



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
SECOND SESSION
1999

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15 June 1999

Legislative Assembly

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

Petition

Dr Constable presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 452 persons -

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

We, the undersigned wish to express our opposition to the decision taken by the Metropolitan Health Services Board to abolish the position of Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services at Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospitals. The loss of this leadership role at executive level is seen as detrimental to the profession of nursing and midwifery in Western Australia. We ask that this decision be reviewed and that the position is re-instated at Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospitals forthwith.

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

[See petition No 234.]

VACATION SWIMMING CLASSES

Petition

Mrs Hodson-Thomas presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 39 persons -

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

We, the undersigned petitioners, call on the Minister for Education to abandon plans to contract out vacation swimming classes as it could risk:

the current high standard of teaching

the affordability of classes

the availability of classes, particularly in country areas

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

[See petition No 235.]

RAIL FREIGHT SYSTEM BILL 1999

Appropriations

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

[Questions without notice taken.]

QUESTION ON NOTICE 2235

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [2.44 pm]: I rise under Standing Order No 110 to ask when I will receive answers to a series of questions on notice. When will question on notice 2235 addressed to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Public Sector Management and Federal Affairs on 10 March 1999, be answered?

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.44 pm]: There is one outstanding question to which an answer was sent this morning. The member might have it today. If he does not have it, I will follow it through.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 2236

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [2.45 pm]: Further to question on notice 2236, which I asked on 10 March 1999, will the Deputy Premier advise when the question will be answered?

MR COWAN (Merredin - Deputy Premier) [2.45 pm]: The advice from my office is that the question has been answered.

Mr Riebeling: It is still on the Notice Paper.

Mr COWAN: Notwithstanding the fact it is on the Notice Paper, I have been advised that the question has been answered.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 2237

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [2.46 pm]: Further to question on notice 2237, which was asked on 10 March 1999, will the Minister representing the Attorney General advise when the question will be answered?

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [2.46 pm]: I am not in a position to advise the member. I will chase this up with the Attorney General's office this afternoon and, as soon as I can, I will let him know when he may expect the answer.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 2238

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [2.47 pm]: When will the Minister for Resources Development, Energy and Education answer question on notice 2238, which was asked on 10 March 1999?

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [2.47 pm]: I will check that. My understanding is that the question has been answered. Indeed, as Leader of the House, I advise that eight questions to my knowledge have not been answered. I think all the others have been answered. I think also that many of the questions to which the member for Burrup has referred have been answered.

Mr Riebeling: Perhaps the Leader of the House will be able to tell me when I will get them, if that is the case. I have about 20 other questions on notice to go through.

Mr BARNETT: The advice I have been given is that questions on notice 1952, 1976, 2060, 2081, 2087, 2103, 2240 and 2253 have not been answered. By implication, all the others have been answered. Perhaps they are in the system somewhere. As to the eight which have not been answered, we will undertake to answer them as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER: Rather than ask about each question on his long list, it might be appropriate for the member for Burrup to allow ministers to sort out the matter today so that tomorrow the member can pursue the questions and check which ones have been answered and which have not. That course of action will assist the House.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 1949

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [2.48 pm]: I asked question on notice 1949 on 9 March, over three months ago. I have yet to receive an answer. Will the Premier tell me why no answer has been received and how much longer I am likely to wait before I receive an answer?

MR COURT (Nedlands - Premier) [2.48 pm]: The Leader of the House has just read out the numbers of the eight unanswered questions. I am advised that the member's question has been answered.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 1952, 2087 and 2103

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [2.49 pm]: I also rise under Standing Order No 110 to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism when questions 1952, 2087 and 2103 will be answered. Parts of the questions deal with the impact of the goods and services tax on tourism. I understand that the Minister for Tourism is in a bit of a quandary about whether he will answer them, but it has been three months since he was given the opportunity to do so.

MR BRADSHAW (Murray-Wellington - Parliamentary Secretary) [2.49 pm]: I was aware of this question being unanswered this morning. I have made inquiries to which I have not yet had a response. I will do my best to have those questions answered as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk has advised me that a series of letters have been received. Answers are given on sitting days. The answers may be available for distribution tomorrow, so members should relax and wait until then.

Mr Brown: We will wait 24 hours.

DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received a letter from the member for Fremantle seeking to debate as a matter of public interest the following motion -

That this House notes with concern the State Government's abject failure to deal with the ongoing crisis in Western Australia caused by illicit drug abuse which is resulting in the deaths of dozens of young people and thousands of other innocent West Australians becoming the victims of drug-related crime.

The House calls upon the Government to fund drug treatment programs which have helped thousands of young people escape from the scourge of heroin addiction.

If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

MR McGINTY (Fremantle) [2.51 pm]: I move the motion.

It is clear that this State Government is interested more in political point scoring and posturing than in helping people who

have a heroin addiction. It is clear that this Government has lost its way, its will to govern, and its capacity to make hard decisions. This Government is drifting aimlessly, is avoiding the difficult issues, and is interested only in media-friendly opportunities. With regard to the drug issue, the Government is engaging in the sabre-rattling rhetoric of the extreme right, while the drug problem is exploding around us. The supply of drugs is increasing. Young people in Western Australia are becoming addicted to drugs, and are ruining their lives and dying in increasing numbers. However, the Premier, the Minister for Health, and the Minister for Family and Children's Services, who is responsible for the state drug strategy, are sitting on their hands and doing nothing, while at the same time talking about being tough on drugs and decrying the harm minimisation policies that have served this country well for the past decade or so.

I turn now to the effect on heroin addicts in this State of the Government's indecision about the drug issue. I refer first to the naltrexone program that has been run by Dr George O'Neil in Subiaco for the past two years, which has helped many drug addicts to beat the scourge of heroin addiction. However, tomorrow, Dr O'Neil will close his doors to those heroin addicts who cannot afford to pay for treatment, which is just about every heroin addict in this State who seeks treatment. As most members of this House are aware, Dr O'Neil has championed the use of naltrexone in this State for rapid heroin detoxification, followed by abstinence from heroin use. This week, Dr O'Neil celebrates the second anniversary of the first time that he treated a patient with naltrexone. Over the past two years, Dr O'Neil has treated 1 500 individuals on 2 400 occasions. In an average week in his clinic in Subiaco, he detoxifies 40 heroin addicts and places them on naltrexone. An observational, not a clinical, trial based on urine analysis and testing for the presence of both naltrexone and opiates in 948 of his patients showed that after six months, 72 per cent of his patients had successfully beaten heroin addiction and were clean during those tests. That is a remarkable achievement when we consider the problems that are associated with heroin addiction. A comparable survey of people on the methadone program showed that 46 per cent of people were free from heroin, although methadone still showed up as being present.

Only 8 per cent of participants in the much vaunted Swiss heroin trial looked to abstinence for their future. That is the end result of the people who had been clean in that trial. Dr George O'Neil provides not only medical treatment but also the necessary community support. The Church of Christ in Subiaco, and I understand in more recent times in Willetton and Tuart Hill, provides the community support which is vital if a former addict is to break away from heroin, the medical treatment and the peer group influences in the heroin subculture. The church provides friendship, meals and jobs to heroin addicts. Dr O'Neil has recently demonstrated the importance of providing the post-medical treatment community support necessary to enable people to break away from that heroin subculture by establishing a telephone carer system based on volunteers, many of whom are parents of people who have died from heroin overdoses or have otherwise been the victims of heroin. A number of these people volunteer through the Church of Christ. The telephone carer system enables the volunteers to keep in touch with addicts once they have undergone the naltrexone treatment at Dr O'Neil's clinic and to provide them with whatever support and assistance necessary for them to keep clean.

