the suburb of Willagee; namely, that many of the older residents of Willagee were afraid of the younger residents of Willagee as they believed they were perpetrating crime; they asked why the young people were not given something better to do after school. The Southern Districts Recreation Centre at Willagee is an ideal facility for young people as it has everything one could ask for. However, no young people of Willagee use it. One of the many reasons for that is that it operates on the user-pays policy which puts its cost out of reach of many young people in Willagee. Secondly, no structured activity is provided in the centre for these young people.

A youth worker from the Melville City Council approached me and said that programs could be placed in the centre to give a range of activities for young people out of school hours which would perhaps divert them from less social activity. Other such projects have been tried in the Melville City Council area with great success.

I approached the Government seeking some money for such a project, but it is a tragedy that the \$40 000 required for this project was not provided. Something positive could have been done for the area with a small amount of money, which would have not only given the younger people some positive activities, but also given some comfort to the elder residents of Willagee. It could have built some bridges between the residents in the suburb.

In conclusion, this problem which has befallen the community is regarded as arising through neglect by Governments from both sides of the political fence. As a result, people feel insecure and anxious about their lives and future. They want something done about the matter and it is the Government's role - be it a Labor or a Liberal Government - to address those problems; it should occur.

**MR PENDAL** (South Perth) [5.43 pm]: I do not want to support the amendment in its current form, although I support it in part; that is, where it expresses the concern that society is experiencing an increased crime rate.

I follow up a couple of points made by the member for Willagee, as it is correct that one of the most serious manifestations of local crime is in the area of home burglary. The Government must address this issue more seriously in its next term in office than it did during the last four years. For example, members would be horrified, I think, to realise that fewer than 10 per cent of home burglaries are solved. The figure varies across the metropolitan area, but something like only 7 to 9 per cent of home burglaries are solved. To put the negative side, more than 92 per cent of home burglaries remain unsolved.

The member for Willagee mentioned community police patrols. A lot of media attention has been directed to the City of Bayswater, but in March 1995 I took a deputation to the then Minister for Police, Hon Bob Wiese, to put a proposition which grew out of Business Watch in South Perth. It was found that Business Watch, which was under strict police supervision and involved the employment of a private security company, brought all burglaries to an end in the commercial premises of those businesses which subscribed to the scheme. In other words, at the end of a five-year period, not one business which subscribed to the system was subject to commercial burglary. The reason for that was simple: A constant and visible presence of patrol cars was maintained passing by the premises every night, so the burglary rate went to zero.

That led representatives of South Perth Business Watch to approach me to ask whether the information they had was useful to me. I then worked with the City of South Perth and Business Watch to present a proposition to the then Minister for Police. We said, "If it is possible to reduce business crime by way of these police-supervised, commercial operations programs, the same could apply to residential burglary, to which the big numbers apply." We priced the program for the State Government if it were trialled in South Perth for three years. Within 24 hours of that deputation, the then Minister for Police publicly reacted: He said, "No. I will not bring in a trial in South Perth because if it worked there, other areas of Western Australia would ask for it." Members should consider that response for a while. It was feared that the program might succeed!

I said to the then Minister in a serious tone in the corridors afterwards, "Do you not see? If the desire is for other electorates to institute such private systems under police supervision, and if they worked and were demanded to be extended to other areas, you would be the first Minister for Police to make a serious dent in home burglary numbers." He had no answer to that point - I regret that greatly.

What happens in South Perth is not dissimilar to what happens in other areas. I understand that every household in the City of Bayswater is levied \$15 a year for the program in that area. As strongly as I possibly can, I have opposed the imposition of the same charge by the local authority in my area as I will not stand by as a local authority charges for a service properly in the province of the State Government. If as a State we felt vulnerable in defence terms, with our 12 000 kilometres of coastline remaining largely unguarded by a sparsely dispersed naval force, with such a

precedent it could be argued by the Federal Government, "If you want patrols and other naval services across Western Australia, provide them yourself."

Mr Minson: In the United States they have county and city police. I have great sympathy with what you are saying, but sometimes it should be an option for local authorities and people to say, if they want to, "We know what the State provides, but we want a bit more."

Mr PENDAL: What the member for Greenough is saying is precisely what the then Minister for Police was saying: If the shire wants it then it should do it; he had no objection. I am saying that, constitutionally, law and order and public safety are clear State Government responsibilities. It is ignoring them and that will ultimately be to its peril. It is ignoring a huge issue of disquiet about public safety.

I agree with this part of the amendment, but not the remainder, so I will not support it. We should address the Minister in terms similar to those used by the member for Willagee. We should appeal to this new Minister - who has come to office at a very difficult time and has faced situations that he has handled with great finesse - to reconsider the State's hardline approach; that is, that it will not look at state-sponsored, private security patrols under police supervision in local authority areas where they are requested. The member for Willagee is correct: The key is visibility. The more visible the police or private security patrolling a locality the more the crime rate drops. Every time the mounted police patrol the electorate of South Perth the crime rate drops. Why? It takes more than a few minutes for the mounted police to pass through a particular area - unlike a patrol car that can travel through my electorate from the Canning Bridge to the Causeway -

Mr Riebeling: It takes six days for them to pass through my electorate.

Mr PENDAL: It takes less than six minutes to drive across mine. If we were to have a highly visible, constant, police supervised, private security service in the area, within the Government's cost parameters, we would make a difference. It takes time for the mounted police to pass through an area and that cramps the criminals' style.

Mr Riebeling: What is the cost in a suburb like South Perth?

Mr PENDAL: If my memory serves me correctly, we costed the trial over three or four years at \$3m. We also established that it would cost an extra \$50m across Western Australia. My point was that, in a police budget that already exceeded \$400m, another \$50m, although it was a huge sum, would achieve enormous dividends. The amendment is correct where it refers to increased crime rates, but I will not support the rest of it.

**MR RIEBELING** (Burrup) [5.56 pm]: It is a pity that the member for South Perth does not intend to support the amendment, because what he has said is encapsulated in it and it would show that he is fair dinkum about the provision of security services within his electorate. The member for Greenough suggested that the shires take on the role.

Mr Minson: I pointed out that it is an option.

Mr RIEBELING: I remember, as the Minister would, when the shires had their own traffic police. Not many people were happy with that system. In fact, there was great applause in country areas when some notorious shire traffic patrol officers were done out of their jobs because they were overzealous in performing their duties. It was known that if one drove through certain towns one would be picked up and there was a great deal of inconsistency in the way people were treated in various areas. The change in responsibility has corrected that problem.

The Minister for Police and the Government have a major problem on their hands in tackling crime and bringing it under control. There is absolutely no doubt that over the previous term of this Government, the crime rate increased rather than decreased. That is no great surprise.

As the member for Willagee has pointed out, a number of things that this Government has done have changed the fabric of our community. If in doing those things it expected none of the adverse impacts, it is living in fairyland.

This Government supports short term workplace agreements, which lead to job insecurity for families, and that destruction of job security is worsening each year. We will see more stress, alcoholism, domestic violence and antisocial acts occurring directly as a result of this change in the fabric of our community.

The biggest changes have occurred in the public sector. Historically, employment in the Public Service has been very secure. People could look forward to being employed in the Public Service for their entire working life. That is no longer true. Large sectors of the Public Service have been privatised and many public servants who expected to retire from the service are now unemployed after being made redundant. That type of dramatic change in people's circumstances does not go away simply because the Government wants us to return to the old values. We cannot go back when there is nothing to go back to.

Mr Board: That is a worldwide trend.

Mr RIEBELING: I am talking about the Government's legislation, which has increased the rate of job insecurity. If the Minister does not think that the workplace agreements the Government has introduced - it cannot blame the Labor Party - have added to the problem then he should talk to the unemployed former public servants and hear about the impact on their families. He should look at the suburbs where many former public servants live and see whether there has been an increase in crime in those areas. I suggest there has been an increase.

Mr Board: Are you suggesting that there is a relationship between workplace agreements and crime?

Mr RIEBELING: Job insecurity and stress levels lead to crime.

Mr Board: I have seen some long bows in my time -

Mr RIEBELING: The member should look at the other things that have changed in our community in the past few years. I suggest that job insecurity plays a big part. The Minister may laugh that off. I had the same reaction from the building trades when I suggested that workplace agreements would create job insecurity and that no-one would invest in housing. However, after four years of this Administration, the housing industry agrees absolutely. Within the next four years, this Government will come to the realisation that its policies, which have attacked the very basis of our community, are having an adverse impact on crime rates.

The other area that the Government is yet to tackle, refuses to tackle and probably will not tackle, is the ever increasing problem of drugs. Members opposite talk about the number of break and enter crimes being committed. No doubt the Minister for Police has some police statistics on the number of these crimes committed in the metropolitan area that are drug related. I suggest it is very high in comparison to those committed for non-drug related reasons. Until this Government tackles realistic drug reform it will not get on top of that problem.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

Mr RIEBELING: The Government must address some broader pictures, if it is seriously to tackle the effect crime is having on our community. My area is a specific example of what is happening in the State. The major centres of my area have been relatively protected from crime. However, in some of the smaller centres crime has been a problem for some considerable time. It is getting to the stage where police activities seem to have very little impact on the activities of some young offenders, in the Roebourne area especially. The activities of youth are also having an impact on the larger centres, such as Karratha. Recently a group of young people came to see me at my office. They were rollerblade enthusiasts. They had formed a group of about 50 young people who follow that sport. They told me that they used to use the high school because it had a lot of interesting concrete formwork on which they could practise their skills. I must admit that sliding down rails several feet off the ground does not excite me greatly, and nor does the thought of crashing to the ground, but those young chaps are apparently very good at what they do. They have been banned from using the high school because of the number of burglar alarm call-outs. The school had 40 call-outs to the local security firm which patrols the school, each of which costs between \$150 and \$200 to investigate. The casualties of the call-outs are the young bladers who have nowhere to rollerblade in the town of Karratha. To their credit they have organised and are now forming an association, together with their parents, to lobby government authorities and the shire to obtain a purpose built rollerblading rink. I have been very impressed by their determination to achieve it.

Some little distance down the road from Karratha is the community of Roebourne, where John Pat's death occurred. Every now and then the alcoholism of certain members of the community hits the Press and gives Roebourne a relatively bad name. The community was so concerned about the number of break and enters by a group of young people that people called a public meeting a couple of weeks ago which I attended. Apparently a group of some 12 juveniles were continually breaking into premises in the business district and also in the residential area to the point where the community itself wanted to take action to stop it. I attended the meeting at a hall attached to Roebourne Hospital. Twenty-one agencies attended the meeting, all of which have some sort of role to play in what has been called on numerous occasions the Aboriginal industry at Roebourne. I asked what was the extent of the problem, because it appeared to be a massive problem of Aboriginal youth running amok in Roebourne. I was advised that 12 individuals were involved. I was pleased to hear there were only 12. I said that presumed that they had ringleaders. The police admitted that there were probably six ringleaders from five families in Roebourne. Therefore, the huge problem was of five dysfunctional families in the town of Roebourne. I asked the 21 agencies what they were doing about the problem. They all said they had plans in place to address the problem. However, the simple fact is that none was working.

I have heard people say in this debate that it is time the communities themselves took responsibility for the actions of people within their community. I put that firmly at the meeting. I probably did not win a great number of friends. I said it was about time the Roebourne Aboriginal community started taking responsibility for the actions of its

children and that if there were five dysfunctional families, it might be time for the Aboriginal community to use its structures to bring the elders to bear on those dysfunctional families. I was disappointed to hear that the elder system there had virtually collapsed and it was not a possible solution. I suggested that they take a different view and have a mentor family work with the dysfunctional families, so that the functional families in the Aboriginal community can link in with the dysfunctional families and advise and support them, not on the basis of an agency but as an extended family and friends. That concept was accepted by the vast majority of Aboriginal people at the meeting. At the meeting we put in place a process whereby that concept could commence and the mentor families would use agency support, when and if required, and not take guidance from the agency. The simple fact of our problem with lawlessness in the Aboriginal community is that the old systems we had in place which were predominantly controlled by Europeans are no longer acceptable to our community. For example, it is no longer acceptable that if a young Aboriginal plays up we go in, take him away and put him with other families. Those days have gone and will never be back. In our community we have taken away all the systems which provide support and have replaced them with absolutely nothing. The Roebourne community is attempting to replace what has been taken away. I hope that solution for Aboriginal people operates successfully and reduces the number of offenders within the community.

The reasons given by the police for bringing it to the attention of the public were interesting. They ran the line that if these young fellows continued their lawless ways of breaking into premises and houses, they would end up in prison, as sure as night follows day. The police were trying to intervene and to get the community to intervene to ensure these young chaps did not end up in the prison system, only to return to Roebourne in a worse state. For that the police in Roebourne must be congratulated. They are making every effort to ensure the police-community relations in that town improve, notwithstanding the odd hiccup that has occurred within the past few years.

The police in my area, and I am sure throughout the State, are emphasising the need to have a contract with the community; to work as closely as possible with the community to make their job easier and more effective, and I agree with that. However, from the rhetoric used by the police commanders in the region, I am concerned that more and more the police are saying that one area or another is not their role in the community. They say that they are responsible for one thing, but that some part of it is not their role. Some minor offences appear not to be the role of the police any longer.

I suggest to the Minister for Police that if his department wants to get the police and the community to work together as closely as possible, that attitude must change. For example, my son was the victim of some damage to his vehicle. About 18 months ago I recall he had spent \$5 000 or \$6 000 doing up an old Fairlane. It was his pride and joy. Vandals got into the vehicle. In very quick time they had slashed the upholstery, ripped out all the electrical gear and written the car off. He telephoned the police who, although they took the report, never attended on him to see whether any fingerprints could be lifted from the vehicle or to look for evidence to lead to a conviction. It may well be that no-one was ever caught for that offence; however, if a police officer had taken the time to see my son and to show some concern about that offence, at least in the eyes of my son, the police actions would have been justified. It is beyond my son and his friends that absolutely no response appeared to be forthcoming. It may have been that the police had much more serious matters to attend to; however, if the police wish to be accepted by people in the suburbs, to get back the community support they are now trying to rebuild, they must show some interest in these sorts of offences.

I suffered a similar experience in my house. When my father passed away, a very nice person in my area must have read the death notices. While I was attending my father's funeral in the metropolitan area, someone came into the house and cleared out with all the pot plants and outdoor furniture in the back yard. I reported the matter to the police and have not heard anything further about it. I, too, did not have a response from a police officer about this matter. I realise the work required for minor home invasions and the like is nothing compared with that needed for cases such as the Claremont abductions; however, attention to the small offences will assist in building the teamwork with the community that the police are now trying to set in place.

The new system of putting the police back into the suburbs, which is based on the New York system, is an outstanding idea. The only problem I have with it is that the Police Department persists in automatically transferring police officers when their designated term of three or four years at a specific location expires, irrespective of whether they have established links with the community and no matter how good they are or how valuable they are to the community. The Minister for Police should be looking at a way in which the tenure of those police officers who do an outstanding job in whatever area they are working, regardless of whether it is Balga or anywhere else, can be extended. They must be allowed to remain in the community in which they have built up that trust. Until we tackle that problem, it will be much more difficult for the police to achieve the results for which the community is hoping.

**MR RIPPER** (Belmont - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.45 pm]: Every second Thursday outside my electorate office a huge queue, usually comprising elderly people waiting to draw on their pension, waits for the Belmont branch of the Commonwealth Bank to open. Of course, they could use the automatic teller machines, but they do not. One

reason is that they are less at ease using the technology than others are. They also have a very real fear that if they were to use an ATM, they might well be the victim of a mugging. That fear is widespread among the elderly in the electorate. It is reinforced with the incidence of bag snatching that occurs in the car parks associated with the Belmont Forum Shopping Centre. It is quite disturbing for me to hear stories of elderly women being passed by people in stolen cars, with someone reaching out of the window of the car, snatching the woman's bag and the vehicle being driven away, seemingly with the occupants showing no sign of care about the injury that might be done to that elderly woman.

Among seniors in my electorate is a very real fear of crime which is restricting their quality of life. People are locking themselves in their houses from four o'clock or five o'clock in the afternoon onwards and saying, "I don't go out at night any more; I don't walk the streets of my suburb any more because I am frightened of crime." Some of this fear of crime is exaggerated. Some of it is unfortunate because people are restricting the quality of their lives unnecessarily as a result of that. However, some of that fear is based on very real experiences.

We must acknowledge that in this State we have a burglary rate about 50 per cent above the national average. There are more than 3 000 burglaries per annum per 100 000 population in Western Australia, and just over 2 000 per 100 000 population on a national basis. Equally with car theft, our figures are about 50 per cent worse than the national average. We have about 900 car thefts per annum per 100 000 population in Western Australia compared with the national figure of just over 600, although I do not have the exact figure with me.

We have a serious problem with burglary and car theft in this State and it is not getting any better. I drew out the figures for the first four years of the coalition Government by looking at the annual reports of the Police Department. The reports show that in 1991-92 there were 189 800 offences against property; whereas by 1995-96, there were 195 086 such offences. That is an increase; however, with the population growing, we might say that it is only a proportional increase. The figures for offences against the person are much more disturbing. The annual report for 1991-92 shows there were 11 417 of those offences in that year, but by 1995-96 reported offences against the person had grown to 17 670. In other words, over the first four years of the coalition Government, there was a 55 per cent increase in offences against the person. Is it any wonder some of our elderly people are very worried about the impact of crime on their lives? Elderly people feel most vulnerable to an assault on their person. The number of offences against the person increased by the remarkable figure of 55 per cent in the first four years of the Court Government. What is the response from this Government in its financial estimates to this fear of crime, the increase in offences against the person and the difficulties with burglary and car theft rates? The Opposition has argued in this place before that the estimates produced by this Government during the election campaign indicated a real cut in police spending over the next four years. The Government's response has been dishonest. On our calculations the real cut in funding for the Police portfolio in 1997-98 will be \$14.1m. In 1998-99 it will be \$26m; in 1999-2000 it will be \$41.6m; and in 2000-2001 it will be \$42.1m.

We added the cumulative effect of those real cuts over the four years and according to the estimates the total real cut in police spending will be \$123.8m. We took the published figures of the Court Government, the figures described by the Premier as the Government's four year financial plan for the second four years of his Government, the figures produced for each portfolio and the inflation rates for various years, also published in the estimates, and examined the amount the Government set aside in the estimates for wage and salary increases - what was called the global allocation. We added part of the global allocation to the Police Force figures to take account of the fact that it would have some proportion of that global figure for wage and salary increases and then we considered how much the Police budget would have to increase to keep pace with the published inflation figures - the Government's figures - and we compared the precise amounts specified for police plus notional proportions of the global allocation. Our examination revealed the significant shortfalls I have outlined.

In response to our suggestion that real cuts will be made to police funding if the Government sticks to its estimates over the next four years, the Premier said in this place that the Opposition had its figures wrong; it did not understand the estimates - the real cut is only \$10m. Why is the Government contemplating a real cut in police funding given the fears about law and order in the community? The real cut on the basis of the estimates is not \$10m as the Government alleged. We have diligently checked our calculations and tried to work out how the Government disputed our figures and arrived at only a \$10m real cut.

It is instructive to see what it did. Firstly, it added to the estimates the gun buyback money which comes from the Federal Government and which was not included in the Police Service budget because it did not previously exist. It does not pay for any police services. It is a one-off federal program. Secondly, the Government added to the police budget the entire global allocation for wages and salary increases. In other words, it assumed that no-one else in the public sector would get a wage or salary increase. Thirdly, it used a lower inflation rate than the one published in the estimates because it has a revised estimate of the inflation rates. With those three shonky manoeuvres the Government managed to reduce the figure to a \$10m real cut.

Even with shonky manoeuvres of that magnitude it could not show maintenance of real funding for the Police Force. The Government was dishonest with its response to this issue. It tried to pretend during the election campaign that the estimates were a holy icon and that they were its four year financial plan. Its political strategy is clear. It wanted to straightjacket the Opposition and the promises it would be able to make in an election campaign. Either the estimates are credible and are as they were described in the election campaign by the Government - its four-year financial plan - or the whole thing was a charade. The Opposition says the Premier should deny the estimates were the four-year plan, admit they were a charade, or admit there would be significant cuts to the real funding of the Police Service in the next four years.

According to the estimates it is not only in the police area that real cuts will be made. We did some calculations regarding the Education budget on the same basis as our calculations for the Police Force. It shows in 1997-98 there will be a \$3.9m cut; in 1998-99, a \$24.9m cut; in 1999-2000, a \$47.1m cut; and in 2000-2001, a \$65.8m cut. That is a total cut in real terms for the Education budget of \$141.7m. It will be interesting to see whether the Government can deny that in the House. It used up the global allocation for wages and salaries in the Police Force budget so it will not be able to throw that into the Education figures when it tries to contradict what the Opposition calculated from the Government's estimates.

It is a pity we have this proposed real cut in both our Police Force and Education Department budgets because some significant problems exist of violence and other antisocial tendencies in the community and in our schools. I refer again to the Western Australian Child Health Survey produced by the Institute for Child Health Research which examined a number of problems affecting young people in our schools. It contains a table at page 17 which deals with the risk behaviours which adolescent students report to be occurring frequently at their schools. Nearly 27 per cent of adolescents say that threatening and bullying is occurring frequently; 23.5 per cent say the same about student fighting; 20.5 per cent say the same about stealing; 19.8 per cent say vandalism occurs frequently; 17.4 per cent say drug use occurs frequently and 13.3 per cent say that alcohol consumption is a frequent occurrence among peers. They are very disturbing figures. They are elaborated on later in the report under the section on bullying.

At page 50 of the report, according to teacher and parent assessments, one in nine school students is subjected to bullying. According to reports from adolescents about 14 per cent of 12 year old to 16 year old students had experienced bullying in the previous six months. The report comments that bullying at schools is becoming recognised as a major social problem and a form of abuse which can have serious consequences for victims in the short and long-term. I will not go on at length about the figures in this report. Nonetheless, they are disturbing for what they reveal about circumstances in our schools, which in many ways are simply a reflection of circumstances in the broader community. The report makes this disturbing comment -

Currently, population growth has resulted in a net loss of student support personnel in the schools sector. The setting of targets to increase educational support staff in proportion to the population is critical to the capacity of schools to intervene and promote student and teacher health and well-being.

A disturbing situation exists in our schools. A falloff has occurred in the ratio of support personnel to the school population and projected real cuts to education spending can be calculated in the forward estimates. If we are to deal with violence in the community and with the other trends that we find disturbing, a primary requirement is for the Government to spend adequate amounts of money on the services it is charged with providing the community. Quality state government services in education, health, family and children's services and community safety are vital if we are to counteract some of these social trends. The forward estimates indicate that the Government does not have on its mind that sort of support, but real cuts to these important services.

This is not the responsibility of only the Government; we must all look at the sense of community that exists in our towns and suburbs. Many of these issues would be less troublesome if we have a stronger community and good networks which supported families, in particular, in their important task of raising children. We have a difficulty in our community: Some economic trends undermine community and family life. The top 20 per cent of the population is earning 13 times the income of the lowest 20 per cent. A pattern of inequality is developing that can be damaging to families at the bottom of the socioeconomic heap. Many of those families find that the labour market is not being kind to them. Many find that they cannot get the traditional full time job. They are restricted to casual or part time work. They must work on Saturdays or Sundays without the penalty rates that used to apply. The more people are required to work on weekends, the less able they are to sustain a quality family life and a quality community life. Sporting groups and families suffer as a result of two factors: First, a number of people have too little income to sustain a proper family life and participation in the community; and, second, the unsociable hours that people are increasingly working make it difficult for them to sustain a proper family life.

One portfolio that has a particular responsibility for supporting the community is Family and Children's Services. I draw attention to a disturbing development in that department. In the past that department saw one of its objects as being to strengthen community links; to strengthen initiatives that were being undertaken by the community. The



department looked for groups of people who were undertaking valuable community activities and sought to provide them with some support and subsidy.

Over the period of this Government a shift to a business model has occurred. The department decides which services will be provided in communities and calls for expressions of interest and takes tenders. Instead of supporting what is growing organically in the community, the end result is that the non-government welfare sector is increasingly dominated by large professional organisations. Those organisations do a good job; however, they are not based in the local community. They are just as alien to the local communities as the government bureaucracy. Instead of support for the local community, some services are being provided by the government bureaucracy and some by private bureaucracies.

The idea of community development is being lost because of the funding model that has been adopted in Family and Children's Services. Worse still, some of the important services that prevent the problems they experience have been cut. For example, the WorksYde program that provides employment services to former offenders to rehabilitate them and get them into the labour market has had its funding cut. I cannot think of a funding cut that would have more of an impact on juvenile offending. If former offenders cannot gain employment and stay within the labour market, the potential for them to re-offend is great. Members should support this amendment because many people in our community are in genuine fear as a result of the trends about which I have spoken.

**MR DAY** (Darling Range - Minister for Police) [8.06 pm]: The House is considering an amendment moved by the Opposition that refers to feelings of frustration, hopelessness and fear and relates those to increased crime rates and violence in schools. I agree that to a certain extent in the community, and in relation to some individuals, a sense of helplessness and hopelessness exists. Whenever the community undergoes a period of economic adjustment a level of that concern will be evident in the community. Periods of economic adjustment are nothing new; they have occurred for 2 000 or more years. However, society has gone through an accelerated rate of adjustment in the past decade or so. That leads to a sense of alienation in some sectors of the community. I agree that we must encourage a sense of community, inclusiveness and belonging. To a large extent that is why I developed an interest in community activities and in the political process generally.

We must not be too pessimistic. There is a large degree of hope in the community as well. We are fortunate to live in the State of Australia that has the highest rate of economic growth. Opportunities exist in the community from one end of the State to another as a result of Western Australia's large degree of natural resources and the significant economic development flowing from those resources, guided by the Government's economic management over the past four years.

It is my responsibility to comment on issues of crime in the community and crime rates in particular, and the response of the Government and the Police Service to those concerns. It is by no means all bad news. In 1995-96 there was an overall drop of 2 per cent in the crime rate in Western Australia compared with the previous year. Combined with that was a 2.4 per cent improvement in the clearance rate of crimes as a result of investigations by police officers. More specifically, homicide decreased by 37 per cent; burglary by 8 per cent; motor vehicle theft by 17 per cent; and fraud by 38 per cent. On the other side of the ledger I acknowledge an increase in personal crime - assaults, serious sexual assaults and various other personal offences. That is of great concern to the community as a whole.

The House heard tonight calls from members for increased funding to the Police Service. The member for Rockingham said that three measures must be introduced, one of which was increased funding for the Police Service. I point out, as I have done in question time over the past week, that the budget of the Police Service increased between 1992-93 and 1995-96 from \$240m to \$370m. That is an increase of about 50 per cent in four years - an increase well above the rate of inflation. In addition to that, the Government has increased the number of police officers by the promised 800. Three hundred sworn police officers have been moved from administrative positions, behind desks, into operational areas in the field. On top of that, 500 officers have been recruited into the Police Service.

The Government has commenced a works program for new police stations which will be constructed within the next four years. In the last two or three years police stations have been opened at Forrestfield, Leeman, Scarborough, Australind and Kwinana and upgrades have been either commenced or completed at the Brentwood, Fremantle and Warwick Police Stations. The construction of police stations has either commenced or is either about to be commenced at Belmont - which would please the member for Belmont - and Murdoch. I am about to open a substantial revamp of the Meekatharra Police Station which will be converted into a regional headquarters. At Cannington a \$7.5m regional complex will soon be constructed and the construction of new stations at Dunsborough, Kununurra and Halls Creek is about to commence.

The member for Willagee referred to the need for another police station in his electorate. I commend him for the way he stands up for his electorate. He is using his well developed media skills to build-up a profile for this issue. Even

though he is on the other side of the House, he is being effective in speaking up for his electorate. He has called for a station at Coolbellup and I advise him that the residents of every suburb would like a police station located in their area. The people in Coolbellup have a right to be concerned about the level of crime in that suburb and they are justified in calling for a police station in that locality. However, they must realise that a police station is located in Hilton, which is only a couple of kilometres from Coolbellup, and it is not the only suburb which should be considered for a police station.

The Government has announced that a new police station will be constructed in Murdoch and I know it will not displease the member for Murdoch. It will cater not only for the suburb of Murdoch, but also surrounding suburbs. Forty police officers will be stationed at Murdoch and they will provide a service to suburbs like Coolbellup and Willagee. They will also cover areas to the south and east of Murdoch; namely, Leeming, Bibra Lake and South Lakes. The Government must focus on not only the Willagee electorate, but also the rapidly expanding suburbs surrounding Murdoch.

Members must recognise that police officers do not operate out of police stations only. They make extensive use of vehicles and they are using horses. Only last week I met with some mounted police in Bateman who are doing an excellent job patrolling that area in response to particular problems. They are also making increasing use of pushbikes. The member for Roleystone may think it is an amusing proposition. I know that if they were used in some parts of his electorate they would test the stamina of the police officers. If the member for Roleystone wants to set a good example he should move around his electorate on a pushbike. In the more densely populated areas of the metropolitan area police on pushbikes are being well received and they are doing an excellent job.

Last Sunday I attended the emergency services day which was organised by the City of Rockingham and held in Rockingham. I saw the Fremantle districts mobile policing facility and met some officers who have been patrolling on pushbikes around Fremantle as well as the Coolbellup and Willagee areas. It enables a much greater degree of contact between police officers and the local community. I certainly encourage the police to use pushbikes for patrol purposes.

I point out that Coolbellup is covered by not only the Hilton Police Station, which is located within the Willagee electorate, but also the Brentwood, Fremantle and Palmyra Police Stations. A very good service is already provided to the area. In addition, the mobile policing facility is being used in Coolbellup on almost a fortnightly basis. In total there are 211 police officers in the Fremantle police district which covers the electorate of Willagee. Obviously they cannot focus entirely on that area, but they can be called upon if necessary.

Since the Government's extra 800 police officer program was commenced in May 1995 an additional 25 police officers have been stationed in the Fremantle police district. The member for Willagee is justified in his claim for an additional police station in his electorate. However, it is interesting to note that there is more than one electorate without a police station. During the dinner adjournment I did some research which included looking at a map in my office to ascertain which electorates actually do not have police stations. They are the electorates of Riverton, Carine, Kingsley, Roleystone, Dawesville and Hillarys. The electorate of Roleystone is covered by the police station in Cannington.

Mr Tubby: There is the Mundijong Police Station.

Mr DAY: I thank the member for correcting me. The point is that it is not necessary for a police station to be located in an electorate for it to receive effective police coverage. Police are mobile these days and an effective service is provided through a two-way radio system. On more than one occasion over the last two or three months the Commissioner of Police has said that the Government should concentrate on not only increasing police numbers, but also ensuring that police are provided with adequate equipment and facilities to do their work. The police must be able to operate effectively from adequate facilities and with access to up-to-date technological equipment. The Government is addressing that need through the capital works program.

The members for South Perth and Rockingham referred to the role of local government in providing private security systems to assist the police in supplying an additional coverage in a particular locality. The member for Rockingham said that the City of Bayswater started a system which is operating effectively. The member for South Perth said he approached the previous Minister for Police for funding to run a trial in his electorate which he estimated would cost approximately \$3m a year. He extrapolated that to estimate the cost of implementing the system throughout the State to be approximately \$50m. My extrapolation is a little different from his because if it is estimated to cost \$3m for the electorate of South Perth, it would cost approximately \$150m for the metropolitan area.

While it would be very nice to be in a position to say that the State Government will make a contribution to local government to assist it in providing a service, the money would have to be raised through increased taxes or found from other areas of government expenditure. As I said, the Government has made a significant increased allocation

of \$370m to the Police Service. I believe there will be a satisfactory result for the Police Service in the forthcoming Budget.

Mr Ripper: So you will not stand by the forward estimates?

Mr DAY: I will get on to the forward estimates in a moment. The point is that the Government has increased funding to the Police Service. If we are to provide an additional subsidy or allocation to local government to assist with private security services, that money must come from somewhere else.

The member for South Perth said that dealing with these issues is not the responsibility of local government. Traditionally, it may not be the responsibility of local government. Equally, years ago the provision of child and aged care services, and the provision of family playgroup services were not the responsibility of local government. However, in recent years it has rightly moved into those areas. Local government's not playing a role in local security matters in the past does not mean it is improper for it to play a role in the future.

Mr Pandal: I want to clarify the \$50m. That \$3m was over the three-year trial period. It may have even been a four-year period. So it is not \$3m a year, but for the trial period of three or four years.

Mr DAY: Okay. However, the point still stands that if it were \$3m over three or four years, it would be \$150m across the metropolitan area for that three or four year period.

If the City of South Perth and other local authorities in the area asked their ratepayers to pay another \$15 a year in their rates specifically for that sort of service, the response would be positive.

Mr Pandal: With respect, it is not their responsibility and the State should not even be encouraging that to occur. It is a fundamental shift in constitutional responsibility that none of us should be supporting.

Mr DAY: As I said, it may not have been local government's responsibility traditionally. I would not suggest that local authorities be required to take on that responsibility. However, just as the role of local government authorities has changed over the past 100 years or so with their transition from road boards to much more complex organisations which provide a greater range of services, it is valid for local government, if it sees a need in its area, for it also to consider providing this additional service for ratepayers. If the South Perth council approached ratepayers in the South Perth area, I believe most ratepayers would support a modest proposition of \$15 a year following the lead from the City of Bayswater.

Mr Ripper: Don't forget the forward estimates.

Mr DAY: The member for Belmont reminds me of the forward estimates: Firstly, they were based on the state of the economy in November when they were published. It is possible for economic circumstances to change to some extent in that time. The current rate of inflation has decreased from 3.75 per cent as it was in November, to the estimated rate of 2.75 per cent at the moment. The Minister for Education would be able to tell the member for Belmont in a much more informed manner, given his economic background, that that translates into a lower deflator. As a result, the estimated reduction in real funding to the Police Service is reduced. Secondly, with the Police Service, as with any government agency, it is always possible to look for more efficient and more effective ways in which to provide services. Something costing a certain amount at this time does not mean we cannot do an equal or better job in the future with a smaller amount of money. The Opposition must have been looking at different figures from the figures I have seen. The figures published in November last year indicate that, for 1996-97, total estimated funding for the Police Service was \$390m; for 1997-98, \$385m; for 1998-99, \$386m; for 1999-2000, \$382m; and for the 2000-01 financial year, \$394m.

Mr Ripper: If you apply an inflation rate to those figures you get real cuts.

Mr DAY: How anybody can estimate that with the application of a modest inflation rate of 2 or 3 per cent there will be a \$123m reduction in funding for the Police Service over the next four years is beyond me. As I said in question time last week, there will be no reduction in real funding for the Police Service of anything like that amount. This Government has funded the Police Service very adequately over the past four years, and it will continue to do so over the next four years of government.

**MS ANWYL** (Kalgoorlie) [8.25 pm]: I support the amendment. I was interested to hear the comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about some of the signs of stress that we are encountering. My experience in my electorate is that the non-government sector is under increasing pressure to pick up a wide range of social ills with less and less support from government. It seems to me that government is encouraging the non-government and private sector to take up an increasing number of services that were traditionally government responsibilities. The Victorian Government is currently considering tendering out child protection. That is an incredible thing to be anticipated by any Government. However, that is on the agenda in Victoria at the moment. It is an example of how

government is prepared to absolve itself of its responsibilities and try to focus on the less contentious issues of government. A moment ago we heard a very good example of that sort of philosophy: It appears that this Government is happy to countenance local government taking on a policing role. That is a very dangerous precedent for the Government to take in controlling crime.

The Government's philosophy for the contracting out of services has led to increased complexity for non-government, non-profit organisations obtaining government funds to carry out what are largely philanthropic types of endeavours. The documents that must be read, understood and supplied for someone to make an effective tender are very complex. That freezes out a large number of non-profit, non-government groups. As a solicitor with some 10 years' experience, I have difficulty on occasions putting together submissions to provide services. When it is understood that some of these tenders involve \$4 000 or \$5 000 per annum to provide a service, the administrative burden that is placed on voluntary organisations which in many cases are under increasing burdens due to lack of public participation are huge.

The other very dangerous trend in the contracting out process is that organisations are afraid to be effective advocates for the interest groups that they represent. That is generated by a culture of fear of not being able to continue to access funding specifically in the context of less funds becoming available in areas such as emergency relief and crisis services of many types.

I do not wish to become bogged down in recounting statistics about the manner in which the crime rate appears to be increasing. I understand it is largely property offences which are creating concern in this State, as opposed to serious and violent offences. Focus needs to be on prevention. I am involved in a number of committees in my electorate, and I am very pleased to say that the regional commander, Daryl Balchin, also attends many committee meetings, including crime prevention. He plays an instrumental role in the promotion of the concept of wet and dry areas in Kalgoorlie-Boulder to maintain some control on street drinking and associated antisocial behaviour of itinerant people. A number of other groups exist, including the youth offender group. The clear message from the police is that crime is not just a law and order issue. While politicians tend to look at the issue in a narrow way, the Police Force at the highest level is attempting to make the community understand that it is a community responsibility to endeavour to do something about the crime problem.

The focus on juvenile crime, typified by the three strikes policy, is disappointing because it has nothing to do with prevention. A lot of criminological research has established that deterrents may be a factor but do not follow harsh punitive measures. We need only look to the death penalty debate in that context, because there is no evidence in the American States which have the death penalty that such a policy is a deterrent to the very heinous crimes.