I was not aware until recently of the involvement of the farming community in this project. Dr O'Neil has forged links with farmers throughout the State. These farmers are prepared to take three or four young, relatively able-bodied drug addicts from the naltrexone program onto their farms and provide that community support. Farms in the Meekatharra, Dalwallinu, Northam and York areas are participating in this worthwhile project. The farmers take these young addicts onto their farms, feed them, provide them with some work and generally look after them. This sort of community support has been very important in supplementing the medical treatment provided by Dr O'Neil.

It is interesting that Dr O'Neil has done all of this on his own, with no help at all from the Government. In considering the motion before the House, it is important to look at how the Government has treated Dr O'Neil. A question was asked in this House on 14 October 1997 of the then Minister for Health, the member for Albany. It related specifically to Dr George O'Neil and the naltrexone program. The minister gave quite a long answer to the question from my friend the member for Joondalup, so I will edit it to the bare essentials. It states -

Dr George O'Neil has treated a number of patients and the numbers have been growing significantly. He has approached the department and has met with me and the Minister responsible for the drug strategy. He has put forward that his treatment should be converted into a trial . . . This trial that will be borne out of Dr O'Neil's work will get underway now . . . Recently the Government agreed to provide funding of \$180 000 through the Health Department to support a formal trial of naltrexone in this State. That funding is available so long as Dr O'Neil's program converts to a proper trial process. The money will fund the trial.

I am a humble Presbyterian, but that says that the Government will provide \$180 000 to Dr George O'Neil for a naltrexone program. That is not the case. The Government has broken its promise to him. In this House it promised him \$180 000, and then reneged on the deal. The Government has given him only \$60 000. Of the amount which in this place the minister promised to Dr O'Neil, there is a shortfall of \$120 000. All members are aware that Dr O'Neil has since been feeling considerably aggrieved, because what was promised by the Minister for Health has not been delivered to him.

Mr Day: I do not think you have done your research very well, because we have not promised him that.

Mr McGINTY: Is the minister saying that he did not promise \$180 000 to Dr O'Neil?

Mr Day: There was \$180 000 promised to be made available to use for conducting a proper clinical trial into naltrexone, not necessarily for him personally. Nevertheless, we are very keen to make it available to him.

Mr McGINTY: I repeat that, in part, the letter stated -

This trial that will be borne out of Dr O'Neil's work will now get underway . . . That funding is available so long as Dr O'Neil's program converts to a proper trial process. The money will fund the trial.

Mr Day: Yes - a trial. Do you understand what a trial is?

Mr McGINTY: A dishonesty comes from people putting propositions like that to this House. It is intellectually and factually dishonest for the minister to try to say that he never promised Dr O'Neil \$180 000. The minister should tell him that. The minister should not try to argue the point in here. Dr O'Neil will say that the minister is not telling the truth, and with considerable justification.

Mr Day: We have promised it for a trial. Why doesn't the member understand what a trial is?

Mr McGINTY: That promise was reneged on. As I have said, only \$60 000 was given to Dr O'Neil. He relied on the word of this Government. He is perhaps a little wiser now because, having relied on the promise the Government gave him, he is now out of pocket to that extent.

Dr Gallop: It is a bit like the school cleaners: If they had an enterprise bargaining agreement, they would keep their jobs.

Mr McGINTY: That is not to mention the workers at the Midland workshops. We can go on with a whole list of broken promises. This is a promise to a Western Australian who has done a tremendous amount of good work, albeit somewhat controversial. For the Government to lie to him - that is what happened to him; that is how he feels about it - is completely unacceptable.

Today a further \$50 000 was advanced to Dr George O'Neil to get under way with a trial which will run over the next year or two. On this analysis, there is still a shortfall of \$70 000 in what the Government promised to him in October 1997. Most importantly, we have a blanket refusal from this Government to provide any financial support whatsoever to the treatment that Dr George O'Neil is providing to those 40 addicts, who come to his clinic in Subiaco each week. As a result, tomorrow he will be forced to close his doors to those people. We hear so much about the Government being tough on drugs, but when there is an opportunity to inject money to help individuals get off heroin and give them a chance to rebuild their lives, it does not want to know about it. The Government is all rhetoric and no substance when it comes to things that really count.

Last night many members will have seen a *Four Corners* program dealing with this heroin addiction scourge. It dealt with four treatments in particular case studies: The first was someone who found God - that person failed; the second was on the methadone program - that person failed; the third was a long-term addict doing it tough on the streets who went cold turkey - he was expected to fail; and the fourth was undergoing treatment in the Sydney naltrexone clinic - the only one of the four who succeeded in beating the heroin addiction. I urge members who did not see that television program to watch it and then look at what this Government could be doing for heroin addicts in Western Australia in exactly the same process, pioneered and undertaken by Dr O'Neil. They should bear this in mind: The Government has not offered one cent of assistance to the treatment Dr George O'Neil offers to heroin addicts.

The broken promise and the payments of \$60 000 and \$50 000 to undertake a trial must be looked at as being independent of this fact. The *Four Corners* program showed that the naltrexone clinic in Sydney charged \$6 900 to put a heroin addict onto that program in that State. It boasted a success rate of 90 per cent, a remarkable success rate for that private clinic. It is available only to people who can afford \$6 900. George O'Neil, as members would expect from a good Christian man, has opened his doors and his arms to all people, regardless of their financial means. He has said, "I will offer you treatment in this State." By its inactivity, the Government is saying, "If you are rich and come from an upper-middle class family, we will allow you to have the naltrexone treatment; but if you do not, if you are poor or are indigent, it's bad luck, and you have to put up with your addiction." It seems to be this Government's policy to make health services available on the basis of the size of a person's wallet, and that is completely unacceptable.

Dr George O'Neil asks his patients to contribute \$2 600, approximately one-third of the cost charged by the private clinic in Sydney. Surely that is a tremendous investment for the Government of this State to make to offset part of the cost of that treatment. The wall has gone up. There is a stony silence when Dr O'Neil says that he cannot afford to continue to provide this treatment program from his own pocket, with the volunteers and the staff, all of whom are making a contribution. It should be a community responsibility; in other words, a government responsibility. He is saying that the Government is not measuring up in its approach to this issue.

Most heroin addicts cannot afford to pay \$2 600, or even what is now being required by the board of management of the Australian medical procedures foundation which oversees his work. It is now requiring a 10 per cent up-front deposit. If heroin addicts who are desperate enough to seek this treatment have \$260 in their pockets, they will spend it to buy five packets of heroin on their way to the clinic. The experience at Dr O'Neil's clinic is that they will not go into the clinic with that money in their pocket. It can get money out of these people to pay for these things only once they have been dried out and put on naltrexone, not when their addiction is running rampant through them. In fact, only 16 per cent of the patients of Dr O'Neil's clinic pay the fee of \$2 600. That is suggesting the State is expecting Dr George O'Neil to continue to pay out of his pocket for 84 per cent of the patients he has treated. The State is saying that it has no responsibility for it! I do not accept that. It is an outrageous proposition. If the Government would stop rattling the sabre, and stop talking about its being tough on drugs and do something to help people, it would be applauded by the broader community.

Notwithstanding the generosity of Dr George O'Neil and the amount of resources he has invested in trying to solve the drug problem, the project is in financial jeopardy, and he has been directed by the board to not continue to treat those who cannot afford to pay. It is a very sad day for Western Australia. He said that last Wednesday 23 people went through the clinic, and only one of those could afford to pay the up-front 10 per cent deposit for the cost of the treatment; in other words, he would have turned away 22 of those people he detoxified last Wednesday, because of the mean-spiritedness and lack of vision by the Government. For two years Dr O'Neil has subsidised this treatment financially, and there has been an army of volunteers working with him. He has adopted the very principled policy that he will not turn away anybody who needs

treatment. Surely the Hippocratic oath is all about giving people that sort of treatment? On 11 June 1999 - last week - he was forced to write to the Premier. I will take a few minutes to read into the *Hansard* record relevant extracts from that letter, because it is quite long. He thanks the minister for his assurance that funding will be made available for further clinical trials related to naltrexone; that is, the \$50 000 to which I have already referred. He then states -

The further research will validate work we have already done but if you do not join us immediately with funding support patients will be refused treatments and die in the Perth Community. We have maintained the service for two years and we are treating 40 patients a week where we have promised treatment whether the patient can pay or not.