When I say that the focus needs to be on prevention, a clear source for that proposition is the need to strengthen the family function. Many reports are available, all of which cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars. However, we appear to be making very slow progress to implement some of the recommendations in those reports. In passing, I refer to the three volumes of the Western Australian child health survey, all of which refer to the need for a marked improvement in inter-agency cooperation. Inter-agency cooperation can occur only as a result of direct intervention by Ministers by directing departments to that model. That will not be without some problems, because in many areas a culture exists within individual government agencies. I refer specifically to social welfare agencies, but broadly there is a marked lack of sharing of information.

I do not have time to explore what is happening with the imposed model of domestic violence prevention committees. However, I ask all Ministers to consider that aspect. Essentially it is an interdepartmental model which is not working because various departments are not attending to the issue at a regional level and, therefore, the whole process is flawed.

In advocating focus on prevention, I support the call for assistance for families which goes beyond glossy brochures and telephone help lines. I commend those initiatives because they are valuable, particularly the New Directions program promoted by the Department of Family and Children's Services, and the parenting emphasis the department is considering. However, I do not believe that is sufficient. If we are to become serious about resolving the causes of crime we must have stronger intervention and backup for families experiencing problems.

With the law and order approach, I lament the removal of judicial discretion when dealing with juveniles. Recently the Press has been full of examples of young people experiencing the imposition of the three strikes legislation. It did the Attorney General little credit to criticise His Honour Judge Fenbury for applying the law in a manner he saw fit. We are yet to see the so-called loophole closing legislation which was foreshadowed. However, I urge members to have a look at the case studies of some children who are being incarcerated for 12 months. Studies in this area do not indicate that that is likely to offer any type of rehabilitative function or to deter young people from committing further crimes. I refer here to the extremely high level of indigenous youth incarcerated in this State and throughout Australia. An Australian Institute of Criminology discussion paper of December 1996 indicates that in 1993

indigenous youth were 17 times more likely to be incarcerated than non-indigenous youth. In 1996 they were 21 times more likely to be incarcerated Australia-wide. In Western Australia this year they are 31 times more likely to be in custody than are non-indigenous youth. The data contained in the report is broken down according to age. The most disturbing trend is that younger indigenous children are even more likely to be held in custody than are the non-indigenous. That is evident where this draconian law sentences 12 year olds to 12 months' imprisonment. It is worth noting that Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales account for 85 per cent of indigenous youth in custody. Concerns are expressed regarding breaches of the international convention on the rights of the child and, as a lawyer, I think we have reached that situation in a number of ways.

The trend is cited in the fourth and most recent report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Mick Dodson. He notes that there does not seem to be any lessening of the trend in Western Australia. The solutions that need to be considered are not vote winners. Given that the next election is some way off, I hope there can be some focus on the broader issues rather than the short term end of satisfying an increasingly blood thirsty but simplistic public. Commissioner Dodson identifies the phenomenon with which I am familiar in my electorate, where young boys go into detention centres and return as young men. Essentially, these children have nothing in their lives, but they return home with a status which attaches to them simply because they have been in custody. Commissioner Dodson talks about strategies for diversion. Certainly the various reports of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody spent copious amounts of time talking about the need for diversion as an effective prevention of crime and resolution of reoffending.

Commissioner Dodson pointed to the need for greater indigenous involvement in establishing solutions. I referred a short time ago to some committees with which I have been involved and on which, almost overwhelmingly, there is no Aboriginal representation. I do not know the solution with regard to encouraging that involvement, but it is clear to me that there should be greater indigenous involvement in the criminal justice system. One model which appears to work is the New Zealand model of family group conferencing, which is run by the Maori community and involves young Maori people. That system was set up after consultation with those people, and I understand that it has an extremely high success rate. It also has the benefit of satisfying the victims of crime because it enables them to be involved in the system.

The cautioning system that is employed in Western Australia may be an effective precursor to an eventual conferencing-type system, but Aboriginal people should have greater involvement in that system. It is disturbing to note that between 1991 and 1994, only 12 per cent of the people who received cautions were Aboriginal. Given the number of Aboriginal people who are involved in the criminal justice system, that appears to be unrealistically low if they are to be represented properly.

While there has been a lot of focus on the three strikes legislation, there has not been much talk about what appears to be an extremely ironic contradiction with regard to the law reform put forward by this Government. I am referring to the removal of the community by-laws option of gaoling petrol-sniffing youth and adults. While 12 year olds are now being imprisoned for a year for often trivial break and enter offences, in some cases for the purpose of stealing food, the power to impose sanctions of imprisonment for petrol sniffing has been taken away from Aboriginal communities in the desert. One can only wonder at the logic of imposing harsher penalties in the metropolitan area, on the one hand, and removing them in those isolated communities, on the other hand.

A key issue with regard to frequency of offending in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is lack of adequate accommodation. It is only today I have had the opportunity of perusing Commissioner Dodson's report in detail, but I note that he spent a great deal of the report addressing the issue of homelessness. There is a huge problem with Homeswest accommodation. Many families in my electorate are totally excluded from Homeswest accommodation, for a variety of reasons, which include past antisocial behaviour which has resulted in eviction, or tenant liabilities, which in many cases have resulted largely from a person other than the person residing in the house. Even if those problems are not encountered, the waiting list for Homeswest accommodation is between 12 and 18 months. Therefore, it is common for single mothers with a large number of children to be forced into the private rental market, which in Kalgoorlie they find totally unattainable. I commend to members an examination of what Commissioner Dodson said should occur with regard to accommodation. I do not have time to pursue that in detail today.

The keys with regard to juvenile crime are education, employment and support for the family. With regard to education, the lack of accommodation is a huge problem. In Kalgoorlie-Boulder there is very little supported youth accommodation, particularly for young women; there is some for adolescent men. With regard to employment, it is interesting to note in the current work for the dole context that since the 1970s the region has had work for the dole type schemes, known as the Community Development Employment Program, and these appear to be working effectively, with up to 180 young Aboriginal people involved. There is plenty of scope for these types of initiatives in an effort to address the real causes of juvenile crime.

**MR BOARD** (Murdoch - Minister for Youth) [8.44 pm]: The amendment moved by the member for Nollamara concentrates on the negative aspects of what is happening in our community. One of the problems faced by young people in Western Australia is that we continue to highlight the wrongdoings of a few people - that is, 5 per cent of young people in Western Australia - when 95 per cent of our young people are doing positive and constructive things with their lives. The motion seems to imply that there is a lack of community support for programs initiated not just by this Government but by previous Governments, and that the community is not playing its part in trying to bring about law and order. Government programs are encouraging our young people to do those things, and the community is assisting with those programs.

The member for Willagee raised some issues with regard to Murdoch Police Station. This issue goes back quite some time. I do not want to touch on all of the matters that were raised by the Minister for Police, because he did a credible job in explaining why Murdoch Police Station should be situated on that site and the coverage that it will give to the district.

It was the former Labor Government - the member for Cockburn has a wry smile on his face - which planned that Murdoch Police Station would be situated on the Murdoch super block. I was Deputy Mayor of the City of Melville at the time, and I recall going to public meetings in that area where the then Government tried to justify the juvenile detention centre being situated on the Murdoch site and produced wonderful maps, and next to the juvenile detention centre was the proposed Murdoch Police Station.

I recall, and I am sure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will also recall, the then Asset Management Taskforce coming out to the council to explain why it was important that the police station be located on that super block because of its regional nature, because it was near public transport, because it was near the freeway, because the police were in vehicles and were able to communicate with other vehicles, and because it was important for that police station to be located next to the juvenile detention centre. The persuasive words of the then Minister for Police and of the Asset Management Taskforce won the council over, and those wonderful facilities are either already in place or are being brought on at great speed by the Minister for Police. I thank the previous Government for its efforts with regard to that strategic location.

One of the issues that the then Government addressed at the time, and which has become even more important, is the fact that the majority of police stations in the Fremantle region were down the coastal strip, whether it be Fremantle, Hilton or Kwinana, and the other police stations were along the Albany Highway strip. That increasing wedge in the middle is served by the Brentwood Police Station which, 15 years ago, serviced some 60 000 people and is now servicing 250 000 people. Cannington, Fremantle and Murdoch have been targeted for regional police stations. That completes the circle in the southern corridor. I also remind members that these strategic locations have been decided on by the police based on their needs, and supported by the Minister for Police. As the member for Murdoch, I thank the previous Government for its initiation of the project, and the Minister for Police for bringing it on. Those regional police stations will service the people not only in and around my electorate, but also the whole corridor.

The member for Willagee highlighted the need for extra police forces. It is a great comfort to know that mobile police facilities are being utilised in and around Perth. They are of great strategic importance. No single issue has been more significant than the establishment of the mobile police facilities. I have used them twice in and around my electorate to great benefit. The community has accepted that facility. On the rare occasions when there are problems, particularly with youth in parks and issues of that nature, we can call in the mobile policing facility, so it can resolve the problem. It is a great initiative that demonstrates how the community and police are working together.

The issues of community policing and Neighbourhood Watch are not addressed by the Opposition in its negative proposal to amend the Address-in-Reply.

Dr Gallop: Are you saying this amendment is negative?

Mr BOARD: Yes, it concentrates on the actions of only a few people.

Dr Gallop: Are you saying it is not a problem in our society?

Mr BOARD: Of course it is a problem; however, the majority of young people are acting in positive and constructive ways. We need to highlight that. One of the problems that is reflected in our high youth suicide rate is that young people's perception of themselves is deteriorating because of the constant negativity that is being forced upon them in the media and elsewhere. Motions of this nature are important; however, if they do not provide a balanced view of what is occurring with the majority of people in our community, they add to that negativity and I cannot support that.

Wonderful Neighbourhood Watch and community policing programs have been implemented in and around not only my electorate but also the whole of Perth. The member for South Perth talked about councils playing a role, and the

Minister for Police addressed the partnership that is developing between local authorities, the community and the police. That is what it is about. Government does not own every problem. This is about developing partnerships.

Dr Gallop: That is what we said, and you described it as a negative amendment.

Mr BOARD: The Leader of the Opposition must acknowledge that the community is playing a role and the Government is supporting that in a constructive manner. The Government is providing additional resources to try to assist with these issues. I support the Police Commissioner and the Minister for Police who have worked on developing a great partnership with the community and local authorities. They can each play a role, particularly in the mobile policing facilities.

The amendment ignores the constructive and positive programs which are now operating in schools, and have been for some time. I give credit to the former Government for some of the programs that it initiated that are still working within the schools. I support those. This Government has gone on with those programs and has brought some new programs into being. Again they are partnerships between the community and those who run those programs. I know that the members of the Opposition would support the work that is being done, particularly by parents and citizens' associations in fund raising and other work to support these programs.

As Minister for Youth, I will spend some time on the cadet program which has been established and expanded throughout the school system. That program is a partnership of school communities, the voluntary groups which initiate those programs, and the Government which funds them. The cadet program now operates in 40 schools and I am delighted that more schools want to come on stream than we could fund at this time. It seems that in the next two to three years nearly every school in this State could have a cadet program of its choice. The best aspects of those programs are that they are voluntary and run by the community in partnership with the school and voluntary organisations such as the State Emergency Service, police rangers and St John Ambulance Australia. That is another initiative which has been reintroduced into the schools program and which the community has got behind. The Government is resourcing the program, and the community plays a major role in driving it.

We are already seeing results with young people in schools in some of the Labor members' electorates. Some 90 young people at the Balga Senior High School, half of whom were Aboriginal kids, applied for the 50 places in the police rangers. That program is expanding and going well. Close to my electorate 350 young people applied for the 75 places available at Willetton Senior High School. That is an outstanding signal that the young people want to play a role in the community, and as long as the community wants to drive the program and the Government has enough resources to meet that need many things will occur.

In supporting what is occurring in the community the Government is acknowledging the positive role that the community is playing. As a Government, Parliament and community we must ensure that we talk up the positive things that are occurring and do not concentrate on the negatives.

The news this evening highlighted the fact that experts had come from all over the world to a conference in Adelaide to discuss the prevention of youth suicide. Last week in Western Australia I launched a one day seminar on youth suicide which some of those experts attended. We discussed programs in other parts of the world, and how we could learn from them. One of the single biggest issues raised was negativity. I hope that the media picks up on this. It is the responsibility of the Government and the community to ensure that the positive aspects of what young people are doing are getting across. They are proud of what they do and of their achievements, and the community should not concentrate on the wrongdoing of a few young people. I am particularly pleased that in the next few months the youth leadership program which has been talked about for some months will be progressed. The Government will fund a program to enable young people who want to help other young people to go back to their communities - either school or voluntary groups - and influence young people who for some reason or another do not feel that what they are doing is important. The Government is trying to create even more partnerships. Recently I have talked publicly about the need for a buddy system, whereby people support one another in the community. Fortunately, a number of people who have time on their hands and who are not working full time for one reason or another want to contribute to the community. The Government and I, as the Minister for Youth, recognise the need to bring that talent and energy together to support those people in need in the community, particularly those at risk and those who have harmed themselves or attempted suicide. A vast range of voluntary organisations are willing to play a role to support the Government with these types of initiatives.

In the short time I have been a Minister I have tried to get across the message that the Government and the community must continue to focus on the positive aspects of our youth. We must back them up and make sure their good deeds are on the front page of the newspaper. We must highlight the positive aspects of our young people and support them in what they are doing. Secondly, we must maintain the great work done in the community, the partnerships being formed, the work being done by many voluntary organisations, and the new partnerships being created as part of the Government's initiatives. Between their work, the continuing work of the Government and support from all members

of Parliament we shall get across some of these difficult issues and maintain the great standard of living and the positive aspects of living in Western Australia.

**MR BROWN** (Bassendean) [9.03 pm]: In making a brief contribution to this debate, I shall refer to a number of matters. The first is crime prevention; second, the issue of what I perceive to be growing intractable problems with social harmony; third, the issue of youth; and, fourth, some of the underlying causes of the problems being faced. I start by making general observations about crime and the fear of crime. It has been demonstrated by various studies, particularly those from the Australian Institute of Criminology, that the fear of crime is particularly debilitating to individuals and their families. It is controlling, and affects their lifestyles and quality of life. It is of particular concern that I see some very negative changes taking place in my electorate. I am sure it affects all members of Parliament. I refer to three or four intractable problems in my electorate, where people in the community have expressed concern about problems of an antisocial or criminal nature for years. People in the immediately surrounding areas have been abused and intimidated, and are subject to abuse if they look the wrong way in the street. They fear for themselves and their families, are concerned about harassment and property damage, and constantly live in fear and anxiety. In a number of cases the people who are the subject of this type of abuse have contacted the police. Each incident reported is responded to by the police and sometimes in a matter of minutes. The one-off police response, however, does not deal with the problem. It is simply not resolved and it goes on and on. Their lives become a living hell. They cannot enjoy the normal things that those of us who are not subject to this constant pressure take for granted. It is of particular concern to families with young children or teenagers.

I am endeavouring to deal with one case at the moment which involves parents with a teenage daughter. They have been forced to go out of their way to escort their daughter and to make arrangements so that she is not left at home alone. I am talking of a mature, sensible, articulate 18 year old woman. The fear and concern of the parents is so great, because of the harassment they have faced over the years, that they must go to these lengths. One-off visits from the police do not resolve the matter. That is not because the police do not have empathy with the people concerned or because they do not respond. The individuals concerned have highly praised the efforts of the local police, but this intractable problem continues. Recently I wrote to the Attorney General about this matter because it is not an isolated case but is happening in three or four separate areas in my electorate. It is not simply an antisocial problem caused by a family that does not fit in. It has a variety of causes. I have asked the Attorney General to provide a reference to the Law Reform Commission for it to examine this type of matter. There appear to be no remedies for it at law and no government program to solve the underlying problems. It is a matter of concern to me and a growing number of my constituents. So far I have received a response from the Attorney General in which he asked me to provide further information. I have done that. When he receives that information, if he wants any more information or wishes to meet my constituent, I will arrange for those concerned to meet him. It should not be allowed to happen because the lives of the people concerned are being made a misery. I raise that as one very serious issue of concern. Although some people have a fear of crime - we note from the last budget papers that police surveys indicate more people today have a fear of crime than ever before, and we know of the debilitating effect of this fear - the circumstances facing the constituents to whom I have referred are very grave indeed and must be addressed at the earliest possible opportunity.

The second factor I will talk about concerns young people. The Minister for Youth indicated that we must stop being negative about young people. I agree with that. That is why the resolution before the House is not negative towards young people. However, if we are concerned about young people and their wellbeing, we must address some of the matters that are troubling them.

In the last six months of last year some technical and further education students asked me to utilise their services on a project. I agreed to do so. The project I gave them was to visit a number of shopping centres and conduct a random sample of young people between 14 and 25 to find out the issues of concern to them and to formulate from that some views. They interviewed young people over a period of about six weeks. Some of the findings they returned with were startling. Some were extremely pleasing from my perspective and the set of values I adopt. Many young people expressed progressive social attitudes on matters such as Aboriginal land rights, multiculturalism and their sense of community. They were excellent - most positive. However, some negatives were expressed by those young people.

One of the interesting negatives related to employment. Many 15 and 16 year olds, and sometimes students up to 22 years, are employed on a part time basis as they go through school and TAFE or university. They tend to have jobs in the services sector. It was interesting to note the negative attitudes of the young people in this survey to the way they were treated at work. These young people are not necessarily unionists or people with left wing tendencies. Some thought that when they were 15 they did an excellent job in the workplace because they were told that they were doing a wonderful job and making a terrific contribution. Because many of them were employed on a casual basis they were picked up week after week. When they reached 16 and their rate of pay increased, their hours dropped off. When they reached 17 and their pay rate increased, their hours dropped off further. Some of them



turned 18 and were not picked up at all. They suddenly went from being excellent workers, terrific people who could make a great contribution, and people who were valued, to people who were not valued because they were entitled to a higher rate of pay. A real anger came out of that survey. This anger struck me by surprise, but it does exist.

Those young people were involved in their first experience in work. They were not influenced by their parents - whether their mother or father was a manager or business owner, a blue collar worker or white collar worker, or unemployed - but through their own experience. That sounds a warning that must be listened to and must be addressed.

Mr Board: The Office of Youth conducted surveys throughout Western Australia and youth employment and related issues were the highest on the agenda. The Government recognises that. That is a significant issue for young people and a significant issue for the Government to address.

Mr BROWN: The Minister says it is a significant issue. Under this Government's legislation young people have few rights because they do not have the worldly wisdom to be able to negotiate contracts of employment in the same way as adults can. Many young people can be employed on standard contracts of employment, drawn up by experts and checked with the legal profession, and they are simply told that if they want the job, they must sign on the bottom line. Some of the contracts I have looked at contain no rights. From a quick reading they appear to contain rights, but in fact they contain few. The undercutting of the award system and the gradual replacement of that system by workplace agreements and the setting of a minimum wage under workplace agreements legislation has meant that increasingly people are employed on those types of agreements on minimum casual rates.