We have notified you repeatedly that our family cannot continue to underwrite this. My accountants and lawyers now refuse to let me spend anymore of our own funds and the Directors of the Perth Naltrexone Service decided last night that patients would no longer be treated if they could not pay 10% of the \$2,600 fee that we charge before we treat them. Unfortunately they are all out of money at this stage.

I expect to see patients being turned away from next Wednesday.

That is tomorrow; tomorrow a scandal will occur in Perth when patients who cannot afford treatment are turned away because of this Government's policies. He continues -

It will be very hard for me stand silently by and see young West Australians refused treatment . . .

Naltrexone used before seven days detox is recognised by the 3,000 families treated and the Community will recognise that if your Government stands by and allows those patients requiring this treatment to die, that you will not be remembered for positive leadership. West Australia runs the risk of going back from 46 detoxes of heroin per week to 6, which is what your Government pays for. Two days ago we treated 23 patients including some as young as 14 years of age which your Government refuses to pay for and the patients also fail to pay for. From the patients a total of \$600 was collected for treatments that would normally be invoiced in the Eastern States at \$5000 per treatment.

The Board decision based on Wednesday's type of clinic, now means that we will be only allowed to treat one of those 23 people instead of the whole 23. This situation is appalling to me personally and I hold you responsible as someone who could have prevented this. We can refuse to pay our staff which we have done, but we cannot persuade the overseas companies to supply us drugs without us being able to pay for them any longer.

I am disappointed by the situation and believe you should act to stop this happening. . . .

Dr George O'Neil.

P.S. You are my local member.

That letter speaks clearly enough of the problem. I predict that if a person has \$260 in his pocket and a raging heroin addiction, he will spend it on heroin on the way to the clinic. I am advised that when told they are likely to be turned away from tomorrow, some addicts have said they will contemplate suicide. However, the more common reaction will be that they will go back to heroin. Does this Government care? If it does, it should demonstrate that caring.

Another case study involves a woman called Michelle who comes from Perth's northern suburbs. This woman has three young children and has been on the methadone program for 15 years. She has been working hard to come off the program; she has her daily dose down from 80 milligrams to 30 mg. That costs her \$4 a day or \$120 a month, which is an enormous amount for someone on a disability support pension.

That situation has developed over the past eight months. Methadone was free in this State nine months ago. Initially when the Government devolved responsibility to the community clinics, the price of methadone was \$1 a day. A little later it was \$2 a day and it is now \$4. What was a free service with the Government helping people to beat an addiction by providing methadone has now changed so that the cost is borne by the patient. This woman told me that in the past, drug dealers took all her money, and now the Government takes it through the chemists from whom she purchases her methadone. She is still broke and cannot afford to continue taking it at the price the Government has imposed.

Mr Day: She can go to the central drug unit and get it for nothing.

Mr McGINTY: She cannot. She told me that everyone except the desperate drug addicts in this State are "heavily discouraged" from going anywhere near that clinic because it cannot cope. It escapes me why this Government cannot do something to help these people from whom it is now taking money.

It is clear that either this Government has been of no assistance to heroin addicts, and therefore the broader community, or it has made it more difficult for them to seek treatment. I call upon the Premier and the Minister for Health to get serious, to stop the sabre rattling and to do something to help the addicts and the community in the fight against drugs.

MR DAY (Darling Range - Minister for Health) [3.14 pm]: I completely oppose the motion. It is a display of gross sensationalism by the member for Fremantle and the Opposition.

Mr McGinty: George O'Neil is shutting the doors of his clinic. That is sensational and it is your fault. If you were to stop sitting on your hands you might stop people dying.

Mr DAY: It is time that the Opposition did a bit of decent research into this issue and gained an understanding of the very

serious legal and clinical issues involved. The member has come into this place because he was sent a copy of a letter from Dr George O'Neil to the Premier dated last Friday that he thinks is manna from heaven.

Several members interjected.

Mr DAY: That is the only thing that has prompted his interest in this issue.

Mr McGinty: I was a member of a select committee for a year in this place. It has been a matter of considerable concern to me. A cousin's child died of a heroin addiction, so the minister should not dare tell me that I have no interest in this matter.

Mr DAY: I am referring to the member's specific interest in this aspect of naltrexone and its use by Dr George O'Neil.

Mr McGinty: If you had been touched by heroin, you might have a different attitude.

Mr DAY: The important point about the use of naltrexone is whether it works. It may well work; I hope it does. However, there is no clear evidence at this stage indicating that it works in a safe or effective manner, particularly when used for rapid detoxification, as Dr O'Neil uses it.

The Government respects the work he is doing and the commitment he has shown to dealing with the problem of heroin addiction in this State. If through his work we can show that naltrexone is safe as a pharmacological agent for rapid detoxification, that will be very good. This Government has done everything it can to establish an environment and system in which he can get assistance in his work. However, if what he is doing is to be supported by taxpayers' money, it must be done in the context of a clinical trial.

Ms MacTiernan: Tell us what you have done.

Mr DAY: The member should listen.

Naltrexone was approved towards the end of last year by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as an appropriate pharmacological agent for the maintenance of alcohol detoxification and it is also accepted as an adjunct therapy for the maintenance of heroin detoxification. However, to my knowledge it has not been accepted by any reputable body as an agent of choice in rapid detoxification. As I said, we hope that it is useful when compared with all the other agents which are available at the moment.

There are two forms of detoxification using naltrexone. One is rapid detoxification, which I understand is the form used by Dr O'Neil, which extends over about 48 hours; and the other is ultrarapid detoxification, which I understand is done under a general anaesthetic. To my knowledge, that is not done in Western Australia but, as the member for Fremantle indicated, it is being practised in Sydney and also in Israel. However, before Governments can make funds available for the use of drugs or any other procedure to provide treatment to patients in whatever area, we must be satisfied there is clear evidence, based on the advice of reputable scientific and medical authorities, as to the safety and efficacy of whatever drug or procedure is being used. There are two aspects to that: The first relates to the responsible use of taxpayers' money. Obviously we cannot simply throw taxpayers' money at something unless it is a well-established and safe procedure.

Dr Gallop: How is taxpayers' money being used now? What are the results of the use of taxpayers' money now? Tell us how many people have died in the past 12 months.

Mr DAY: Certainly fewer than in the previous 12 months.

Dr Gallop: Where is your money going at the moment? The performance of your Government in this area is useless.

Mr DAY: There is also a legal issue. If action were taken by someone who suffered as a result of the improper use of medication, the Government would be open to legal challenge if it provided funding for treatment which was not proven.

Dr Gallop: Are you saying there is improper use of this medication at that clinic?

Mr DAY: No, I gave an example. I said the Government would be open to legal challenge if action were taken in a case where the safe use of a medication or procedure had not been proven. However, over the past two years the Government has made it clear to Dr O'Neil that we are keen to assist in providing funds for the work he is undertaking. Indeed, he and I have had two meetings in the time I have been Minister for Health, and discussions took place between my predecessor, the member for Albany, and Dr O'Neil for the same purpose; namely, we want to make funds available to him to provide naltrexone to people in the context of a properly constituted clinical trial. My first meeting with Dr O'Neil was, I think, in December of last year, and the outcome of that discussion was that he would work together with the Health Department and people from the WA Alcohol and Drug Authority, as it was then known, in order to put together a proper clinical trial. For that to be done, it was necessary to have supervision by a reputable scientific or medical authority. The Government can simply not provide that sort of oversight. We are entirely dependent on a reputable educational institution, for example, to provide that sort of oversight and supervision. It took some time to identify somebody who was willing and able to do this. I am pleased that Professor Assen Jablensky of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science at the University of Western Australia has come forward and expressed a willingness to cooperate with Dr O'Neil in the conduct of a proper clinical trial.