Mr Board: There is always a difficulty for the 15 to 17 year old age group. You know that. My children have worked on checkouts and behind the counters. I assume your children have done the same. Most young people go through that. I have found that the rates under workplace agreements for that age are higher than they would have been under the award system for the same jobs, although I cannot say that is the case in every circumstance.

Mr BROWN: I invite the Minister to look at the rates for clerks and shop assistants, which are the two big areas for young people. All I am saying is that I was surprised that this feeling came out of the survey. I am pleased the Minister confirms that the survey done by the Office of Youth -

Mr Board: It is a survey that is being formulated for the Government's youth strategy, which will be published. It is going out for public consultation and it is currently before the Youth Advisory Council. Young people have identified that employment and employment issues are significant to them. They are the issues the Government must address. I hope significant strategies will be implemented to address that. You are singling out a narrow area. The reality is that young people are looking at the much wider issue: They are looking at their future and the shrinking number of opportunities they see for their future. It is incumbent on any Government to change that. The long term strategy is to change that for young people. It is incumbent on all of us to do that.

Mr BROWN: That is right. I agree that they are looking at a much wider view. I refer to what is happening as a result of the legislative changes made here, and how they have impacted negatively upon young people.

I conclude by referring briefly to where we are headed. The Minister has said we must be positive, but I point out a couple of facts to him: Since the coalition has been in power, we have picked up an industrial system which affects thousands of people and which is very similar to that which operates in the United States. Ninety per cent of United States workers bargain individually, and 13 per cent of that work force earned a wage below the poverty line in 1986. I do not refer here to the unemployed.

Mr Ripper: It is the working poor.

Mr BROWN: Indeed. In 1991, when the last such survey was conducted, the percentage of working poor increased from 13 per cent to 20 per cent of the work force; that is, more than a 50 per cent increase in the working poor in the United States in five years among people who individually bargain. Millions of workers in the USA, in the leading capitalist country of the world, are now paid exactly what the minimum wage requires them to be paid, and not a cent more.

Mr Johnson: What is the minimum wage?

Mr BROWN: It has been increased recently by Bill Clinton to \$US5.15 an hour. People ask, "Why is there so much crime in the USA?" What a mystery! Why is there so much poverty? Put the two aspects together, as criminologists have done in Australia and the USA, and there is an answer. If we are looking at questions of social decay and the lowest common denominator, we also must look at the issues in terms of social policy. If not, we will go down the same track as that followed by the United States.

The Minister may not accept my word for it. I was happy, through my impromptu account, to have the opportunity to talk to legislators, law enforcement officers and people involved in this field in the United States. The Minister should talk to these people as they will confirm the truth of my comments.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (16)

Ms Anwyl	Mr Kobelke	Mr Riebeling
Mr Brown	Ms MacTiernan	Mr Ripper
Dr Edwards	Mr Marlborough	Mrs Roberts
Dr Gallop	Mr McGinty	Mr Thomas
Mr Graham	Ms McHale	Mr Cunningham ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr Grill		

Noes (31)

Mr Ainsworth	Mrs Holmes	Mr Pandal
Mr Baker	Mr House	Mr Prince
Mr Barnett	Mr Johnson	Mr Shave
Mr Board	Mr Kierath	Mr Sullivan
Dr Constable	Mr MacLean	Mr Sweetman
Mr Court	Mr Marshall	Mr Tubby
Mr Cowan	Mr Masters	Dr Turnbull
Mr Day	Mr McNee	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mrs Edwardes	Mr Minson	Mr Wiese
Dr Hames	Mrs Parker	Mr Bloffwitch ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mrs Hodson-Thomas		

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Pairs

Mr McGowan	Mr Nicholls
Ms Warnock	Mr Trenorden
Mr Carpenter	Mr Omodei

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate (on motion, as amended) Resumed*

**MR THOMAS** (Cockburn) [9.27 pm]: I am very pleased to speak at this late stage of the Address-in-Reply and to make the customary comments of a general nature in contributing to this motion.

Apart from speaking to an amendment or two to the Address-in-Reply earlier in the session, this is the first time I have spoken since Parliament resumed. Therefore, I congratulate the Speaker on his election to that position. I would be most appreciative if you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Osborne), would convey my best wishes to him on his elevation to that high office. This is my fourth term in the Parliament, and the current Speaker will be the third Speaker of this House during that time. The then member for Rockingham, Hon Mike Barnett, was Speaker when I was first elected in 1986, and in the last Parliament, of course, Hon Jim Clarko held that position. Both those members acquitted themselves well in that office, so the new Speaker has a substantial tradition to follow. I have every reason to expect that he will acquit himself in the high office to the same high standard as his immediate predecessors.

I first knew Mike Barnett when working in the campaign for the 1974 election, at which he was first elected as the member for Rockingham. That was the only seat, a new electorate, the Labor Party wrested from the conservatives at that election. It was not a good election for us as we lost office at the State level. However, I was very pleased many years later to be elected to Parliament when Mike Barnett was holding the office of Speaker. I knew Jim Clarko some years before his election to Parliament when he was a teacher and his political views were readily apparent to students who differed from his views. Notwithstanding those early differences I was pleased to serve with him in the Parliament and I look forward to the current Speaker following in the same tradition as his predecessors.

Mr Johnson: Was he your teacher?

Mr THOMAS: Yes, he was.

Mr Johnson: He did not teach you well!

Mr THOMAS: To be precise, he was a lecturer in education when I was at teachers' college and a history tutor at the University of Western Australia.

This is the third term I have been elected as member for Cockburn and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to again represent that electorate. It is misleading to say I have been re-elected as the member for Cockburn. Although it is the third time I have been elected to hold the seat named "Cockburn" the new boundaries of the electoral district of Cockburn are substantially different.

Dr Hames: We are pleased to have you back as well.

Mr THOMAS: I am glad the Minister is pleased.

The electoral boundaries are different from those which applied between 1989 and 1996. I pay tribute to, in a sense, my predecessor, the member for Peel, because this is the second occasion I have succeeded him in assuming electoral responsibilities. When I was first elected as member for Cockburn in 1989 I hitherto represented the seat of Welshpool. I took over a district which was completely new to me - it had no boundaries in common with the seat I had previously and my predecessor was the member for Peel who had held the seat which was called "Cockburn", but had a different set of boundaries. I contested the seat which took in parts of the old districts of Melville and Cockburn. I guess the member for Peel could feel somewhat paranoid that I am pushing him south, because this is the second occasion I have assumed responsibility for an electoral district which has taken over part of an area he has hitherto represented. On each occasion I have had to move into a new area to campaign among potential constituents and to make contact with community groups, schools, churches and other groups in the community - which is what one does when one is establishing oneself as a member of Parliament - and subsequently as a member of Parliament servicing that electorate, I found that the member for Peel invariably is well regarded and is usually admired as a person who represents the interests of the electorate well.

I reiterate the last election was the second time I have been through the process of following in the shoes of the member for Peel and I am very pleased to report that to the House. His is a hard act to follow, but it is an act I look forward to very much now that I have the opportunity to do so.

In assuming responsibility for an electoral district which has new boundaries I am also relinquishing areas for which I had responsibility. The northern part of the old electorate of Cockburn has been incorporated in the electorate of Willagee. I congratulate the new member for Willagee, who sits next to me in this Chamber, for taking over areas which were hitherto part of the old electorate of Cockburn. I have been pleased to represent areas such as Coolbellup, Kardinya, Samson and the northern parts of Hamilton Hill which are now in the electorate of Willagee. Although I enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to represent those areas, I am sure they will be in good hands with the new member for Willagee.

I am very pleased to report that for almost all of the areas I contested at the last election I achieved a modest swing over that which I received in the 1993 election or, for areas which I was contesting for the first time, the prior occupant of that position received. There was one notable exception and if the member for Peel were in the Chamber I am sure he would point it out. In most boxes there was a swing to the Labor Party and I am appreciative of that. I do not claim any personal following or credit for it. The Australian Labor Party went to the election with the policies that suit the needs and aspirations of the people of Cockburn, and I will come to that shortly. The fact the Labor Party was able to present those policies to the people of Cockburn in the manner it did, is a reflection on the team of people who supported me. I thank the members of my campaign committee. There are too many people to name individually. My campaign committee was labour intensive rather than capital intensive and I am appreciative of the efforts of those hard working people.

I have already paid tribute to the member for Peel whom I am pleased to have succeeded on two occasions. I also pay tribute to his predecessor, the late Clive Hughes, who was the member for Cockburn and who sadly passed away early in his parliamentary career. He did not have the opportunity to contribute to the district and the Parliament which he undoubtedly would have been able to do had he not passed away. He was well regarded and is remembered in the area and I am sure that is a comfort to his family. The fact he did not live to make a contribution to the community and the Parliament in the manner he would have done is our loss.

The electorate of Cockburn is a very interesting area and is quite distinct from other parts of the metropolitan area. For the most part the local government and electoral boundaries which divide the urban areas are essentially lines on a map. Most of them are relatively arbitrary and it is very difficult on many occasions to ascertain the difference between one side of a boundary and the other. However, there is a very distinct district of Cockburn in the metropolitan area which does not precisely coincide with the electoral boundaries or the local boundaries, but has a discernible geography and history of the area. It is distinct and has produced an area with unique features. Geographically the area of Cockburn lies astride what is known as the Spearwood dune system. It is a series of

dunes, or limestone ridges, which run parallel to the coast from the Moore River, perhaps even further north than that, to Busselton and are most notable in their vegetation for tuart trees. Further south it becomes a tuart forest and is distinct in both a botanical and a geographical sense. Because this series of dunes is a geologically newer dune system they have more fertile soil than the black sand which covers most of the metropolitan area in the inland areas to the east. The fertile soil is quite valuable agriculturally and the area has persisted, more than other metropolitan districts, as an agricultural region into the twentieth century. That, together with its proximity to Fremantle, has meant that there are three components to the Cockburn population. First, there are market gardeners and fishermen, and very often they are members of the same family - families often have both fishing and market gardening interests - and many are of Italian or Croatian descent.

Cockburn lies to the south of Fremantle and for much of this century the electoral district was known as "South Fremantle". At one stage, the local government area of Cockburn was described as the "Shire of Fremantle", as opposed to the "Town of Fremantle". I am sure that that distinction is known to those members who have some knowledge of local government. In addition to the market gardeners and fishermen, a number of people living in the area worked in Fremantle, most notably as waterside workers. Therefore, the population has tended to be fishermen, market gardeners and waterside workers or other people working in the industrial enterprises of Fremantle. They have chosen to live on larger land holdings and often became involved in agricultural activities. As a result, a large number of relatively small holdings were developed.

The area has been further developed and subdivided. Most subdivisions in the metropolitan area were broadacre bush or agricultural land. There was a complete disjunction between the former patterns of land ownership and use and the newer forms of urban subdivision. Unlike those areas, the development of Cockburn has involved smaller subdivisions with lots of five or 10 acres subdivided on an incremental basis. Often as they subdivided their land the original owners retained one or two blocks in the family to pass on to their children or some other family member. Consequently, there has been a continuity in the patterns of land use that is not apparent elsewhere in the metropolitan area. As I travel around my electorate - doorknocking, campaigning and dealing with constituents - I find people living in relatively new houses, but on land that has been in the family for two or three generations. In some of the newer areas, every fifth or sixth house is old. That is the original family home and the other blocks in the street have been built on land subdivided around them.

Traditionally there has been a focus on Fremantle and Cockburn has been seen as an outer suburb of that city. If one looks, as I have, at the geography and the way the area has developed, one sees a pattern of north-south roads focusing initially on Fremantle. As the road system has developed and become more sophisticated, other major roads have been built and that focus has diminished - the freeway is now focused on Perth rather than Fremantle. The newer eastern areas of Cockburn now are developing a different character.

In addition to the traditional agricultural practices in the area, since the Second World War much of the area has been developed for industrial purposes. That has led to one of the current major problems facing the area; that is, the urban frontier or the residential areas are now impinging on the industrial areas. People are now demanding higher standards of urban amenity in residential areas and, as a result, there is the potential for conflict between older industrial uses and the newer urban interests.

Probably the most notable issue that arose during the recent election campaign relates to Jandakot Wool Scouring Co Pty Ltd. The wool scouring industry was established many years ago and by the look of the company's building it was constructed before or shortly after the Second World War. No doubt at the time it was developed it was in the remote bush. The soil in the area is not particularly fertile, so it was obviously not a viable market gardening area. It was established there because it was remote and the odours it produced would not affect people in the immediate vicinity. It was also developed when environmental standards were not as high as they are now. What we now call "wetlands" were known as "swamps", and to have an enterprise such as that next to a swamp was an advantage because the effluent could be discharged into the swamp, which happened for many years during the life of that project.

Alarm has been expressed in the new suburb of Yangebup, which has a strong community association with which I am very pleased to work. The people in the area are very committed to maintaining and enhancing the local quality of life. They were very pleased to learn that the state Department of Commerce and Trade was proposing to establish a new wool industry precinct in the IP-14 area on the outskirts of Rockingham. I am disappointed that the Deputy Premier is not here for this debate because I would like to hear his response to this. That designated industrial area will accommodate industries such as the wool scourers. With new technology there is no need for wool scouring activities to pollute waterways, water tables or the atmosphere. My constituents were alarmed during the election campaign to learn that the Government is backing away from that proposal. They are most concerned that it might leave the Jandakot Wool Scouring Company where it is. Even if that company can use new technology and cease polluting the watertable - which has occurred in the past - and if further new technology can be developed so that it

no longer pollutes the atmosphere, leaving it at that location would still be unacceptable to the residents of Yangebup because of the ambience it creates. It is located now in a residential area on land which is part of the Beeliar Regional Park, one of the jewels of nature conservation in the Perth metropolitan area and between a residential area and a shopping centre. It is totally inappropriate for works such as wool scourers to be located in that position. I do not wish Jandakot Wool Scouring Co Pty Ltd any ill will. It employs approximately 90 people, most of whom come from the area, and I appreciate that it is there. I am not opposed to industry in our area. A large number of industries in the area, for example, Watsonia and Cockburn Cement Ltd, have taken substantial steps to ensure that they are not offensive and do not cause pollution and that they contribute to the community in which they operate. By its nature, the wool scouring company would be better off elsewhere. I hope that the Government continues to persist in relocating the wool scourers to a precinct that is appropriate to that activity.

Another issue which arose during the election campaign related to infrastructure. The Cockburn area, as with most of the south west corridor, lacks infrastructure in comparison with the rest of the metropolitan area. The rest of the metropolitan area has received the most important piece of public transport infrastructure built in the past 50 years - the electrified passenger rail service. The Perth metropolitan electrified rail service is a tribute to the previous Labor Government. People have told me that the best piece of public transport infrastructure in the world is servicing a city like Perth. The level of residential density in Perth overall is very low which makes public transport very uneconomical and difficult to provide. The people of Perth are among the most mobile in the world - Perth has one of the highest rates of private vehicle ownership in the world. In these circumstances, the provision of public transport is difficult. All credit is due to the planners for designing a rail and associated bus system which services Perth in a way which is, as has been put to me by an expert in public transport from Murdoch University, the best in the world for a city with Perth's density. But the missing link is the south west corridor. The south west corridor is unique not only because it does not have a passenger rail service. The Cockburn locality has in it three cities - Mandurah, Rockingham and Fremantle. They are all separate destinations on the coast and a railway should join the three cities and link them with Perth.

As in previous election campaigns, I campaigned on a rail link to the south west corridor. I told the people of Cockburn that the Labor Party, if elected to government, would build a passenger rail service to link the cities of Mandurah, Rockingham and Fremantle with each other and with the rest of Perth in a compatible system. We will not be linking the south west corridor with Perth via Kenwick, as is the Government's option, but via Fremantle. It will be constructed to Rockingham in the life of the first Parliament of the next Labor Government and to Mandurah in the life of the subsequent Labor Government. Everywhere I went people supported that proposal enthusiastically.

Mr Tubby: That is probably why we won Southern River. Do you realise that?

Mr THOMAS: A different corridor, my friend. They are a different breed of people east of the freeway. The concept was enthusiastically embraced. The Liberal Party will continue to find there is no place for it in the south west corridor as long as it ignores the fact that the people of the south west corridor demand the same level of infrastructure that is available in other areas.

One aspect of infrastructure to which I wish to refer in this Address-in-Reply debate is educational facilities. Last year or the year before, I was pleased to attend the opening of the Rockingham campus of Murdoch University and hear the Vice-Chancellor of that university, Steven Schwartz, state on that occasion that it was a special mission for Murdoch University in having a campus at Rockingham to provide services in that area in which there have been no tertiary education facilities and aspirations towards that in the area were low. I was pleased to hear that that university had a mission in that area.

Since the last election, the Opposition has decided to separate the higher education and education portfolios. I have been given the higher education portfolio and I intend to have a profile on that issue. One of the major issues that has arisen this year is the amalgamation of Murdoch and Edith Cowan Universities. There was an article in this morning's *The West Australian* about bickering between the two universities over the Bunbury campus. My view is that Murdoch University, which is the tertiary educational institution for the south west corridor, requires amalgamation with a larger institution to be viable.

Mr Pental: It does or it does not?

Mr THOMAS: It does. The report which was prepared for those institutions has some merit in pointing it in that direction. Lamentably, the Minister showed lack of direction with that issue earlier this year.

Mr Pental: It has now been rejected by Edith Cowan University.

Mr THOMAS: The Minister should show leadership. It is desirable to have some rationalisation of institutions. Murdoch University should amalgamate with some other institution to realise its potential. However, we will discuss that on a later date.

**MRS ROBERTS** (Midland) [9.58 pm]: First, I congratulate the Speaker on his election. I also congratulate the new members on this side of the House - in particular, the members for Thornlie, Rockingham and Willagee. I congratulate also the member for Armadale on her transition from the Legislative Council to the Legislative Assembly. I also briefly wish to mention some friends and colleagues who retired at the last election and thank them for the great contribution they made to the people of Western Australia and, in some cases, to Cabinet. In particular I refer to Hon Kay Hallahan, Hon Yvonne Henderson, Hon David Smith, and Hon Michael Barnett. I offer my commiserations and thanks to Nick Catania, Kevin Leahy and Dr Judyth Watson for the contribution they made to this Parliament and the State of Western Australia in the time they represented their electorates.