Mr Marlborough: Therefore, the money can be paid over tomorrow.

Mr DAY: The member should just wait and listen. As I said, since about September 1997 the Government has been keen to make funds available to Dr O'Neil for that purpose. However, it involves the proper assessment of patients when they come through the door, and putting in place proper controls and supervision.

Mr McGowan: Have you ever been there to have a look?

Mr DAY: No, I have not been there, but I have certainly heard a lot about it.

During 1997 or 1998, \$60 000 was made available to Dr O'Neil's Australian Medical Procedures Research Foundation to assist with a clinical trial. An additional \$20 000 was made available to the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Western Australia to assist with the assessment of that trial. Therefore, \$80 000 has already been made available. I did not hear any reference to that in the comments from the member for Fremantle.

I again met with Dr O'Neil about two weeks ago when we went through the issues involved. The point was again made to him that for further funds to be made available, he needed to have an acceptable trial set up, and as soon as that was done we would straightaway hand over the money. Dr O'Neil was to meet with Professor Jablensky following that meeting, and both of them were to meet with the Commissioner of Health to review the situation and ensure that an appropriate time frame was in place. As I said, Dr O'Neil sent a letter to the Premier towards the end of last week in which he appealed again for funds to be made available, notwithstanding the understanding that he no doubt had following our meeting about two weeks ago during which the clear advice was given to him about what was necessary to make the funds available. To make those funds available, the Government is entirely dependent on a reputable scientific authority working in partnership with Dr O'Neil.

Dr Gallop: The one thing you have been concerned about all along is publicity and that the people might actually learn about this little crisis that is going on. That is the one issue about which you have been concerned; that is the one issue you have been constantly raising with Dr O'Neil: "Don't go public. Don't tell the people about the crisis." That is the way your Government treats the drug problem in this State. It covers it up and puts it under the carpet.

Mr DAY: That is absolute rubbish.

Dr Gallop: It is not rubbish.

Mr DAY: I have been totally forthcoming with the public of Western Australia about this issue. However, quite clearly, if Dr O'Neil wants funds to assist in his program, we need to debate in a constructive way the details of how a trial will be conducted, and the way to achieve that is not through a public debate. There has been absolutely no desire whatsoever by this Government for this issue not to be debated in general terms in the public arena.

Mr Marlborough: Why don't you meet your own guidelines? Why don't you this evening go down to the surgery and sort it out?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Peel!

Mr DAY: A further meeting was held last Friday between the Commissioner of Health, Alan Bansemer, and Dr O'Neil. It was made clear yet again that if a commitment was given to conduct his activities within the context of a properly constituted clinical trial, a further \$50 000 would be made available. I am pleased that a commitment of sorts has been given by Dr O'Neil that the funds which are being made available will be used for that purpose, and a cheque for \$50 000 has therefore been made available to his organisation today. The cheque was written out last week, but following the commitment which was given, it was handed over to the organisation today.

Dr Gallop: What is your long-term strategy? What will you do when he cannot take people tomorrow who do not have the means?

Mr DAY: I will come to that, if the Leader of the Opposition wants me to. In the unlikely event that that occurred, we have contingencies in place to deal with the patients through Next Step Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services.

Dr Gallop: Will you give them a free taxi ride from one place to the other?

Mr DAY: We will deal with the issue in an appropriate, serious and substantial way, not through grandstanding, as the Leader of the Opposition is seeking to do.

Dr Gallop: How many people died last year?

Mr DAY: Too many.

Dr Gallop: Your Government is presiding over it.

Mr DAY: This Government is doing everything it can, and it is not putting all its eggs into one basket.

Dr Gallop: People who have meetings with you say it is like swimming in porridge - you're useless!

Mr DAY: Has the Leader of the Opposition been to one of the meetings? No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Osborne: You look stressed.

Dr Gallop: You picked it in one! I am very stressed about the problem in the community!

Mr Osborne: Watch your back.

Dr Gallop: People are dying and your Government is presiding over it!

Mr DAY: We are doing everything we can to reduce the rate of deaths, as we have done over the past couple of years. Substantial progress has been made. We will not put all our eggs in one basket, be it naltrexone or any other form of treatment. It was made clear to Dr O'Neil that in addition to the \$80 000 previously made available, and the \$50 000 handed over today, further funds are available if necessary to assist in the conduct of a proper clinical trial in the use of naltrexone for rapid detoxification. I table a copy of the letter from the Commissioner of Health to Dr O'Neil sent today along with the cheque for \$50 000.

[See paper No 1020.]

Mr DAY: We are by no means putting all our eggs in one basket. A great deal of research is being carried out around Australia and the rest of the world into finding the best possible treatment for heroin addiction. In particular, I am advised, following a recent discussion I had with Dr Alison Ritter, the head of research at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc in Victoria, that the drug buprenorphine shows much promise. We are considering conducting a trial in this State into the possible use of that form of medication as well. For various pharmacological reasons, it appears to be as promising as naltrexone, if not more so.

The methadone program in this State has been in operation for many years. Although it was denigrated by the Opposition to a large extent, it is a proven form of treatment with thorough evaluation and assessment over many years. Unlike the situation a couple of years ago, no waiting list exists for methadone treatment in this State following the provision of additional funding. The Government is taking its responsibility seriously. It will do whatever it can to reduce the impact on our society of heroin addiction.

The Next Step organisation is planning to further expand naltrexone use to outpatient services, particularly in the assessment of residential detoxification induction and, if necessary, moving onto naltrexone therapy. This involves follow-up treatment through naltrexone prescription and dispensing, including the provision of free naltrexone to patients of limited means. The reasonable option was to make naltrexone available for the purpose of maintenance through Next Step at no cost to people who cannot afford it. It is a significant initiative of this Government, the Health Department and Next Step.

I am also advised that the number of beds available for residential detoxification prior to naltrexone therapy is being expanded; therefore, 21 beds will be provided for a 17-client occupancy by July. That is an increase on the current situation. In addition, a further use-specific service will be provided through outpatient services for the 12 to 18 years age group to operate from the Next Step facility in East Perth. That is another important development which will involve a purpose-built, four-bed unit attached to the Next Step facility.

A great deal is being done. We cannot simply place all our eggs in one basket; the Government is not doing so, but is looking at further trials of not only naltrexone, but also buprenorphine. Also, access to the methadone program has expanded over the last couple of years. The Opposition's comments and arguments do not stand up. The Government has made it clear to Dr O'Neil that it wants to do all it reasonably can to assist him in his important work within the framework of a proper clinical trial. The provision of an additional \$50 000 today further demonstrates the good faith shown by this Government.

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Police) [3.35 pm]: I add to the debate, partly because I was Minister for Health for two and a half years, partly because I attended the Ministerial Council on Drugs Strategy last week in Sydney - I have attended a number of these councils - and partly as a result of the limited nature of the debate raised by the Opposition.

In 1995 the Premier of this State raised the issue of drug abuse in our society, and appointed a task force to investigate the matter. No-one else to that point had had the courage to do so, either in this State or elsewhere in Australia. This was a well-researched task force. People travelled all over the State and spoke to many community groups. I know, as I attended meetings in my electorate. The task force looked at expert information, conducted excellent research and produced a good report which, in large part, is in the process of being implemented. No-one else took on this matter as a political subject before this Government so acted. This approach is now being adopted by the Federal Government, and full marks to it, as late as it is. The task force produced a series of recommendations which can be applied from the law enforcement and treatment points of view, as well as other actions one can bring to bear to deal with the problem. One cannot deal with this issue in isolation. Naltrexone is not a silver bullet or a wonder drug - it does not cure everything. This alternative pharmacotherapy was not available generally in Australia two and a half or three years ago; however, it is now available in a limited form as approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. The Federal Government has decided it can be used in a limited way. It is not approved for general treatment, although it probably should be. As I have said before, when general practitioners are able throughout the State to administer naltrexone, within a proper support network for addicted persons - which is at least as important as the drug itself - its use can undoubtedly be extended.

In the meantime, Dr O'Neil pushes the boundaries. That is fine. I have no question as to the bona fides of his desire to help, cure and heal people. He has pushed the boundaries. Naltrexone is being trialled elsewhere, as is buprenorphine and slow release morphine and tincture opium in South Australia. Buprenorphine was the subject of a trial result recently published in the eastern States. We have managed to get methadone into society with GPs being trained in that area.

I distinctly recall launching on 14 August 1997 the opiate overdose project, in which this Government funded a group of ex-users to deal with people on the streets who were overdosing to teach them how not to kill themselves. On the same day, as part of that initiative, St John Ambulance launched a program to tell people who were associated with addicts, and addicts, that when someone collapses, they should give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and then ring for an ambulance. The police undertook not to attend such scenes. If they were called, they would go. Otherwise, they would not be called by the ambulance officers. Narcan is now carried by ambulance officers. The difficulty in the past was not that the Government did not want Narcan in ambulances, but that officers refused to use it. They now carry it.

These initiatives all happened in the last three years. Every State in this country, except Western Australia, has an increasing death rate from heroin overdose. One death is too many. This State has been measurably successful in turning the situation around although not to the extent we would like or as needs to be achieved in the future. The Government started on this process in 1995, and it has and is achieving - it will continue to achieve. I sat in the Ministerial Council on Drugs Strategy last Thursday and determined that the other States are not as far progressed as Western Australia; they are still wringing their hands or trying to pretend that it does not happen, or saying that somebody else must do something about it or that the Federal Government must fund this and that. Western Australia has continued not to be timid; it has gone out and done what it can and what it does well.

Cautioning trials for cannabis use are presently under way in two police districts. Results are as yet equivocal and we will wait until the end of the year when the trials have run for an appropriate time to consider them. That is simply the police officer exercising a discretion to charge or not to charge, which police officers have always had, especially for minor offences. It is a system whereby if the police choose not to charge, the person goes to education classes. If the person does not go to education classes, he gets charged. Other States are talking about the same thing for heroin dealing. It has even been tried in Victoria; it does not work.

Mr Carpenter: Who says it does not work? They say it is working well.

Mr PRINCE: The member for Willagee should have come to the meeting last Thursday. Drug courts are something that have been touted as one of the ways of fixing this problem. Drug courts exist in some form or other in some States in the United States and, to a very limited extent, in New South Wales. We have evaluated that idea. We are working up a way of dealing with those people who are addicted to narcotics in such a way that they are recidivist offenders. Eighty per cent of first-time offenders hit the courts once and never come back; of the remaining 20 per cent, another 10 per cent of them come back a second time and that is it. It is the 10 per cent or thereabouts who come back over and over again who are the problem. If we are to have a drug court in this State, it is my view, from working with the Attorney General and others, that it should be used for those recidivist offenders who have the hardest time trying to control their addiction; in the same way that what we are talking about from a health and medical view deals with those people.

Those are a few of the things that the Government has done and is doing right now. To criticise this Government for inaction and timidity is so totally, hypocritically wrong as to be almost laughable. This motion should be thrown out of the House.

MR BAKER (Joondalup) [3.42 pm]: I wish to use the remaining four minutes or so left to government speakers in response to this motion to raise a couple of salient features. I am surprised that members opposite would run with this motion in this Chamber and seek to rely on the good name of Dr George O'Neil and in some way, directly or indirectly, suggest that he supports the Labor Party's policy on how government should respond to the consumption of illicit drugs in the community. In reality, that is the issue which is at the heart of this motion: How should a responsible - the member opposite can laugh -

Dr Gallop: You are demeaning yourself by saying that.

Mr BAKER: How should a responsible but compassionate Government respond to the use, consumption and possession of illicit drugs in the broader community? That is the issue: Should the Government continue to prohibit the consumption, possession, use, sale and supply of illicit drugs, and at the same time provide appropriate harm minimisation strategies, or should it do as the Labor Party advocates and progressively decriminalise and legalise the issue so that at the end of the day, by using clever semantics and changing definitions, the drug problem is overcome because it has been defined out of existence?

It is very interesting that in this debate the Labor Party once again attempts to use the very good name of Dr George O'Neil for political purposes. It would be very interesting if we could hear from Dr O'Neil during this debate to learn of his views, particularly on the Labor Party's policies of heroin trials, providing heroin to heroin users, and decriminalising the simple possession of cannabis and allowing adults to cultivate up to five plants per adult in a household. Dr O'Neil has recently written to me on these two issues -

Dear Chris,

This is to confirm that I am opposed to heroin trials as we really have not used Naltrexone and other treatments in this country efficiently or provided a service to hundreds of people willing to give up heroin.

I am opposed to young people using marijuana as it interferes with short term memory and motivation and predisposes them to a series of drugs being used. In fifteen hundred heroin patients in Perth there are almost none who do not start on marijuana.

Thank you for communicating this information to your colleagues. Thank you for continuing to give our programme support and encouragement at a time when it has been difficult for patients, politicians and parents struggling to find solutions in Western Australia.

That is the reality of what Dr O'Neil thinks of the Labor Party's policies; the two issues that clearly differentiate the State Government's response to the illicit drug problem as opposed to what members opposite would do. If members opposite want to use Dr O'Neil's good name in this Chamber, they should tell the House and the public the full story of what he thinks of the Labor Party's illicit drug policy. I am sure they will not; they will keep that a secret.

At the end of the day, it is clear that the Labor Party is concerned about its own policy on illicit drugs. It is trying to make the way in which the Government has responded to the illicit drug problem, particularly in relation to the funding of the naltrexone trial or treatment program, the issue. That is the smokescreen. The real issue is the Labor Party's policy in this area. It is well aware that it went far too far at its last state conference to arrive at these two whacko proposals.

MR PENDAL (South Perth) [3.46 pm]: I also think that we could be doing much more to tackle the heroin problem. I will make three brief points in the five minutes that are available to Independent members. It is fortuitous in one respect that the Minister for Resources Development is here. I will repeat a point that I have made before: We are told that something in the order of 80 per cent of the heroin which arrives in Australia and which goes onto the street for sale comes from South-East Asian ports. It is no coincidence that that happens to be the part of the world in which Western Australia and Australia have their widest economic clout. I believe the time has come when we should be using that economic clout that we undoubtedly have in South-East Asia to put some greater pressure on the Governments in the region to increase surveillance of the outflow of narcotics leaving the region. That outflow, I repeat, ultimately forms 80 per cent of the narcotics imports coming into Australia. In other words, if we have huge clout at the trade and the economic levels, and when something is as serious as this, we should be using that clout.

Secondly, I express again my concern and sadness that the Government has not advanced on the amendment that was moved by me in the sentencing law debate in this House last December. I moved an amendment which received the support of the Opposition and was backed by the Government, specifically the Leader of the House, in principle; that is, we would create a specific mechanism to allow courts to suspend sentences in the case of heroin-related crimes, provided the offender agreed to go on to something such as the naltrexone treatment program with Dr George O'Neil, or for that matter any other reputable treatment program. It is tragic that something that was universally accepted by this House in December last year still has not been acted upon by the Government. I suspect there was a sense of injury on the part of the Attorney General at the time that someone had beaten him at his own game. Therefore, in agreeing with the Opposition motion I say that the Government has not done enough in that regard to bring in a specific sentencing option of the kind that I referred to, and of the kind that I moved in this place last December. If we are losing about 70 or 80 people on the streets to heroin each year - we may have lost another 40 people this year unnecessarily - it behoves the Government to explain why it was prepared to gamble with the lives of those young people by not taking up the offer that was given on that occasion.