In this new Parliament it is the first time I have had the opportunity to give my contribution to the Address-in-Reply as the member for Midland, having previously represented the electorate of Glendalough, which was abolished as a result of the redistribution. Midland is a completely different area for me. I am very pleased to have won that seat and to be well and truly ensconced to represent the electorate. I earnestly take on the task for the next four years. I have also been given three significant positions of authority in this House, all of which are roles traditionally undertaken by men in our Parliaments. They are the position of secretary of our Caucus, the leader of opposition business in this House and the opposition spokesperson for police and emergency services. Women have never or rarely held those positions, particularly in an area like police and emergency services. I am not aware of any other Parliament in Australia where women have taken on the role of leader of opposition business or government business. There may be one or two rare examples of women having been the secretary of Caucus or in a position with a similar title with conservatives, which is probably secretary of the parliamentary meeting or whatever Hon Bill Stretch is.

Mr Prince: He is secretary to the coalition parties.

Mrs ROBERTS: I am not aware of any women having undertaken that role. A long line of Labor Party members have served as secretary to the Labor Party Caucus. May Holman may have served in that position many years ago. I am honoured to take on all of these positions. I am also proud of my parliamentary colleagues and leader for supporting me in these roles, to which women have rarely been appointed regardless of their party and whether in opposition or government. I thank my parliamentary colleagues and my leader for the considerable faith they have shown in my undertaking those positions.

None of the positions is particularly easy. I reflected first on why women had not traditionally taken any of those roles. One answer - that women have not sought to take on those roles - may be partly true. Another is that women do not traditionally come to the Parliament at a younger age with perhaps the experience, confidence or length of service within their party to take up those kinds of positions. Another reason is the very long term imbalance of the genders in the Parliament where men have dominated for a long period of history. Another of course is the stereotyping of women into portfolios and positions, even once elected, which are seen more traditionally as women's roles, in areas such as caring and nurturing portfolios, including education, community services and even health.

It is also worth looking at the kinds of role models that are provided to women in public life. There are no women role models, such as being leader of opposition business in this House. One of the first gratuitous remarks made by one of the coalition members when I was first elected was to advise me to stick to my knitting. It was made when I dared to interject on a planning matter and suggest that the problem with the ministerial appeals process was that it depended on the integrity of the Minister. The member had the audacity to tell me that I should stick to what I know about. I know more about planning than knitting. The remark was typical of the usual stereotype of women made by some men in this House. What counts is one's ability to do a job and the merit one brings to a position. I am a very strong believer in merit being the determining factor when selecting anyone for a position. Those kinds of sexist and demeaning remarks have no position in this House.

Mr Johnson: We agree with you.

Mrs ROBERTS: I also contemplated whether as a woman I might bring something different to the role in those positions. It is a matter of looking at the life experience of women. By and large women have different life experiences, some more than others. I also looked at how others react to women taking on those kinds of roles. When our leader put that to me in the area of police, it gave me some cause for concern. It has traditionally been a very masculine area, and people's reaction to that is not always good. When looking at how people react, one must look at the broad spectrum, including the media and community reactions. Unfortunately many in the past have looked at women taking on these kinds of positions as something of a novelty. That will not change until many more women take up these kinds of traditional male positions. I do not, however, have any brief to feminise Parliament or politics. I do not see it as my role. A better phrase would be to neutralise politics and Parliament. At present it is a very masculine domain with some very masculine biases.

When looking at the police my thought was that if there were one area which had a greater masculine aura than the Parliament, it would probably be the area of police work. Looking in some detail now at the levels of women in the

Police Service, especially in senior positions, leads me to the conclusion that women at a senior position in the Police Service are even more novel than women at a senior level in politics.

Mr Johnson: That is understandable. Very often it would take a man to restrain a hardened criminal. He would find it easier than a woman.

Mrs ROBERTS: The member will find his views are a little old-fashioned and perhaps not supported even by our current Commissioner of Police.

Mr Day: At the last graduation probably half the graduates were young women.

Mrs ROBERTS: Excellent progress has been made in recruiting women police officers. I know that Commissioner Falconer has been promoting the recruitment of women quite effectively. One article I looked at was from the "Police News" of December 1995. It referred to Pauline Clare, who was Britain's first woman chief constable. The article reads -

. . . she has been appointed boss cocky of the Lancashire county force - has attracted vast media attention.

Not because her qualifications are in doubt, but because she is the first woman in what has been traditionally considered a male preserve.

For that reason the appointment has tended to concentrate media attention more on gender rather than what the appointee will bring to the job, which was won in a fair and square battle with a group of well qualified applicants.

It took the UK Police Federation magazine Police to see beyond the hype and work out what the person behind the new appointment will come up with as far as the day to day business of being a copper is concerned.

More men and women in blue will be pleased with the outcome than displeased.

For a start Pauline Clare is not promising the earth; all things are not possible, she says and it is necessary to work as closely as possible to a list of priorities. That means you may not be pleasing everyone, but at least junior personnel should respect the pronouncement for its basic honesty.

But the quote which really impressed this writer was so simple in its basic honesty: "if I have to take an unpopular decision, I will take it, but I will also tell people why."

Reference is made to the Western Australia Police Service. The article states -

Instead of following the WA police chief's policy that the community should become more responsible for its own security, she has come out in support of Special Constables.

That's not exactly an idea which has WA coppers boiling over with enthusiasm. Perhaps it is not surprising the support should come from a British copper, for "Specials" have been a fact of policing life there for decades.

However, WA coppers would quite rightly challenge the concept of amateurs trying to fill in policing gaps, while even Pauline Clare sees the danger of letting private security into the police arena.

Probably like Bob Falconer, Lancashire's new top cop is not exactly anticipating a leap in funding levels, but she is determined to see more patrols on the streets because that's what the customers are yelling for.

Some interesting comparisons can be made between the problems confronting her in her jurisdiction in Lancashire and those confronting us currently, especially relating to people who have not trained as police officers but undertake policing work.

Mr Johnson: Special constables work very well in the UK, and they are trained. They are not sworn officers but they do an excellent job. They are often accompanied by sworn police officers and take on patrol work, walking through city centres, checking doors, and checking that crime is not occurring.

Mrs ROBERTS: The article suggests that they work effectively in England.

I was impressed by the fact that Pauline Clare was determined to see more patrols because that was what her customers were yelling for. That is what people in the electorate of Midland and elsewhere are yelling for. They want more police on the streets doing patrols. Most people believe in the effectiveness of that.

The most senior policewoman in Australia is Christine Nixon, an assistant commissioner in New South Wales. She is, of course, trend-setting by taking on a senior position in Australian policing. I took the opportunity to compare some statistics of other professions which have been traditionally male dominated. In politics, the number of women has been increasing steadily. I understand that in the Federal Parliament, across both Houses, 20 per cent of members are women. In our Legislative Assembly 20 per cent of members are women, and in the Council the figure is 11 per cent, which takes us to about 17 per cent overall. In the Australian senior executive service the percentage of women has also dramatically increased from only 4 per cent some 10 years ago to 18 per cent currently. In other decision-making roles on commonwealth boards, for example, women make up more than 30 per cent of members. I believe that figure is lower at a state level, and that only 5 per cent of members of private sector boards are women.

Mr Johnson: The UK had one of the best prime ministers for many years, in Margaret Thatcher -

Mrs ROBERTS: - whose maiden name was Roberts.

Mr Johnson: She must be a relative.

Mrs ROBERTS: Perhaps she is a relative of my in-laws.

Mr Johnson: I always thought she was the best man for the job.

Mrs ROBERTS: I could say a lot about Margaret Thatcher, none of which is complimentary.

I looked up some Australia-wide police statistics relating to the level of women in the various forces. The latest figures available Australia-wide in mid-1995 indicate that 13.5 per cent of sworn officers in Australia were women. Across Australia women are joining the Police Force in increasing numbers but they do not enjoy the same retention rates as their male colleagues. They begin to leave in greater proportions than do their male colleagues from the first year of training.

Mr Johnson: Many of them get married and have babies.

Mrs ROBERTS: Again, the member for Hillarys has a very old-fashioned view of life.

Mr Johnson: It is a fact that many of them leave and do not bother to come back. They could if they wanted to, but they do not bother.

Mrs ROBERTS: I will explain why some women do not come back and why we should provide a more nurturing and encouraging environment for women to return to all work forces, but particularly to police work, after they have had children. Most women now return to work of some description. Unfortunately, some of the women who have cost \$55 000 to train do not return to work in the policing area.

Mr Barnett: The points you make, to some extent, reflect a generation. I understand that in law faculties more than 50 per cent are women, and in medical faculties generally more than half are women. Therefore, the balance you seek, and I support, is about 15 years away, as they go through.

Mrs ROBERTS: My point is that the Police Service is behind all other areas. Law is another area where men traditionally have dominated, and where women have not achieved positions at the senior level, perhaps at the level of magistrates and higher. Law has undergone a remarkable change, but little change has occurred in senior positions in the Police Service, particularly in Western Australia. The Leader of the House may find the statistics alarming.

The mid-1995 Australia-wide figures indicate that women made up 27 per cent of probationary constables, 20 per cent of constables, 13 per cent of senior constables, 4 per cent of sergeants, 3 per cent of senior sergeants, and less than 2 per cent of senior executive positions. The raw figures are more alarming: Less than 2 per cent of senior executives Australia-wide in 1995 were women and only 28 policewomen occupied commissioned ranks compared with 1 724 policemen. I compared that situation with Western Australia. These figures were up-to-date on 28 February this year: In the senior executive ranks in the WA Police Service there are four men and no women. Those ranks are the commissioner, the deputy commissioner and two assistant commissioners. At the executive level, there are four male commanders. In the other commissioned ranks of superintendents and inspectors there are 85 men and no women. Australia-wide in the commissioned ranks there are 28 policewomen; in Western Australia two years later there are none. In 1995 Australia-wide 4 per cent of sergeants were women, and currently about 2 per cent of sergeants in Western Australia are women, less than 2 per cent are senior sergeants, less than 2 per cent are sergeants first class, and about 2.5 per cent are sergeants. The raw figures indicate there are only 21 women compared with 931 men holding the rank of sergeant.

It is a different story at the rank of constable. At the level of senior constable Australia-wide the figure was 13 per cent in 1995. In Western Australia just under 8 per cent of senior constables within the WA Police Service are



women, which lags behind the Australia-wide figures, which are some two years old. Across the board across all constables, the figure is about 15.6 per cent.

Mr Barnett: Do you know what the proportions are with regard to applicants for the Police Force?

Mrs ROBERTS: No, but that is not the issue that I am raising. The figures for the number of recruits and the number of first year constables indicate that we are doing a good job in recruiting but we are not doing a good job in retaining police officers. That is the point of comparison that I want to make.

I do not have a particular ideological bent for appointing women to positions for the sake of appointing women or for promoting women at the expense of men, but there are some practical reasons for concern that no women are in the senior levels of our Police Service. The Police Force should reflect the community that it serves. The Police Force should also use all of its resources, both financial and human, to best effect. At this time, we are not using to best effect the human resources of the women who join our Police Service.

The cost of training a police officer is in the order of \$55 000. One could say it is almost a crime to let so many women slip away from the Police Service after spending some \$55 000 on training them. We need to make best use of all the skills, talents and training that we put into our women police officers.

The effect of this issue at the operational level was raised in a document entitled "An Investigation Into Issues Raised By FBIS International Pty Ltd In The Assessment Reports Provided To The Commissioner Of The Western Australia Police Service", in June 1996. Recommendation 25 of the report states -

That the need to have female members present, where practicable, when male members are dealing with female witnesses or offenders be reinforced throughout WAPOL.

That recommendation highlights the fact that women police officers need to be available for both witnesses and offenders. It is an operational matter, and the figures about the rate at which we are losing senior women within our police ranks mean that we are not maximising our use of those resources.

Mrs van de Klashorst: What needs to be done to keep them?

Mrs ROBERTS: I am about to deal with that.

There has been a failure to recognise the value of women in policing. Many of the problems faced by women police officers are similar to the problems that are faced by women in other areas of endeavour, yet they are magnified. Most women, whether in police work or in other work, want equal rights and a fair go - no special treatment. The Western Australia Police Service should have a long, hard look at its work practices and conditions and at the reasons that it has failed to encourage and nurture women within the Police Service.

One matter which has an impact is police transfers and country service. This is proving a problem for women police officers, just as it has been in the past for women teachers and other professional people, when the husband is working in the Perth metropolitan area and is unprepared to move to a country area to follow his wife's career. A person in the Police Service who does not accept a transfer will, more often than not, be unable to continue in the Police Service. That area must be looked at. Transfers are a problem not just for women but also for men, because in this day and age many mortgages require two incomes to service them. I am told that increasingly women who are helping their husbands to service their mortgage are also unable to go to the country with their husbands and that some of the police wives are being left in Perth while their husbands do country service. That means that car loads of police are travelling to Perth each weekend, and that is not particularly helpful to the police in country areas either.

The Police Service must make arrangements which are more up to date and flexible. It is no longer good enough just to say, "What a shame that people are leaving the Police Service," because many good officers, some men and many women, are leaving because of the way that their workplace operates, and many of them are leaving because of the transfer system. I am told that at the moment an extraordinary number of police officers are on extended stress leave. Some of the reasons that have been listed are the uncertainty of promotion; the dangerous nature of policing; the rapid organisational changes in policing that have occurred over the past few years; and the lack of a caring attitude on the part of those who are in authority or are administering our Police Service. I do not make that comment lightly; it reflects comments that have been made to me in the past month by people who are considering leaving or have left the WA Police Service. They feel that their contribution has not been valued, or that they have been dealt with unfairly in the transfer system.

A comparison of the 1995 and 1996 annual reports, under the heading "Equal Opportunity", indicates that the number of grievances is increasing. In 1995, there were 34 complaints - 10 for administrative decisions, eight for unfavourable reports, nine for transfers, and seven for the advance selection system. In 1996, 76 grievances were received. The main areas of grievance were advance process 30, up from seven; transfer 16, up from nine;

administrative decisions 15; general decisions - for example, reliefs, secondments, etc - seven; and other grievances, eight. Those figures reflect the effect of organisational change and the fact that people are finding the working conditions and transfer system within the Police Force more difficult.

In concluding, I sincerely ask the Police Minister to do what he can to address the problem of women leaving the Police Service in proportionately great numbers.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [10.28 pm]: On behalf of the Premier and members of the Government, I thank members on both sides of the House for their contributions to the Address-in-Reply. It is traditionally an important debate, particularly for new members of Parliament, because it provides an opportunity for them to make an inaugural speech to this Parliament. I do not need to reflect on all the issues raised. As is traditional, the Address-in-Reply debate, which has gone on for two weeks and one day, canvassed a wide range of issues in the community. During the course of this year we will review a lot of the procedures and practices of this House. I think all members would agree that general debate such as we have seen is desirable. It allows the Opposition, in particular, to raise issues and to debate them at some length. However, if we were all fair to each other we would have to consider whether having that debate in one continuous two week period is in the best interests of the Parliament. Perhaps it would be better to have more opportunities on a regular basis rather than extended periods of this type of debate. I thank members for their contribution and look forward to proceeding with some legislation.

Question (motion, as amended) put and passed; the Address-in-Reply, as amended, thus adopted.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY**

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [10.29 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

I make the observation, for the benefit of members opposite, that it is more pleasant to leave at 10.30 pm than at 11.00 pm!

Government members: Hear, hear!

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.30 pm*

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****SCHOOLS - PRIMARY***Landsdale - Construction*

9. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

With regard to the proposed temporary primary school in Landsdale to be constructed by a private company -

- (a) what rent will be payable by the Education Department to the owner of the school;
- (b) how long will the Department lease the school for;
- (c) does the Government intend building a permanent primary school in Landsdale and, if so, when; and
- (d) in the long term, how much money does the Government estimate it will save?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) At this stage, expressions of interest only have been called. Until such time as a contract is entered into, it is not possible to advise the rent which will be payable by the Education Department.
- (b) It is proposed to lease the school for a period of approximately 12 years.
- (c) There are four primary school sites in the locality of Landsdale. It is likely that permanent schools will be constructed on three of these sites within the next 15 to 20 years. Depending upon the rates of residential development, the first permanent school could be built within the next seven to eight years.
- (d) This information will not be available until a contract has been negotiated and will also depend upon the sale price of the school site after the closure of the school.

**MINISTER FOR LANDS - PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES**

33. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

What is the name of each committee, board, tribunal and all other similar bodies within the Minister's portfolios?

Mr SHAVE replied:

The Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs portfolio does not include any committee, board, tribunal or similar body.

The Lands portfolio has -

Land Surveyors Licensing Board, Pastoral Board.  
Western Australian Land Authority, trading as LandCorp.

The Fair Trading portfolio has -

Builders' Registration Board  
Building Disputes Committee  
Charitable Collections Advisory Committee  
Consumer Products Safety Committee  
Finance Brokers Control Board  
Home Buyers Assistance Advisory Committee  
Land Valuers Licensing Board  
Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Board  
Painters' Registration Board  
Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board  
Retail Shops Advisory Committee  
Settlement Agents Supervisory Board

**GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE**

55. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) In relation to all real estate (land and buildings) sold within the Minister's portfolios in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years -

- (a) where was the real estate situated (giving the actual address of the land and building);
- (b) for what amount was the real estate sold;
- (c) when, if ever, was the most recent valuation of the real estate conducted; and
- (d) what was the value of the real estate according to the valuation?

(2) What real estate within the Minister's portfolios is currently for sale or in the process of being sold?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Western Australian Electoral Commission:

(1)-(2) The Western Australian Electoral Commission does not own any real estate nor has it sold any real estate in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years.

Ministry of Fair Trading:

(1)-(2) Nil.

Department of Land Administration:

(1)-(2) The Department of Land Administration has sold innumerable parcels of land in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years. These include whole and part lots and locations, closed roads, pedestrian access ways, developed and subdivided land, reserves and various parcels of vacant crown land. The department also converts crown leases into freehold title and undertakes land conveyancing on behalf of other government agencies. I am not prepared to commit the required resources to research the extensive details required. However, if the member could be more specific about particular land parcels or transactions, I may be able to provide the information.

LandCorp:

- (1) LandCorp is the State Government's land development arm and is in the business of acquiring, developing and selling land and associated infrastructure.
  - (a) LandCorp's role as a land developer generates a large number of transactions for the sale of real estate. While detailed records are maintained they are voluminous and would require the application of significant resources to generate the requested information. However, if the member could be more specific about particular land parcels or transactions I may be able to provide the information.
  - (b)

1995-96	\$63.8m
1996-97	\$31.6m
  - (c) Valuations are obtained immediately prior to the date of release of land and revised internally quarterly thereafter.
  - (d) Refer to (a).
- (2) The real estate held by LandCorp is held with the intention of its ultimate disposal.