Thirdly, I am yet to be convinced that police resources are being used properly in this dreadful, tragic scenario. Some time ago I drew attention to the fact that in recent years the arrest rate for heroin users, vis-a-vis the drug pushers, has been at a ratio of 2:1. That suggests that the emphasis again is on the wrong people. We are told that police resources are strapped to the limit. I see no evidence of police resources being strapped the limit when I look at the sorts of resources that are thrown into random breath testing, Multanovas and other forms of revenue raising in this State. Why do we do that? We do it because it is the easy option. The time and expertise of police personnel could be put to far more effective use in combating the scourge of heroin. That is another matter the Government has failed to address fully. I acknowledge that it has addressed some issues, but it has failed to address the question of proper police resources. I support the motion because the Government could be doing a lot more with the Governments of South-East Asia to stop the flow of this dreadful narcotic into Australia. The fact that we have never had a response to that sentencing option is another indication that the Government has failed.

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [3.51 pm]: We are not quite halfway through the calendar year and the latest figure available from the Government - I think this figure is a few days old - is that there have been 39 overdose deaths in Western Australia so far this year. Last year there were around 78 overdose deaths in Western Australia. We are on track to match or increase that figure this year. The Government refuses to concede that there is a major crisis in the use of illicit drugs in the community. The Government refuses to acknowledge it because it is locked into its position by ideology. Many members on the government side of the Chamber know that they are inhibited in the approach they are taking to this problem because of ideology. If all politicians were taken out of the picture and health experts around Australia and around the world were asked the question, there would be differences. However, there would be a fairly genuine consensus of what should be happening in this area. Politicians and political parties are inhibiting the medical fraternity from dealing with this problem, which is killing dozens of young Western Australians. It is doing more than killing young Western Australians; it is making tens of thousands of Western Australian people innocent victims of crime. Figures provided by the Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 indicated that 70 to 80 per cent of crime is in some way drug related. That figure is repeated by the police and by people all around the nation.

A couple of weeks ago the member for Albany spoke about the prostitution problem and tried to explain why the number of prostitutes working the streets in Perth had increased from about 500 a few years ago to about 3 000 now. He said that he was told by the vice squad that 80 per cent of those prostitutes had a narcotic addiction. If we drop the scales of political positioning from our eyes and look at what is going on in the community, it is clear for everyone to see. Dozens of young people are killing themselves with drug overdoses, thousands of young people, especially young men, are turning to crime to feed their habits and thousands of young women are turning to prostitution to feed their habits, and this Government refuses to explore all of the available options. That is the basic problem that the Government has created for itself. It is not necessarily the Government's fault that the streets of Perth and Australia are awash with heroin. It is coming in from overseas at a rate that people cannot stop. We can make all sorts of efforts to pressure Governments of other countries to take action, but we cannot force them to do so. Heroin is coming onto the streets of Australia and we must deal with the repercussions of what happens when it gets here. Governments can adopt a whole armoury of strategies. This Government is refusing to adopt some of those strategies. People on this side of the Chamber genuinely are not critical of the actions that the Government is taking. We, people like Dr O'Neil and other people working in the field are critical of what the Government is not doing. The Government is not doing all it could. It is not doing it because of political ideology, and that is a tragedy. Members of Parliament can stand in this place and blame the Opposition's policies for the problem, which is a bizarre tactic, yet at the same time - probably tonight - another young Western Australian will die of an overdose and certainly dozens of Western Australian people will become the victims of crime tonight because of the drug issue.

The member for Albany talked about the Government's leading the way across the nation with its strategies. It would be

good if that were true, but, sadly, it is not true. On 8 February the New South Wales Government - bearing in mind that Bob Carr is as conservative on this issue as some of the people in this Government - put a trial drug court in place in the western suburbs of Sydney to give people committing crimes because of drug problems an alternative to going to prison - an alternative that might break the cycle of crime in which they find themselves. The Victorian Government, led by Jeff Kennett, has introduced the marijuana cautioning system, which this Government commendably emulated sometime later. It has also initiated a trial of cautioning for drugs other than marijuana, which this Government - until I inadvertently made it public a couple of weeks ago - had committed itself to doing, but not publicly. The minister responsible made the tragic error of denying it in this Parliament and getting the public servant involved to put out a statement also denying it when three or four days earlier he had told a packed room that that was the Government's strategy. It is worth trying. If it helps to break the cycle of crime for some people who are opioid dependent, it is worth trying. If it saves lives, it is worth trying. The naltrexone program is not supported universally in the medical fraternity; nor are Dr O'Neil's views about heroin prescription trials. There is some evidence that it saves lives, and it could be saving many lives. Rather than attacking us for bringing this problem raised by Dr O'Neil to the fore, the Government should be thinking about why it has not done an analysis of the success of his program. It is a tragedy that the Government has done nothing to analyse the success of a trial which claims to save dozens of lives. That is the problem; the Government has done nothing.

When the Estimates Committee was held in this Parliament, I asked Alan Piper from the Ministry of Justice what analysis had been done to determine how many prisoners in Western Australia had a drug problem, and he said none. However, the minister responsible says in this Chamber that 80 per cent of crime is drug related. The Government is not doing enough. The members on that side of the Chamber know it; their constituents are saying it. I have been to the meetings which have been organised by the Dalkeith branch of the Liberal Party and they are concerned about this issue and about the Government's inactivity. It is time the Government took action and stopped the rhetoric.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (21)

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

Noes (27)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Day	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince
Mr Baker	Mrs Edwardes	Mr Marshall	Mr Shave
Mr Barnett	Dr Hames	Mr Masters	Mr Tubby
Mr Board	Mrs Holmes	Mr McNee	Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Minson	Mr Wiese
Mr Court	Mr Johnson	Mr Nicholls	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Cowan	Mr Kierath	Mr Omodei	

Question thus negatived.

TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION AMENDMENT BILL

Report

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [4.03 pm]: I move -

That the report of the Committee be adopted.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [4.04 pm]: I was telling the member for Vasse that he should not leave the Chamber because his Transport Co-ordination Amendment Bill is about to come on. As Liberal Party spokesperson on Transport, it would be most important for the member to be present.

Mr Bradshaw: He is not the spokesperson for Transport.

Ms MacTIERNAN: He is. We now know that the Liberal Party spokesperson on Transport is a far more important spokesperson than the National Party spokesperson on Transport matters, aka the Minister for Transport. We know this because we have seen on three separate occasions the Liberal Party spokesperson on Transport, the member for Vasse, being able to roll quite effectively the Minister for Transport on legislation and on this very Bill that we are now debating. We saw the spectacle of Liberal Party led members causing the shaky coalition Government to vote against its own legislation - a truly extraordinary feat.

We are coming into contact with a steady stream of people who have decided that they will not waste their time seeing the Minister for Transport on important Transport issues; they will go to the revolting backbench with the member for Vasse at its helm and seek audiences with that notorious committee. Whether they are mothers who have lost children in utility accidents, proprietors of bus companies or owners of driving schools, people have decided that there is no point in bothering to make representations to the Minister for Transport. The member for Vasse, the Liberal Party spokesperson on Transport, wields the power.

Mr Johnson: You are being mischievous.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am not. Members of the National Party have even contacted their constituents and said that it is all okay because Bernie Masters has said that he will support the legislation. It is an absolute farce. I am surprised that the member for Vasse has signed off, as I understand it, on the bus safety standards that formerly were part of this Bill that we are now debating. We have not seen the standards reintroduced into this legislation.