## LAND - NATIONAL FOREST RESERVES

### *Government Policy*

74. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Under the Commonwealth Government's new national forest reserves policy -
  - (a) which reserves in Western Australia are, or are likely to be, dedicated reserves; and
  - (b) which reserves in Western Australia are, or are likely to be, informal reserves?
- (2) What, if any, formal system exists under which Western Australia has an input into decisions concerning the classification of national reserves situated in Western Australia under the policy?
- (3) Which forest reserves in Western Australia are the subject of negotiations under the national forest agreement policy?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) The national forest policy is a joint process involving all States and Territories and the Commonwealth Government. Under this policy a set of 'Nationally Agreed Criteria for the Establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System for Forests in Australia' has been developed jointly by all jurisdictions. These criteria are in final draft form, awaiting endorsement by the relevant ministerial councils. These criteria, when approved, will be used for the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system in the regional forest agreement. Under these criteria -
  - (a) dedicated reserves are those which are equivalent to categories I, II, III and IV as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature - known as the "World Conservation Union" - Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas (1994);
  - (b) informal reserves are those which are approved under secure tenure and management arrangements; that is, within approved forest management plans - and which are set aside for conservation purposes and meet the following principles -
 

they are established in approved management plans and managed accordingly; there is an opportunity for public comment on changes to reserve boundaries; they are able to be accurately identified on maps; they are of an area and design sufficient to maintain the values they seek to protect.
- (2) There is no such thing as a 'national reserve'. See answer (1). Decisions concerning the classification of forest reserves for the purpose of CAR assessments will be made jointly by the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments.
- (3) The regional forest agreement negotiations cover all classes of forest reserve within the RFA zone boundaries.

#### SCHOOLS - LAND SALES

##### *Perth Modern Senior High School*

87. Mr RIPPER to the to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What planned improvements were used to justify the sale by Perth Modern Senior High School of a portion of the school's land?
- (2) What improvements will actually be funded from the proceeds of the land sale?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) No land sales have occurred at Perth Modern Senior High School. However proposals have been put forward by the school to sell a portion of the site to fund improvements to the buildings and to purchase additional high tech equipment.

#### SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

##### *Ballajura - Facilities*

88. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is a teacher teaching at Ballajura Primary School required to teach in a so called "wet area"?
- (2) Is yes, why?
- (3) Is such a situation regarded as appropriate from an occupational health and safety perspective?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The full school decision making body made a decision to increase by one the number of classes offering a teaching program by utilising part of the "wet area". By adhering to the centralised formula-based allocation of 21 classes, the school faced the prospect of having many split or mixed year classes because of its particular configuration of student numbers. It was proposed that an additional teaching area, if introduced, would eliminate the need for any split classes to operate this year. In recognising that its total student

numbers would make the school ineligible for a transportable classroom, the school has made the decision to utilise the space provided in the west area for a further classroom. The decision has the full support of the staff, including the teacher using the area. The school reports that it has received neither verbal nor written complaint from any member of the school community.

- (3) The wet area is a fully enclosed and tiled room. It is over twice the size of normal classrooms, and has all the facilities of a classroom. The extent of the suitability of a wet area for teaching from an occupational health and safety perspective depends upon the range of activities undertaken. It is considered that normal classroom activities under the control of a teacher do not present any occupational safety or health hazard.

## EDUCATION - PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

### *Changes*

91. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will the priorities schools program continue in its current form beyond 1997?
- (2) If not, what changes will be made to this program?
- (3) Will the Minister guarantee that there will be no reduction in the total payments currently received by disadvantaged schools benefiting from this program?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The commonwealth programs for schools guidelines have been changed for the period 1997-2000. The priority schools program is now broad banded under the literacy program and there may be a need to realign the priority schools program to meet the new guidelines.
- (3) No.
- (4) The full impact of the changes to the commonwealth programs for schools and the long term effect of a change to the allocation mechanism for funding has not yet been determined.

## EDUCATION - CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

### *School Buildings - Roof Replacement*

94. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister specify the project by project savings in the Education Department's capital works budget which will fund the additional \$15m the Government has promised to spend to speed up the replacement of roofs on Western Australian government school buildings?

Mr BARNETT replied:

No. The additional funding will be met from savings of \$2m per year which will result from the implementation of asset management strategies such as schools in houses and various lease options. Additionally, \$1m will be made available annually from the school rationalisation trust fund following the sale of surplus school sites and other asset disposals.

## SCHOOLS - BUILDINGS

### *Roof Replacement - Funds*

95. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

Will the Government's program to speed up the replacement of roofs on Western Australian Government school buildings be in any way funded by sales of the assets of schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Yes. \$1m will be made available annually from the school rationalisation trust fund for the program. The funds will result from the sale of surplus school sites and other asset disposals.

## SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

*Bellevue - Undercover Area*

100. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can the Minister advise when it is anticipated that work will commence on Bellevue Primary School undercover area?
- (2) Why has there been a delay?
- (3) When is the anticipated completion date for Bellevue Primary's undercover area?
- (4) What consideration is being given for a multi-purpose facility for Bellevue Primary?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Work is expected to commence on the covered assembly area at Bellevue Primary School towards the end of May this year.
- (2) The tender dates for a number of projects in the 1997-98 capital works program have been adjusted to ensure that the budgeted expenditure for the program is achieved at 30 June 1997.
- (3) It is anticipated that the covered assembly area will be completed by October this year.
- (4) While the provision of a multi-purpose facility will be considered in the formulation of future capital works programs, it is not possible at this time to indicate definitely when the facility will be provided.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS - RETAIL SHOPS

*Price Surveillance*

101. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Does the ministry carry out any price surveillance checks on groceries and other household items in retail shops in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the ministry, or its predecessor, ever carried out such price surveillance?
- (3) Does the Commonwealth Government still carry out price surveillance checks?
- (4) If the State Government does not carry out price surveillance checks, why not?
- (5) Would the Minister consider reinstituting price surveillance checks?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not that I am aware.
- (4) It was an election commitment to discontinue price monitoring.
- (5) No.

## LAND - MINIM COVE, MOSMAN PARK

*Tender Process*

112. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

In relation to -

- (a) subdivision planning design; and
- (b) subdivision landscape design,

at Minim Cove, Mosman Park on behalf of LandCorp -

- (i) was a tender process utilized;
- (ii) when were tenders advertised;
- (iii) how were the tenders advertised; and
- (iv) if a tender system was not utilised how were the positions determined?

Mr SHAVE replied:

The positions were part of a lump sum fee proposal for the rezoning, subdivision design and landscaping design for the overall Minim Cove development at Mosman Park put forward by Graham Emery & Associates to LandCorp and the Octennial Holdings as the joint proponents. Landvision was the nominated subconsultant for planning and Landscan was the nominated subconsultant for landscaping. LandCorp and Octennial Holdings elected to use the same consultants on planning and landscaping to achieve efficiency of design and agreed to share the costs as a proportion of land area basis.

#### EDUCATION - LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

##### *Report - Consultation*

118. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When will the Education Department make public its report on the teaching of languages other than English?
- (2) What community consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report?
- (3) How was this consultation process undertaken?
- (4) Who was consulted?
- (5) Will the use of this consultation process continue?
- (6) What form will any future consultation process take?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There is no such report. The Education Department does have a policy on the teaching of languages other than English, which has been a public document for the last two years - since March 1995.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

#### EDUCATION - TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

##### *Language Studies*

120. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister take appropriate steps to ensure that all courses offered by tertiary institutions will make the study of at least one language other than English mandatory requirement for a basic first degree?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The study of languages other than English is in keeping with promoting multiculturalism and increasing the internationalisation of higher education. However it is not for me, as Minister for Education to direct the universities, as autonomous institutions, in regard to curriculum issues such as this. Making study of a language compulsory would be a major policy change for the universities which have moved away from a core curriculum in many fields of study towards more diversity of choice. It would also have significant resource and staffing implications as there is currently only a very small percentage of university students undertaking language studies; for example, in 1966 only 1.5 per cent of WA students undertook language studies as a major.

#### EDUCATION - TRAINING PROGRAMS

##### *Cross-Cultural*

121. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

What cross cultural training programs does the Education Department have in place at -

- (i) Central Office level;
- (ii) District Office level;
- (iii) metropolitan primary and secondary school level; and
- (iv) country and regional primary and secondary school level?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (i)-(iv) An Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training program for the education sector has been jointly developed by the Education Department, Catholic Education Office, Association of Independent Schools and the



Aboriginal Education and Training Council. The Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University was contracted to design this course based on their "Ways of Working with Aboriginal People" program. The program has been successfully trialed with graduate teachers from the Moora Education District. The Education Department will now focus on offering the package to a small number of education districts with schools that have relatively large numbers of Aboriginal students. It is anticipated that the program will be expanded in ensuing years to include all education districts and central office staff. Non-government schools will be delivering the same program to their staff.

Cross-cultural training programs addressing other cultures have not been developed for delivery in the Education Department. However, skills gained through the Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training program will also assist staff to work more effectively with people from different cultures.

## IMMIGRATION - EDUCATION

### *Schools - Information*

123. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have the respective Intensive Language Centres taken steps to inform the parents of culturally and linguistically diverse background children that -
  - (a) they have a right, like mainstream parents, to select the school of their choice for their children;
  - (b) they do not have the right to cross school boundaries just as mainstream parents do; and
  - (c) they have the right to request their child to remain in available language support classes provided at the schools which have Intensive Language Centres?
- (2) In what form is this information, if any, provided?
- (3) Will the Education Department provide written information relating to these rights in multi-lingual form and distribute it to -
  - (a) Migrant Resource Centres;
  - (b) Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia; and
  - (c) all other non-English speaking background ethnic minority groups and organisations?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a) Yes. On enrolment at intensive language centres, parents are informed of the options available to them in making choices regarding their child's education.
- (b) On enrolment, parents of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are informed that, after their child completes the language program at an ILC, the child has the right to attend an English as a second language support program nearest to where the family resides. This may require the parents making an application to the District Education Office for an across boundary transfer. This is consistent with the process available to all parents seeking to access specialist programs across school boundaries.
- (c) On completion of the language program at an ILC, parents and students are informed of continuing language support available to them in ESL support programs closest to where the family resides. In special circumstances, and in consultation with the host schools, students may be given permission to transfer into an ESL support program at the same host school. In that event, parents must seek permission by application for an across boundary transfer through their District Education Office.
- (2) This information is given in face-to-face interviews between the deputy principal ILC and parents and with an interpreter present on enrolment and again on exit from ILCs. Some ILCs provide this information in multilingual information packages for their centres. Several ILCs follow up this information in public forums held for parents at the centres. Some ILCs send a follow up letter to parents in the home language reiterating the information regarding the options for their child's schooling.
- (3) (a)-(c) General information regarding ESL programs for eligible students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is made available, in standard English, by the Education Department to all agencies on request. This information is not made available in multilingual

form; translation is the responsibility of the requesting agency. Each year, ESL program information is distributed by the Education Department to agencies, including Migrant Resource Centres and the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia.

## EDUCATION - VOCATIONAL COURSES

### *Ethnic Students*

127. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What specific vocational education courses, to meet the needs of students of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, have been implemented for -
  - (a) those of compulsory school age; and
  - (b) those of post-compulsory school age, in -
    - (i) 1994;
    - (ii) 1995; and
    - (iii) 1996,
 are planned for 1977?
- (2) Which schools have provided these courses?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a) The specific vocational education courses for those of compulsory school age are as follows -
 

Year 8 - Vocational Education; Orientation Unit.  
 Year 9 - Vocational Education; Changes and Choices.  
 Year 10 - Vocational Education; Decisions.

All courses are adapted by schools to meet the needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- (b) The vocational education courses for those of post-compulsory school age are as follows -
  - (i) 30 schools offered 34 vocational courses to 390 students.
  - (ii) 53 schools offered 76 vocational courses to 1 014 students.
  - (iii) 59 schools offered 100 vocational courses to 1 336 students.

If the date in the question was intended to be 1997, there are 65 schools offering 112 vocational courses to 2 140 students. Schools adapt the vocational programs to meet the needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- (2) More than 60 per cent of schools provide these courses. Lists of the schools and details of each of the courses are obtainable from the Secondary Education Authority.

## EDUCATION - HOME SCHOOLING

131. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the current policy with regard to the monitoring of students who are undertaking their schooling at home with their parents?
- (2) How many officers or full time equivalents are involved in the monitoring of these students?
- (3) What is the annual cost to the Education Department of Western Australia's budget for undertaking this monitoring program?
- (4) What outcomes or benefits are there to students undertaking home schooling from this monitoring program?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Parents have the right to provide their children with an efficient education, however, it is the responsibility of the Education Department to monitor its quality. This is done by making an initial assessment of individual home school programs in relation to the outcomes appropriate for each student, as required for government school students; and evaluating the program while it is in operation. This requirement is for each year of operation.

- (2) There are no officers specifically allocated to home schooling. In districts, an officer is allocated home schooling in addition to his or her normal duties. To assist districts with 10 or more home schooling students, one teacher relief day is provided for each student. A number of districts combine to pool these days to contract out the operations of home schooling in their area. Contracts are usually taken by retired superintendents or principals.
- (3) In 1996, there were 895 allocated days, the equivalent of \$134 250. Travel undertaken by non-departmental personnel is included in this figure. Travel undertaken by district officers is incorporated as part of normal district expenditure, as are clerical or administrative duties associated with home schooling.
- (4) The Government's position is that students being provided schooling at home have the same right as other students to receive an efficient education. Home schooling programs are monitored in relation to the Education Department's outcomes that aim to develop in students the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve their potential and contribute to society. The monitoring of home schooling programs is to ensure that all students are given these opportunities.

#### TAWEEL, MICHAEL AND GEORGETTE - SUPREME COURT CHALLENGE

132. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Who were the lawyers engaged to act on behalf of the Minister in the Supreme Court challenge to the FOI Commissioner's ruling on behalf of Michael and Georgette Taweel?
- (2) What was the total cost for all legal services provided by the Crown Solicitor's Office in support of this appeal?
- (3) What was the total of all costs for legal services provided by contract lawyers in pursuing this Court action on behalf of the Minister?
- (4) Were any costs awarded against the Crown following the failure of this legal action by the Minister?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Mr Wayne Martin QC supported by Crown Solicitor's Office.
- (2) The Crown Solicitor's Office carried the costs of the matter.
- (3) The cost of engaging counsel at the Bar was \$5 690.
- (4) No.

#### EDUCATION - NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

##### *Financial Assistance*

143. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did the Government increase its financial commitment to non-government schools in its first term of office?
- (2) If so, what was the increase in percentage and dollar terms?
- (3) Does the Government intend to further increase its financial commitment to non-government schools?
- (4) What further financial commitment does the Government intend to make to non-Government schools in its second term of office?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Between 1993/94 and 1996/97, funding to non-government schools increased by \$33.5m or 39 per cent. These figures include both capital and recurrent funding.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) An additional \$6m in recurrent funding over four years, excluding allowances for enrolment growth and indexation, has been committed. Subject to finalisation of the 1997/98 Budget, provision has been made for an interest subsidy to at least maintain the current level of capital funding.

## EDUCATION - COORDINATED HEALTH POLICY

146. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government intend to implement a coordinated health policy in schools?
- (2) What steps have been taken to implement the policy?
- (3) When will the coordinated policy be implemented?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No. It is appropriate that schools develop their own policies in areas such as health. The Education Department provides policies and guidelines on a range of health issues such as smoking, first aid and the administration of medication to assist schools to manage student health issues. Curriculum materials such as the Health Education K-10 Syllabus and the HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Education (Child Abuse and Neglect) supplements provide assistance to teachers in the implementation of school programs to promote health to students.

The Education Department also works collaboratively with the Health Department and other agencies in the production of policies and guidelines on health issues such as the Guidelines for Developing School Drug Policy by the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

New policies and guidelines on health related issues are developed in consultation with appropriate agencies as needs arise.

- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

## EDUCATION - TEACHERS

*Accommodation*

171. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that some highly qualified teachers in computer studies and multi-media do not have an office with either -
  - (a) a power point; or
  - (b) a computer?
- (2) What steps does the Government intend to take to ensure -
  - (a) teachers are provided with appropriate office accommodation and facilities to enable them to prepare lessons; and
  - (b) students are provided with reasonable access to computers?
- (3) Will the Minister initiate an immediate review of teacher/office accommodation to determine the level of offices poorly equipped?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)
  - (a) Yes.
  - (b) Yes. The decisions about the location of computers in schools are a matter for each school to determine.
- (2)
  - (a) The provision of the preparation areas for all teachers is considered when existing schools are upgraded. Minor improvements such as the provision of power points can be undertaken by schools using minor works funding.
  - (b) As part of the Computers in Classrooms program in government schools, \$20m over three years has been allocated to improve both the access to computers and the educational use of computers in the curriculum. A further \$17.8m has been allocated by the Government over the next four years to provide at least 5 000 additional computers in the base allocation to schools and to substantially improve the student-computer ratio by 2001. In addition, the School Grant will be progressively increased to allow schools to update older computers and to provide appropriate professional development for teachers on the use of computers in the curriculum.

- (3)-(4) No. The adequacy of the preparation areas for teachers is examined as a matter of routine when existing schools are upgraded.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - SCHOOL CLEANING

##### *Quirk Corporate Cleaning Australia*

180. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* newspaper on 11 February 1997 concerning Quirk Corporate Cleaning Australia Pty Ltd being dismissed from another school as a result of poor cleaning standards?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in the same article the manager of Quirk Contract cleaning services claimed the company was experiencing staff problems?
- (3) Is it true that Quirk Contract cleaning services legally pays its people significantly less than the award rate by employing them on workplace agreements?
- (4) Is it true that part of the difficulties the company is having in maintaining cleaning standards relates to the abysmal pay cleaners are receiving under workplace agreements?
- (5) Is it equally true that the Government's contracting out policy, which pushes quotes to the lowest possible price, ultimately results in workers receiving lower terms and conditions of employment and the quality of work slipping or declining?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Quirk Corporate Cleaning Pty Ltd has not been dismissed "from another school as a result of poor cleaning standards". *The West Australian* on Monday, 10 February 1997 reported that the company had failed a cleaning inspection. In fact, the same day the article was published, the company passed the follow-up inspection with cleaning standards meeting contractual requirements or better.
- (2) Yes.
- (3)-(4) As far as I am aware, Quirk Corporate Cleaning Pty Ltd operates legally within the framework of Industrial Relations within Western Australia. Any questions relating to the company's employment practices should be directed to the company itself.
- (5) No. The selection of cleaning contractors to work in schools is based on an evaluation methodology which provides for the best value for money.

Price is an important factor, but it is not the only factor in the evaluation methodology used to identify successful tenderers for school cleaning contracts. Some of the other factors are - compliance with state industrial relations laws; offers of employment that can be made to day labour staff at schools going to contract; previous history in cleaning schools; staff training; and occupational health and safety policies.

#### GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SCHOOLS

##### *Sale of Land Assets*

182. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question on notice 2027 of 1996, can the Minister advise if the review of the Education Department's school initiated excision of surplus property policy has been completed?
- (2) Is a copy of the review publicly available?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Has the Government decided to continue to allow further school land and assets sales?
- (5) Is there an explicit policy covering the sale of such assets?
- (6) Is the policy publicly available?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Is the current policy still under review?