Mr Omodei: The shame about *Hansard* is that it cannot describe the look on your face.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is a look of complete amazement and bemusement at this shambles that is allegedly running Transport in this State. I agree with the Minister for Local Government that I probably do have quite a shocked look on my face, because this is a really shocking situation. Members will recall the absurd saga that went on when the Minister for Local Government, faithfully representing the Minister for Transport, told us that we would still have bus safety standards in this legislation and that there would be a simple amendment to exempt school buses. He told us that at 5.30 pm one Tuesday and by 7.00 pm the situation had changed and the bus safety standards were completely removed from the legislation.

We contacted the industry, which had been negotiating with the Government for some six years - or should I say negotiating with the National Party side of the Government. It did not realise there are two sections of the Government with whom it must negotiate. We alerted the industry to the fact that the Liberal Party spokesperson on Transport had decided that this legislation was to be withdrawn. The industry thereafter contacted the Government - that is, the member for Vasse - and had this matter reconsidered. I understand from my discussions with the coach industry - that is, representatives of the bus and coach association - that the member for Vasse and his trusty team of revolting backbenchers indicated after the meeting that they would support the introduction of the bus standards on which so much hard work had been done. That was embarrassing for the de jure Minister for Transport and National Party spokesperson on Transport but not the de facto spokesperson. The Minister for Transport decided that it would be too embarrassing to put these safety standards and bus standards back into the legislation. However, through his bureaucrats, because he would not meet with the industry himself - no doubt he was too humiliated by the situation which had befallen him - the minister indicated that the Government would put up another piece of legislation and have it through the Parliament by the end of the year. That is complete and utter nonsense. Members know that the Minister for Transport's track record of introducing legislation to this House, let alone getting Bills through it, is very poor. We are still waiting for the fulfilment of promises about heavy haulage licensing dating back to 1993.

The Opposition will not be supporting the third reading of this Bill because of the disgraceful situation which has evolved. This set of standards was six years in the making and received government and cabinet endorsement. The standards were introduced into the Parliament and in the process of debate in this place they were unceremoniously withdrawn by the minister without any consultation with the affected parties who were waiting for a group of toey backbenchers to second-guess the cabinet decision.

The Government continues to operate the Transport portfolio in this way and the public will condemn it for that. The Government has already made itself a laughing-stock by reducing the credibility of the Minister for Transport to zero. Its actions are affecting the general credibility of Government. I will not cry crocodile tears about that, but it is very alarming that public safety in three areas will be placed in jeopardy as a result of this. Coach operators have been allowed to avoid the rigorous standards originally proposed by the industry in this legislation and if there is a bus accident - as there was in the eastern States, which led to the adoption of these standards around Australia - the blood will fall not only on the hands of the members for Vasse and Murray-Wellington and the rest of the mongrel mob but also on the hands -

Government members interjected.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I withdraw that comment but I will not withdraw my statement that if there is a bus accident arising out of a bus being in poor condition, that backbench committee and the Cabinet which was so weak-kneed as to allow those members to get away with this will have blood on their hands. If another child is killed in a ute roll-over, the blood of that child will be on the hands of those backbenchers and the weak Cabinet. If road train or truck accidents are caused by inexperienced drivers because this backbench group has rejected the introduction of a new classification system, it and the weak-kneed Cabinet will have the blood of those victims on their hands. The Government is playing a very dangerous game with real potential for lives to be threatened through the irresponsible handling of the Transport portfolio by two rival ministers who are battling it out with each other.

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [4.15 pm]: I cannot let some of the member for Armadale's comments go unchallenged. The member for Armadale needs a new needle; the record has been stuck in this debate from the second reading speech, through the committee stage and again today. We have just heard a repetition of what we heard throughout the debate on this Bill. The coalition party room is a very democratic structure; people can argue and make their views known. It decided that the Government would not proceed with the omnibus operator standards and that the industry would be self-regulating and assisted in that by the Department of Transport. The member for Armadale's comment about the blood of accident victims being on the hands of members of this side of the House is another nonsensical comment. The member for Armadale knows full well that the safety standards for school buses, omnibuses and coaches are covered under the Road Traffic Act.

Mr Pendal interjected.

Mr OMODEI: The members for Armadale and South Perth can seize on those comments if they like. As for backbenchers meeting with people from the community, I thought that was what members of Parliament did. Is the member for Armadale suggesting that members of Parliament cannot meet members of the community who have an interest in an issue?

Ms MacTiernan: I will answer your interjection if you answer mine.

Mr OMODEI: That is how ridiculous this debate gets. I will continue to meet my constituents on a range of issues in my electorate, in the city or anywhere else; it does not matter whose portfolio an issue involves, from the Premier down. The member for Armadale's arguments about the member for Vasse meeting interest groups in the community are farcical; they are nonsense. It is time we got on with this legislation. If members have ever seen an example of tedious repetition, it has been during debate on the Transport Co-ordination Amendment Bill. It is about time we got on with the business of legislating in this place.

Question put and passed.

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [4.17 pm]: I seek leave to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Leave not granted.

REVENUE LAWS AMENDMENT (TAXATION) BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 June.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [4.18 pm]: This Bill is part of the budget process. It is important that the Government progress the passage of this and the other Bills listed on the Notice Paper, the Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill and the Acts Amendment and Repeal (Financial Sector Reform) Bill this week. We also hope to deal with the Loan Bill. That will allow this package of measures to be passed. This is important legislation and traditionally the taxation and revenue collection Bills in the budget receive prompt debate and bipartisan support regardless of whether people enjoy making changes to taxation. What else would members like to know about it?

Mr Cunningham: That's excellent so far.

Mr BARNETT: Taxation is an important issue at the moment. One of the key issues is taxation reform at a federal level, and that is progressing. While that is happening, it is also important to address taxation issues in this State. I welcome the opportunity to make these few brief remarks.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.20 pm]: This Bill seeks to implement a number of budget announcements and also make other amendments to state taxes. First, I will comment on the major impact of State Government revenue for the future. I refer to the goods and services tax package, the so-called Howard-Lees package, announced two weeks ago. Since then there has been mounting evidence that the Australian people simply do not want a goods and services tax. Of course, they did not want John Howard's GST, and they do not want the Howard-Lees GST either. Our view is that the Government of Western Australia should join with these people in opposing that package. On the day it was announced, we had a few fighting words from the Premier, but since then we have heard very little. It seems that he is sitting back and accepting a very regressive tax and, more importantly from a Western Australian viewpoint, a very centralist tax. He is accepting that, even though it will be bad for the State of Western Australia. The Treasury's preliminary analysis says so; and it is exactly that - a preliminary analysis with little detail. It shows numerous problems with the new package negotiated between the federal coalition Government and the Australian Democrats in Canberra. The analysis states that Western Australia will need to retain inefficient and regressive state taxes. We will have not only the current set of state taxes, which according to the Treasury's advice to the Government is inefficient and regressive, but also a new, regressive, inefficient goods and services tax on top of that. This will lead to significant compliance costs for small business which, under a coalition Government, will have to spend time and money collecting the goods and services tax. The Treasury analysis also claims there will be increased complexity and commonwealth bureaucratic interference in a number of areas.

Mr Bloffwitch interjected.

Dr GALLOP: The trouble with the member for Geraldton is that he is a true believer in all of this indirect tax.

Mr Bloffwitch: I am.

Dr GALLOP: People like him are a problem. Despite the facts, he still believes in it.

Mr Bloffwitch: I do, and it will be reality, let me tell you.

Dr GALLOP: The numbers are dropping day by day.

Mr Bloffwitch: Two.

Dr GALLOP: That is fine. Let us see what happens when the final punch comes. The Opposition has always maintained that the GST is a centralist package, that Western Australia would be even more vulnerable to the whims of the Federal Government than is the case with the current situation. The Howard-Lees compromise confirms that. Not only was that tax package negotiated with no consultation with the States, but also it gives the Commonwealth even more control over state affairs. The Premier has no-one to blame for this but himself, because he accepted this package in the first place.