- (9) When will the review be completed?
- (10) Is the current policy likely to be changed in the foreseeable future?
- (11) If so, when?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3)-(11) The review of the policy recommended that it be incorporated into a regional and local area planning framework, which is now being developed by the Education Department. When this framework is finalised, it will be made public.

#### FORESTS AND FORESTRY - REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

##### *Mapping*

209. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is it true, as reported in *The West Australian* of 26 February 1997, that a rift between yourself and the Federal Environment Minister is threatening to derail Western Australia's regional forest agreement?
- (2) Has the Minister refused to hand over the results of a \$1 million Commonwealth funded forest mapping project to an independent panel of scientists and experts?
- (3) If yes to (2) above, why?
- (4) Is it true that the Minister wants another panel of scientists to examine the results of the mapping project?
- (5) If yes to (4) above, why?
- (6) Can the Minister guarantee that Western Australia has not held up any agreement in relation to Western Australia's forests and that it will be completed on schedule?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) In recent discussions with the Federal Government, Western Australia reiterated its intention for the regional forest agreement to be completed according to the schedule agreed by the State and Commonwealth Governments.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS - CONSUMER CREDIT LEGAL SERVICE

##### *Funding*

213. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

- (1) Can the Government confirm that the Consumer Credit Legal Service will close in July due to a lack of funding from the State Government?
- (2) Can the Minister guarantee Western Australians that the Government will provide funding to ensure the service is not closed?
- (3) How many clients using the legal service will be adversely affected by the closure of the service?
- (4) What steps is the Government planning to take if the service is closed to protect or compensate these people?
- (5) Why did the Government cease funding the service which provides assistance to consumers many of whom are involved in actions with large finance companies such as the now defunct Custom Credit Corporation?

- (6) Is the Government relying on the Federal Government to provide financial assistance to the service as it has done previously?
- (7) If yes to (6) why and how much?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The Consumer Credit Legal Service is not currently funded by the State Government.
- (2) The service has made a submission for funding for 1997-98 to my office which is currently under consideration. A decision about funding for the service will be made in the context of budget deliberations.
- (3) This information would only be available from the service itself. As the service is a non-government organisation and is not currently funded by the Government, it has no reporting responsibilities to government.
- (4) If the application currently under consideration by the Government is successful, this situation will be avoided.
- (5) The State Government last provided direct funding to the service in 1993. Since that time the service has operated with annual payments from a civil penalties fund which is now exhausted.
- (6) No. The Commonwealth Government grant to the service has been approximately \$45 000 per annum, which represents only a token contribution to the operating costs of the service.
- (7) Not applicable.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON HERITAGE LAWS - RECOMMENDATIONS

##### *Amendments to Legislation*

216. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Heritage:

- (1) I refer to the Governor's speech at the opening of Parliament and the Government's intention to introduce a Bill to rewrite the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 and ask whether the Minister is aware that such a rewrite, in plain English, was recommended by the Select Committee on Heritage Laws?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that the select committee recommended major changes to the National Trust of Australia (WA) Act 1964?
- (3) Is it the Government's intention to introduce such changes to the National Trust of Australia (WA) Act 1964?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(4) I have been advised that the trust believes that changes to the National Trust of Australia (WA) Act would be desirable and I await the advice of the trust in that regard. When I have that advice I will consider this matter further.

#### WESTERN SHIELD PROGRAM - EVALUATION

236. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

How is the Western Shield program evaluated?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The principal objective of Western Shield is to promote the recovery of a range of threatened native fauna species. The prime method of evaluation is the extent to which the target species are recovered. This will be determined by a combination of population monitoring techniques tailored to the particular species involved in various localities. Standard trapping grids and direct survey transects will be used to determine local changes in species population abundance. Radio tracking of some species will also be used. Central coordination of all monitoring will be used to determine overall rates of success with the program. Particular scientific research programs will also provide information on possible refinements to feral animal control procedures.

Western Australia has already had a major success in this area with recovery of the Woylie. The Woylie was removed from the State threatened species list and national endangered species list in 1996, following detailed population survey and demonstrated re-establishment of wild populations. This was the first time in Australia that a mammal species has been removed from such lists because of successful research and management. Other fauna species, including the numbat which is the State's mammal emblem, are also recovering in numbers and range, and monitoring of their populations will form the basis for the evaluation of the ultimate success of Western Shield. Western Shield is the biggest program of broad scale fauna population recovery in the world, and will, with community support, undoubtedly result in the recovery of many of our threatened native fauna species.

#### EMPLOYMENT - PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES

247. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Did the Minister issue a media release on 23 September 1996 on his vision for Western Australia's workforce?
- (2) Did the Minister say his aim is to gain -
  - (a) a 20 per cent increase in productivity;
  - (b) the highest rewards for productivity; and
  - (c) the safest workplaces in the world?
- (3) What data does the Minister use or intends to use to measure increases in productivity?
- (4) What measures or steps does the Minister intend to take to ensure the highest rewards are received for productivity increases?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that some cleaners employed in government schools by private contractors now clean a larger area than was cleaned by government employed cleaners in the same period of time, but on lower rates of pay?
- (6) How will the Minister's vision be achieved for such employees who now shoulder a heavier workload on lower rates of pay and conditions?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) A combination of data including that supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- (4) I will continue to encourage employers and employees to develop more efficient and innovative work practices implemented through enterprise based agreements. These will provide pay increases based on performance and productivity.
- (5) No. Provided the pay rates of private sector employees comply with legal requirements, this is not an issue in which I would be involved.
- (6) Productivity improvements and higher rewards should be obtained through negotiated agreements between employers and employees.

#### EAST PERTH REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - LEGAL ADVICE

317. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

On what issue did Minter Ellison Northmore provide legal advice to the East Perth Redevelopment Authority from December 1995 to May 1996?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Advice in relation to a Supreme Court writ and injunction regarding a proposed development on Lots 6 and 7 Waterloo Crescent, East Perth.

#### PLANNING - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION

##### *Caveats*

320. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

How many caveats have been registered by the Western Australian Planning Commission for the purposes of recovering a refund of compensation previously paid, where the reservation is revoked or reduced, in -



- (a) 1994;
- (b) 1995;
- (c) 1996;
- (d) 1997?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) Four.
- (d) 51.

#### LAND - OLD PERTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

##### *Sale*

321. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) When was the sale of the Old Perth Primary School finalised?
- (2) Who purchased the site?
- (3) What price was paid?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) A contract of sale was executed in December 1996 and settlement occurred in January 1997.
- (2) Bluecol Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Bluecol Unit Trust, which is totally owned by BCA Consultants.
- (3) \$490 000 with a requirement that the purchaser must renovate the old school in accordance with its heritage status and the conservation plan prepared for the building. Renovation costs were expected to amount to approximately \$800 000.

#### LEEWIN SALE TRAINING SHIP - GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

334. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Youth:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 8 March 1997 concerning the sail training ship *Leeuwin* having to suspend its operations and lay off staff due to funding costs and a flat economy?
- (2) Does the Minister/State Government intend to do everything possible to ensure the *Leeuwin's* training program continues?
- (3) What action is proposed by the Minister/State Government?
- (4) Has the Minister/State Government considered providing any direct or indirect financial support for the training program?
- (5) If so, what is the nature of that support?
- (6) Has the Minister/State Government considered any other support for the training program?
- (7) If so, what is the nature of that support?
- (8) Has the Government made any decision to support or not support the *Leeuwin's* training programs in a financial or non-financial way?
- (9) What decisions have been made?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(7) I have met with representatives of the *Leeuwin*. I am very keen to ensure that the *Leeuwin* remains active in Western Australia, and I will be working with them to investigate possible sources of revenue.
- (8) No.
- (9) None.

## INSURANCE - SGIO

*Workers' Compensation*

335. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on Wednesday, 5 March 1997 concerning SGIO Insurance predicting workers' compensation premiums would rise by an average of 10 per cent but up to 30 per cent in some cases?
- (2) Is the Minister aware the article referred to "SGIO commercial general manager Garry Moore" saying that "common law claims were double what the actuarial company which advised the Government on compensation costs had predicted"?
- (3) Did the Government receive advice from an actuarial company prior to amending the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981 in 1993?
- (4) If so, what is the name of the company that provided that advice?
- (5) What was the cost of the advice?
- (6) Is a copy of the advice publicly available?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) Did the Government change the common law arrangements to reduce or eliminate certain claims/payments of common law?
- (9) What was the amount paid out by insurance companies on common law work related personal injury claims in the 1992-93 financial year?
- (10) To what extent did the Government estimate it could reduce the common law payments by the changes it introduced to the workers' compensation legislation in 1993?
- (11) How much has been paid out in common law work related personal injury claims by insurers in each of the financial years since the 1992-93 financial year?
- (12) Has the reduction in common law payments conformed to the advice received by the actuary?
- (13) To what extent was the actuary wrong in predicting how the 1993 legislative changes would reduce the amount paid out on common law claims?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Actuarial advice was obtained by the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Commission in December 1993.
- (4) Trowbridge Consulting.
- (5) \$91 705.
- (6) No.
- (7) The commission's longstanding policy is not to release actuarial advice it has obtained.
- (8) The Government introduced a serious disability threshold for common law claims for occupational injuries in 1993 in order to confine claims for minor injuries to the workers' compensation system.
- (9) \$77.864m (insurers); \$2.780m (self-insurers).
- (10) On actuarial advice, the commission estimated the savings from restricting access to common law to be between \$29m and \$34m based on 1991/92 payments. However, this was partially balanced by the cost of improved statutory benefits (including lump sums for back, neck and pelvic injuries) which resulted in an estimated net total saving of \$13m to \$18m. This did not include an estimated \$5m-\$10m saving in legal costs.
- (11)

1993-94	\$87.008m (insurers)	\$4.142m (self-insurers)
1994-95	\$100.743m (insurers)	\$5.531m (self-insurers)
1995-96	\$82.512m (insurers)	\$3.782m (self-insurers)

(12)-(13)

Common law payments continued to be influenced by the run-off of claims for pre-1993 disabilities until the 1995/96 financial year, when payments began to fall. It may take several more years before the full effect of the changes become apparent.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PLANNING

##### *Fees*

338. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the Minister/Government giving consideration to allowing local authorities the option of charging fees for assistance they provide to developers and others on planning issues?
- (2) Does the Government intend to introduce legislation to deal with this matter?
- (3) If so, when?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) The Minister has agreed to allow local governments to charge fees for planning services under planning legislation. The services for which fees may be charged and the level of such fees have yet to be determined.
- (2) No. The Minister intends to deal with this matter through regulations made by the Governor under the Town Planning and Development Act 1928.
- (3) Not applicable.

#### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY - WORKSAFE

##### *Plant Registration*

344. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many items of plant currently require individual registration by WorkSafe?
- (2) What are these items of plant which now require individual registration?
- (3) What were the items of plant which required individual registration prior to 1 October 1996 and which are no longer required to be registered individually?
- (4) For each of those plant items removed from the list requiring individual registration, which of those plant items has undergone an analysis and risk assessment prior to the decision not to require individual registration?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Schedule 4.2 in the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 lists the individual items of plant that are required to be registered. This schedule is consistent with the nationally agreed approach to the registration of individual items of plant embodied in the National Standard for Plant issued by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission in 1994.
- (3) There was no requirement for individual items of plant to be registered prior to 1 October 1996.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - UNFAIR DISMISSAL CLAIMS

##### *Tribunals*

348. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the reports that thousands of Western Australian workers will not be able to make unfair dismissal claims to industrial tribunals under the new Workplace Relations Act 1996 (Commonwealth)?
- (2) Does the Minister accept that there is some validity to these reports?

- (3) Will the Minister write to his federal counterpart urging him to immediately make the necessary changes to give all workers the right to be able to take a case for unfair dismissal?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2)-(3) No.

#### WORKPLACE LIAISON SERVICE - OFFICERS

##### *Language Qualifications*

372. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many specialist workplace liaison officers are bilingual and able to assist with awards, agreements and employment laws through Workplace Helpline?  
(2) In which languages are they proficient?  
(3) What special language qualifications do each of these officers have?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) One.  
(2) Hindi, Marathi and Gujarathi.  
(3) None.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - WATERFRONT

##### *Federal Legislation*

402. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The West Australian* on 13 March 1997, which reported federal Transport Minister, John Sharp, urging stevedore companies to make use of the Federal Government's new industrial laws to implement non-union workplace agreements on the waterfront?  
(2) Is the Minister aware the federal Transport Minister has urged the use of the new federal industrial laws to implement workplace agreements to lower wages paid to waterfront employees?  
(3) Has the Minister and/or State Government publicly supported the Federal Government's new industrial legislation?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2) No.  
(3) Yes, I have publicly stated my general support for the Federal Government's new industrial legislation.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - COUNTRY POSTINGS

##### *Cash Incentives*

404. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the report in *The West Australian*, on 13 March 1997 which reported the Police Service was considering cash incentives to encourage city based police officers to take up country postings?  
(2) Does the Government have any policy on government departments and agencies offering employees cash or other incentives to work in country areas?  
(3) If so what is that policy?  
(4) If not, is it a matter for each department and/or Minister to determine if such incentives should be provided?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The government agenda for labour relations reform in the public sector is based on bargaining at workplace or enterprise level for the most productive operational outcomes. Incentives are required to be consistent with labour relations policy.
- (3) As above.
- (4) Not applicable.

#### GOVERNMENT PROPERTY - SALE

422. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

- (1) How many State Government assets of the value of \$200 000 or more have been sold by each of the departments or agencies under the Minister's control in each of the last four financial years?
- (2) What is the total value of the assets sold?
- (3) What have the moneys realised from the asset sales been used for?

Mr BOARD replied:

Office of Youth Affairs:

- (1) None.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

State Supply Commission:

- (1) The State Supply Commission has not sold any of its own assets of the value of \$200 000 or more in the last four financial years.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Office of Multicultural Interests:

- (1) None.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Department of Contract and Management Services:

- (1) 1993/94: Nil.  
1994/95: Department of State Services - One.  
1995/96: Western Australian Building Management Authority - One.  
1996/97: Nil.
- (2) \$3 804 000.
- (3) Proceeds went back to the consolidated fund.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT - PAYMENTS

##### *Work - Participants*

432. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Youth:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in the *Sunday Times*, on 16 February 1997, concerning the work for the dole scheme?
- (2) If so, is the Minister aware the article reports federal Employment Minister Amanda Vanstone, saying that the Federal Government was considering using a lottery system to select young people to participate in the scheme?
- (3) Has the State Government made any submission to the Federal Government on the work for the dole scheme?

- (4) Has the State Government formulated any policy on a lottery system being used to select participants?
- (5) If not, does the Government intend to do so?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3)-(4) No.
- (5)-(6) If the Federal Government proceeds with its proposal, the State Government will raise with it issues which might impact on this State.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION - INCORPORATION

##### *Application*

**91. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

I gave notice of the following question early today and, of course, the Premier had notice of it when it was asked of the Deputy Premier last Thursday.

- (1) Is it true that the contract between the Western Australian Tourism Commission and Global Dance Foundation tabled in Parliament last week was made on 26 May 1995?
- (2) Is it true that Global Dance Foundation lodged its application for incorporation on 1 June 1995?
- (3) Is it true that under the contract, \$215 000 was to be paid to Global Dance Foundation on 26 May 1995?
- (4) Is it true that Global Dance Foundation was incorporated only on 1 June 1995?
- (5) Is it true that one month later, on 1 July 1995, another \$215 000 was paid?

**Mr COURT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Last week the Leader of the House in the Legislative Council answered a question directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Fair Trading as follows -  

Application for incorporation was first made on 18 May 1995. The constitution was examined and as amendments were required, the documents were returned. These were resubmitted on 1 June 1995 and accepted. The date of lodgment was taken as 1 June 1995.
- (3) Pursuant to clause 8.3 of the contract, the Western Australian Tourism Commission was to pay Global Dance Foundation \$215 000 on execution of the deed. However, a cheque for \$215 000, being the first payment under the agreement, was not drawn until 13 June 1995.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) A cheque for \$215 000, being the second payment under the contract, was drawn on 1 July 1995.

#### GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION - INCORPORATION

##### *Application*

**92. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

- (1) Is the Premier concerned that one of the agencies under his control in 1995 signed a contract with a body that did not exist in law?

- (2) Has Global Dance Foundation sought any additional support from the Government for the staging of the World Dance Congress?
- (3) Has a decision been made to postpone the congress and, if so, until when?

**Mr COURT replied:**

- (1) Yes. I have asked for advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office.
- (2) I am not aware of any further proposals, but I understand the Opposition has requested all the files on the matter under the freedom of information legislation. Currently third party consultation is taking place, of which the Opposition has been advised by the Tourism Commission.
- (3) As I mentioned last week in the Parliament, Global Dance Foundation is contracted to stage the event this year. It has asked for a deferment, which I understand is currently a matter of negotiation between the Government's lawyers and the organisation's lawyers.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

##### *"Sign or Resign" Campaign*

#### **93. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Labour Relations:**

Since the attention of the House was drawn to a campaign in 1992 by unions and the Australian Labor Party on the basis of "sign or resign", does evidence now exist that unions finally concede that "sign or resign" is illegal?

**Mr KIERATH replied:**

I congratulate the member for Southern River on her election to this Parliament. I heard some groans from members opposite who said the "sign or resign" campaign was way back in 1992. However, members have seen a campaign by the Australian Labor Party and the union movement to promote the issue of "sign or resign" that members on this side of the House have always said is illegal. Lo and behold, one of the key unions in the labour movement - none other than our famous friends, the missos - have distributed some information. The document from the Miscellaneous Workers Union states -

It is illegal for employers to force workers to sign workplace agreements.

If they try they can be prosecuted.

That is exactly right, and it is what the Government has said for the past three and a half years. That comment from the union exposes as a sham the dishonest campaign it has run in an endeavour to frighten the working men and women of this State out of voting for the coalition and back into the union movement.

Unfortunately, that refreshing burst of honesty from the union stops there. The union goes on to make untrue statements. For example, it states that workplace agreements are forever, when this State's legislation provides for a maximum lifespan of five years. Everybody knows that except the labour movement.

Dr Gallop: What did you think about the editorial in *The West Australian*?

Mr KIERATH: My message to the unions is to stop whingeing about workplace agreements and to stop trying to frighten people with half-truths. If they did their job and helped the workers, people would not be leaving the unions in droves. The unions have lost touch with their base membership. They are still fighting a stupid ideological political battle. Meanwhile, the working men and women of this State want someone who will look after their interests. That is why the union movement is suffering a dramatic loss in membership.

#### GLOBAL DANCE FOUNDATION

##### *Feasibility Study*

#### **94. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:**

I refer again to the contract with Global Dance Foundation. How can this Government justify the requirement that the Western Australian Tourism Commission conduct and fund a feasibility study of the proposed World Dance Congress after the contract was signed and after the \$430 000 had been committed to the project?

**Mr COURT replied:**

I cannot give an answer to the question on when the feasibility study and the like were carried out.

Dr Gallop: You gave it the money and then had it do the feasibility study.

Mr COURT: The Leader of the Opposition asked for that material to be presented under freedom of information legislation. I thought that material would have all the answers the Opposition is looking for.

## SMALL BUSINESS - GOVERNMENT TENDERS

### *Share*

#### **95. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Works:**

At a recent function I was approached by a businesswoman who feels that many small businesses are missing out and not getting their fair share of government tenders. Is this a true statement? If so, what will the Minister do to assist small businesses to win more of these tenders?

#### **Mr BOARD replied:**

That is not a true assessment of the current situation. A perception exists that small business is not getting a fair share; however, that is not a correct perception. I will make it my role as Minister for Works and Services to ensure that the right information is circulated on the share of contracting in Western Australia that small business gets. In my portfolio, the Department of Contracts and Management Services was formed in the middle of last year as a result of the amalgamation of the State Supply Commission and the Building Management Authority. As a result of that amalgamation, a number of large tenders and contracts have been issued, the most significant of which is the maintenance of some 900 government buildings in Western Australia issued to five facility managers. It is true to say that the companies which won those five contracts were on the larger side of business, but the reality is that 80 per cent of that work has gone to small business. In fact, in 1990 the Building Management Authority carried out approximately \$20m worth of maintenance in Western Australia, and the value of that maintenance area is now \$40m. All that work is going to the private sector, and small business is getting \$32m, or 80 per cent, of it.

Last week I visited the recently built Yuluma Primary School in your electorate, Mr Speaker, the contract for the construction of which came in \$800 000 under the estimate provided for the BMA to carry out that work. The school was completed in time, and the majority of the work was subcontracted to small business. That is a good news story, and is a message I will be spreading in the community.

## MINING - GOLD ROYALTY

### *Impact on Economy*

#### **96. Mr GRILL to the Premier:**

I remind the Premier of his comments to *The West Australian* and other elements of the media that a gold royalty was not on the Government's agenda and was not built into the forward estimates. In light of this comment and the study conducted by a Western Australian university which showed that a gold royalty would cost the WA economy \$250m a year and up to 1 500 jobs, will he reconsider his decision to impose a gold royalty?

#### **Mr COURT replied:**

I thank the member for his question. A gold royalty was not built into the forward estimates for revenue, and it is only in recent weeks that it has been considered as part of a possible revenue raising measure.

I received a copy of the study yesterday and an analysis of the study undertaken by Treasury. As I said in the House last week, we are currently discussing these matters with the industry; in fact, meetings in that regard were held today.

Mr Grill: Did you say that you received a study from Treasury?

Mr COURT: No, I said that I had received a copy of the university study and a report from Treasury regarding that study.

Mr Grill: Have government departments done any studies at all on this matter?

Mr COURT: Yes.

Mr Grill: Other Ministers are not saying that.

Mr COURT: Just let me finish.



The Government has made it clear to the industry that all of the material presented to it will be properly examined. The study conducted by the university works on the assumption that the money to be taken out of the industry - for example, \$70m - will not go back into the economy or will not be used to help the industry. It does not take into account the possibility of the money, for example, being directed to assist the operation of the Department of Mines or into infrastructure to benefit the industry.

Mr Grill: Are you saying that you can make better decisions than the industry on how to spend that money?

Mr COURT: I will give the member one example, as he is taking such an interest in the matter: The industry indicates that two items of infrastructure are critical for its future development. First, a road from Wiluna to Meekatharra, and -

Mr Grill: That is a fraud!

Mr COURT: Hang on. The second one is a sealed road from Leinster to Mt Magnet.

Mr Grill: If you bring that up, they will not cop it! They have told me. They recognise that is a rort.

Mr COURT: Who will fund it?

Mr Grill: How are most roads funded? By your levy and the Commonwealth's contribution.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed a lot of interjections by the member for Eyre because I appreciate his deep interest in the subject. However, the Premier is entitled to continue his answer and to be heard.

Mr COURT: I am attempting to answer the question. The member referred to road funding and I advise the House that since 1993 this Government has increased fuel tax by 4¢ a litre. Every cent of that has gone into roads. At the same time, the Federal Government has increased fuel tax by 10¢ a litre. I have not heard the member for Eyre say anything about that because the money has not gone into the road system. It is assumed by the Opposition that, firstly, the money does not go back into the economy. Secondly, it does not take the money which is raised by other means into account; for example, it does not take into account the effect an increase in payroll tax would have on industry. Further, it does not take into account that a certain amount of the moneys which are paid on a royalty under the current commonwealth taxation arrangements comes off the commonwealth income tax bill. These matters have not been taken into account. It is estimated that the industry is paying approximately \$260m a year in company tax because of the gold tax which the Labor Government introduced. That amounted to \$260m, but in this instance this Government is talking about a royalty which, when it is fully phased in, will raise \$70m. The member for Eyre has a smile on his face, but he does not take that into account. Also, the study does not take into account the exemptions which were proposed -

Mr Grill: I have always been consistent on this issue. You have sold out the industry and it does not like it.

The SPEAKER: Order! I formally call the member for Eyre to order for the first time.

Mr COURT: It does not take into account that the royalty will be phased in and will not come in at 2.5 per cent immediately.

## MINING - GOLD ROYALTY

### *Industry's Submissions*

#### **97. Mr GRILL to the Premier:**

What is the Government's time frame for considering submissions by the industry to Government on this issue?

#### **Mr COURT replied:**

The Government has been meeting representatives of the industry over the past couple of weeks and will continue to do so.

Mr Grill: It says that your consultation is perfunctory.

Mr COURT: Does the member want the answer? The Government will make a decision about the possibility of a gold royalty prior to the Budget being brought down. So far as the final detail of it is concerned, the Government will continue negotiations because it has told the industry that under the proposal a gold royalty would not be introduced until next year and it would continue to consult with the industry. The feedback from one industry group is that it wants to discuss the broader issues first and, if there is to be a royalty, it wants to discuss the structure of it

later. That basically is the consultation we have had to date. The Government will meet industry anytime it likes and those meetings are taking place right now.

## EXMOUTH MARINA AND LEARMONTH AIRPORT

### *Tenders and Development*

#### **98. Mr SWEETMAN to the Minister for Regional Development:**

On 11 March 1997 tenders closed for developers wishing to participate in the development of the Exmouth marina. Will the Minister advise -

- (1) How many tenders were received?
- (2) Is it possible to say at this stage whether the bids were for a staged development or large scale single development?
- (3) In accordance with community and regional expectation, will the development program for the Exmouth marina determine when the Learmonth airport will be upgraded to international standard?

#### **Mr COWAN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The member referred to the Exmouth boat harbour, but I am sure he meant the Exmouth resort and canal development. To ensure that there is no misunderstanding, the contract for the development of the boat harbour is continuing. The Government expects it to be completed by August or September. The dredging is being finalised and at the moment some piling is being undertaken to complete the wharf. That will then be filled and pens will be built to ensure the entire harbour is completed. Expressions of interest were called for the Exmouth resort and canal development in November 1996. A great number of inquiries were received and the steering committee, which comprises members of the Gascoyne Development Commission, LandCorp and the Western Australian Tourism Commission had four responses which it regards as genuine proposals. It is about to commence its final evaluation before making a recommendation to Cabinet on who it regards as the preferred bidders.

At this stage, I have not been advised whether the preferred bidders would be those who wanted to undertake the development in a number of stages or in one stage. It has been made very plain that the people who have submitted serious expressions of interest in the resort and canal development expect the Learmonth airport to be upgraded to take passengers.

Some time ago, the Exmouth Development Trust Fund advised me that it had three major criteria for use of funds within the trust: First, to establish a boat harbour; second, to develop the airport; and, third, to provide funds to develop a recreation facility in the town. Funds have been made available to develop Learmonth. Parties that have indicated an interest in developing the resort want to see Learmonth airport developed. The shire has developed concept plans and completed working drawings; it is in a position to go to tender for development of the airport.

The Royal Australian Air Force is also looking at a \$65m upgrade of the airport. Of course, that is subject to the approval of one of the many federal standing parliamentary committees dealing with defence services in Australia. Should approval be granted for that RAAF upgrade, the State Government would like at the same time to improve Learmonth to take passengers.

## HOSPITALS - METROPOLITAN TEACHING

### *Funding Shortfall*

#### **99. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:**

Last week the Minister advised the House that Bunbury Hospital was in financial difficulties and that all hospitals were under financial pressure.

- (1) What proportion of the metropolitan teaching hospitals' 1996-97 budgets has already been spent?
- (2) If that spending rate continues to the end of the financial year, to what extent will they have overspent?
- (3) What is the total shortfall in hospital funding?
- (4) Will the Minister guarantee that no hospital services will be cut to meet this deficiency?

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

- (1)-(3) As the member quite rightly pointed out, I did say last week that Bunbury Hospital had received extra funding, which is largely related to the extraordinarily high increase in demand in that area - higher than in any other area - because of a corresponding increase in population in the area. That is why the new hospital is being built. The \$2m in extra funding covered, in part, salary and wage increases and included the distribution of the extra money for the waiting list reduction strategy released last year.

I cannot provide detailed answers in respect of the major metropolitan hospitals, but I will seek that information and provide it when it is available.

- (4) My understanding from the hospital chief executive officers and their boards is that they are confident they can maintain standards of delivery until the end of this financial year. Clearly, the process of budgeting for the next financial year is under way now.

## HOSPITALS - METROPOLITAN TEACHING

*Funding Shortfall***100. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Health:**

This time last year our teaching hospitals received an \$81m bailout, and I am told that hospital budgets are in the same condition this year. Will the Minister give an undertaking to this House that he will produce the current state of the hospitals' budgets to the House this week so that public scrutiny can take place?

The SPEAKER: I take this opportunity to remind members of the paper distributed dealing with supplementary questions. One of the main issues raised was that members should ask their question and not indulge in a lengthy preamble. The question is allowed.

**Mr PRINCE replied:**

I cannot give an undertaking that I will do it this week. I can give an undertaking that I will ask for that information and produce it as soon as I have it. I cannot say whether that is possible within the next two and a half days. I will not give an undertaking that I am not sure I can comply with.

## SCHOOLS - HOLIDAYS

*First Term***101. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the first term school holidays are not connected to the Easter break?
- (2) What is the reason for this?
- (3) How many teaching days are there now with the four-term year compared with the number of teaching days when there were three school terms?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(2) The reason is to do with the timing of Easter. Easter's falling in March in 1997 is the only occasion it will occur between 1993 and 2000. If the first-term holidays had coincided with Easter, the first term would have been very short. The decision, with which I agreed, was to keep the terms even in length.
- (2) In the 1997 four-term year there will be 196 teaching days; for 1996, 198 teaching days; and in 1985, which was a three-term year, 201 teaching days. It could be argued, therefore, that three or four days have been lost on average.

## EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT

*Funding Shortfall***102. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Is it true that the Education Department is facing a funding shortfall of between \$30m and \$60m in this or next financial year?
- (2) Has the department in consequence -

- (a) delayed education capital works; or
  - (b) considered head office cuts or district office amalgamations?
- (3) Has the department approached the Treasury Department for additional funds; if so, when and for how much?
- (4) What will be the magnitude of the cuts required of the department in 1997-98?

**Mr BARNETT replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(4) As the Premier indicated in response to an earlier question, the Budget is a tight process and the two dominant areas of expenditure are education and health. It is not surprising that, in a tight budgetary situation, it is tight for those two areas. There have been ongoing negotiations between the Education Department and the Treasury Department. I am pleased with the outcome of those. We will wait until budget day to find out what they are. This Government will not step away from its long term commitments to education spending. I have made no secret of the fact that we are considering reducing the number of districts. We are also looking at redeploying staff from head office into regional offices and back into the schools, and at some redundancy programs. They are not driven solely by an imperative to save money. There are also good educational reasons for our doing that. The Budget for this year is tight. There has been no deferment of capital works. When the budget results come out, members will see the results. They will show that, despite the difficulty with the growing school population and the growing demands in the school system, the Education budget has been managed well, although I concede openly that it is difficult to run the school system and keep within budget.

Mr Ripper: Is there a shortfall in this financial year?

Mr BARNETT: This year has not finished. It is tight but we believe we will get through this year okay - just.

#### ROTTNEST ISLAND

##### *Promotion*

**103. Mrs HODSON-THOMAS to the Premier:**

- (1) What plans, if any, are in place to promote Rottnest Island during winter?
- (2) How many extra units are available to the public as a result of the removal of the work force?

**Mr COURT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the questions.

- (1) The Rottnest Island Authority is in the process of formulating a marketing plan with an emphasis on increasing visitor numbers in winter. Using the theme "Discover the charm of Rottnest Island", the authority has begun promoting winter through the recent holiday and travel show held in Fremantle; advertising in the upcoming *Winter Breaks* magazine; focusing on winter in the March *Rottnest Magazine*; targeting the seniors market through publications such as "Have a go news"; developing winter packages to promote to potential off peak groups - for example, school groups, surfing and fishing packages, environment groups, book clubs, sporting clubs, etc; direct marketing, through the setting up of an appropriate database and offering attractive discount packages to those who are unsuccessful in obtaining summer accommodation, as well as enticing the summer visitors to return in winter. Those are just a few of the plans the authority will include in its promotion of the island in winter.
- (2) Currently, there are 20 extra units. That number will increase to 22 by Easter and to a total of 24 within a few weeks.

#### SCHOOLS - CLEANING

##### *Contract*

**104. Mr RIPPER to the Deputy Premier:**

I refer to National Party policy on contracting out -

- (1) Is the Deputy Premier aware of comments by the Minister for Education that contract cleaning will be implemented in non-metropolitan schools?

- (2) Is the Deputy Premier also aware that a review of the contract cleaning trialled in 160 state schools found that only 6 per cent of principals believed that contract cleaning was of a very high standard?
- (3) If so, will the National Party oppose this move, especially given that the rate of unemployment in country Western Australia is rising rapidly?

**Mr COWAN replied:**

- (1)-(3) I take issue with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in respect of his last remark. I acknowledge that unemployment in regional Western Australia has risen slightly, but I would never acknowledge or concede that it is rising rapidly.

Mr Ripper: It is.

Mr COWAN: It is not.

Mr Ripper interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWAN: It does not matter how many pieces of paper or how much statistical data the Opposition might care to put in front of me, the last comments of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are in error.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWAN: I am not aware of the comments made by principals but I have no doubt at all that before an issue such as this is taken up, my ministerial colleague will raise the matter in Cabinet and it will have a very full Cabinet discussion.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - MINISTER

##### *Trades and Labor Council Claim*

#### **105. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Labour Relations:**

An advertisement placed in the *Sunday Times* by the Trades and Labor Council states that the Minister will be making "choices for everyone". Will the Minister please respond to this statement?

**Mr KIERATH replied:**

It was rather fascinating to see the *Sunday Times*.

##### *Point of Order*

Mr RIPPER: It seems that question asked the Minister for his opinion. I do not believe it is in order.

The SPEAKER: I do not accept that point of view. The question asked for a response from the Minister.

##### *Questions without Notice Resumed*

Mr KIERATH: If one took the word "Kierath" out and inserted TLC, the question would be more to the point. The advertisement refers to heavy fines for workers who stand up for themselves at work. Everybody knows that is nonsense - certainly the TLC knows. When it refers to honest workers, it does not refer to workers who have perhaps been bashed, intimidated, threatened and coerced into joining unions. It does not mention the series of workers who were sacked for not joining unions. It also accuses us of interfering in the employer-employee relationship. For decades, some unions have been interfering with the employer-employee relationship. The very reason we on this side of the House introduced the workplace agreements legislation was to prevent third parties from interfering. It meant the primary parties could make their arrangements without interference from the unions, industrial relations commissions and other unwanted third parties. The best part of this advertisement is where it states that workers will be forced out of the union of their choice. Currently, there is the award, and workers do not have any choice at all about which union represents them.

Tony Cooke was tripped up by his own words. He referred to workers being forced into a union that does not want them. Therein lies the key. Perhaps the union about which Tony Cooke speaks does not want people to join that union. What union would not want members? Could the answer be that it is too hard or that it takes too much effort? The article indicates the true colour of the Trades and Labor Council. It has been so accustomed to forcing people to join unions, it has not been able to cope with the changes which allow people to choose whether to belong to a

union. Whoever wrote the article had no idea of the situation and has not read the legislation. The information in the article relates to the 1995 Bill; it was detail that had been prepared beforehand. These people have not read the Bill introduced last Thursday. If they had, almost every single point in the article would not have been made. This is a case of false advertising!

## HOSPITALS - ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT

### *Construction*

#### **106. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Health:**

- (1) Will funds be committed to construct the new Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital during this current term?
- (2) Is the Government considering the relocation of the new hospital to -
  - (a) another site in Armadale; or
  - (b) a site outside Armadale?

#### **Mr PRINCE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) A considerable amount of planning work has been done in the past, particularly by Silver Thomas Hanley which arrived at five options and estimates in 1992-93. We then had a consultant's estimate of the cost of replacement of the Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital, which included use of part of the existing premises. That was about \$25.5m. Further money was allocated then to develop that planning. In June 1994 the revised budget was \$29.5m. In March 1995, as a result of further detailed costing, the figure moved to \$38.2m, and subsequent further detailed work took the figure to \$45m. The result has been consistent allocations of money for the detailed costing and planning work.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr PRINCE: If this is not planned properly, we will end up building what we should not build - which is, with respect, what Labor did in Mandurah. We ended up with a hospital that was far too small at the time, and subsequently had to be enlarged from 38 beds to 120 beds. That is what should have been built in the first place. As the member will be aware, the functional training unit has been built at a cost of just under \$1m, and significant work has been done to make the vehicular entrance much safer from Albany Highway. Those works have been completed. Further money has been allocated for further detailed planning.

Ms MacTiernan: I am talking about construction this term.

Mr Court: The member's constituents were neglected under the Labor Government. They will be properly looked after under this Government. Members opposite neglected the south-east corridor.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister should bring his answer to a close.

Mr PRINCE: I wanted to place on record the background to the issue, because it is important. We will provide a new facility. As I said at the public meeting in Armadale during the election campaign, it will commence during the life of this Government. Whether it should be a stand-alone facility or more than one facility to serve the corridor is the question being determined now during our planning for the corridor - that is, Armadale and the area south, and, to a certain extent, west of that area.

Dr Gallop: Near Murdoch!

Mr PRINCE: I said that there will be a replacement facility on that site to serve the people of the area because they need it. We must also bear in mind the growth of the general regional area. Therefore, whatever is built in addition, will be built within the region.