I will now raise a very interesting point. The Treasury analysis also claims the State will have substantially less growth revenue from the new tax arrangement. Unfortunately the Treasurer has not given any detail, but the Opposition has undertaken its own analysis. We have had a look at the current system, projected that into the future, and compared it with the new system proposed by the Howard-Lees compromise, and projected that into the future. It is obvious that under the Howard-Lees compromise, less revenue will come from the goods and services tax because of the changes that were made.

Let us look at what this package means, compared with the State's prospects over the next few years. When we compare the revenue Western Australia would receive under the current system with what it would receive under the Howard-Lees tax package, it is clear that Western Australian state finances will take a battering. The Opposition analysis shows that under the Howard-Lees tax package, Western Australian finances would be \$400m worse off in the first year, and would continue to be worse off in the foreseeable future.

Mr Johnson: Can we see your analysis?

Dr GALLOP: Members opposite have seen it. I put it out last week. We understand that for accepting the package, John Howard has offered \$201m compensation in the first year, \$28m-odd in 2001-02 and \$66m in 2002-03; in other words, the Commonwealth has accepted that under the new regime it negotiated with the Australian Democrats, it will have to add to the compensation to the States. We can draw only one conclusion as to what that means for Western Australia - it is inadequate. Even when taking into consideration this compensation, Western Australian finances will be worse off to the tune of over \$200m each year for the first four years.

The Government has provided no alternative detailed analysis to disprove these figures. We can only assume we are on the right track. Whichever way we look at it, the Howard-Lees compromise package is bad news for Western Australia. As it did during the federal election campaign, the Opposition has prepared an analysis of this issue. Members will recall that when we did that previously, the Government said we were wrong; however, our analysis was proved to be right. When it negotiated the issue earlier this year, the Commonwealth had to provide more money for the gap. We now claim there will be a continuing gap, and that will impact negatively on the finances of this State.

This Bill seeks to implement rate adjustments announced in this year's budget. The first amendment relates to changes to the land tax scale. The State Revenue Department predicts that average land values will increase by 7 per cent in 1999-2000. This Bill seeks to amend the land tax scales to reduce the increase caused by bracket creep, where increased land values push land tax payers into higher tax brackets. The result is that, although 46 per cent of all land tax payers will receive no increase or a decrease in their bills, the majority will still have to pay more land tax in the 1999-2000 year than in previous years. Again, the adjustments to the land tax scales to counter bracket creep kick in only for land values over a prescribed amount; this year it is \$100 000. A number of those who pay land tax on properties with values of less than \$100 000 will be faced with significant increases in their land tax assessments.

Despite the rhetoric in the second reading speech, this Government will enjoy massive revenue growth from land tax collections in the next year. In 1999-2000 land tax collections are expected to be \$194m, an increase of \$16m, or 9 per cent, from the previous year. Even adjusting for inflation, the increase is 7 per cent. The significant increase in collections follows from record revenue growth since the coalition Government came into office. Land tax collections totalled \$128m in 1992-93. In 1999-2000 the figure is expected to be \$194m, a massive increase of 52 per cent. Even adjusted to real terms, the increase has been significant. Since 1992-93 land tax collections have increased by 38 per cent in real terms.

This Bill also seeks to amend the Stamp Act to replace the current flat rate of 3 per cent on the issue and transfer of motor vehicle licences to new owners, with a sliding-rate scale. Under the new scale, stamp duty on licences issued or transfers of vehicles valued at up to \$15 000 will be reduced from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent of the market value of the vehicle. It is pleasing to see the new scale will favour those purchasing vehicles costing less than \$15 000; however, the stamp duty changes will also bring additional revenue to the Government. The new stamp duty scales are expected to raise an additional \$21.9m in 1999-2000 and an additional \$25m in 2000-2001. Revenue from stamp duty on motor vehicle licences will increase from \$138m in 1998-99 to \$162.6m in 1999-2000, an increase of 17.8 per cent, or 15.2 per cent in real terms. Since 1992-93, revenue from stamp duty on motor vehicle licences has increased by 84.6 per cent, or 67.6 per cent in real terms. This massive increase in stamp duty revenue reflects the general record revenue growth enjoyed by the Government since coming into office.

Since 1992-93, State taxation revenue has increased by 56 per cent in real terms. Now the community is asking where the money is going. The Government continues to pursue its own pet projects while ignoring the needs of the community. The Government has focused its attention on issues like the belltower and the convention centre. Meanwhile, it tries to blackmail the community by telling it that it can only get a railway to the southern suburbs if some public assets are sold. These are the misplaced priorities of government in Western Australia today.

The Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill seeks to make changes to the Stamp Act 1921, the Managed Investments Act 1998 and the Road Traffic Act 1974. The first amendment seeks to amend the Stamp Act to provide for the imposition of nominal duty of \$20 upon the transfer of property, motor vehicle licences and other instruments when that transfer is required as a result of commonwealth legislation. The Commonwealth's Managed Investments Act came into operation on 1 July 1998 and changed the way managed funds are regulated. As part of these changes, managed funds are required to consolidate their operating structures which will result in a number of transactions, including the transfer of property. This legislation ensures that when these transactions take place, stamp duty concessions will be available. The Opposition understands that all the other States or Territories have either introduced, or are in the process of introducing, such legislation.

The other amendment proposed by this Bill is to change the motor vehicle licensing provisions of the Stamp Act and Road Traffic Act to support new invoicing arrangements. These new arrangements will be administered by the Department of Transport and are necessary to accommodate the Government's new vehicle immobiliser scheme. The Opposition understands that these invoicing arrangements will also allow for greater flexibility for the payment of licence fees. Payment will now be able to be made by telephone, by mail or at a post office.

I again compliment the State Revenue Department for providing a very descriptive explanatory memorandum for this legislation and for offering briefings to the Opposition on the proposed amendments.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Treasurer) [4.33 pm]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his comments. We meant to move for a cognate debate on these two Bills before debate started. However, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and transmitted to the Council.

REVENUE LAWS AMENDMENT (ASSESSMENT) BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 June.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and transmitted to the Council.

ACTS AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORM) BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 June.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [4.35 pm]: This Bill seeks to wind up the Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority and to transfer the supervision and regulation of credit unions, permanent building societies and friendly societies from the State to the Commonwealth. We understand that all Australian governments have agreed to pass the legislation necessary to facilitate this transfer of power by 1 July 1999. We also understand that terminating building societies will remain the responsibility of the State.

Over the past two decades we have seen significant changes in the financial sector industry. Back in the 1980s, the then Labor Government led the way with many reforms. Labor lifted restrictions on outward investment by Australian companies, it floated the Australian dollar and abolished exchange controls. Labor also introduced an extensive program of liberalising foreign investment restrictions in 1989 and worked to open the Australian financial system to foreign banks. These reforms contributed to a fundamental shift in the way the Australian financial sector operates. In June 1996, the Federal Treasury established an inquiry into Australia's financial system, otherwise known as the Wallis inquiry. This inquiry was charged with providing an assessment of the fallout of deregulation of the Australian financial system since the early 1980s. Recommendations were aimed at ensuring that the regulatory arrangement would ensure an efficient, responsive, competitive and flexible financial system to underpin stronger economic performance consistent with financial stability, prudence, integrity and fairness. In 1997, the Wallis inquiry made a series of recommendations on financial safety. One of its key recommendations was in respect of the regulatory environment in which both banks and non-bank financial institutions operate. In this respect the inquiry reported that -

On balance, the Inquiry finds the case for amalgamating regulation of all deposit taking institutions under one regulatory authority to be compelling. If non-bank DTIs are to be an effective source of competition for the banks in the retail market, it is fundamental that they be able to operate on a national basis and to compete on the same regulatory footing as banks.

The Federal Government accepted this recommendation and progressively introduced legislation to facilitate the change.

The States and Territories too are required to introduce legislation to repeal the State regulatory bodies and to transfer the regulatory powers to the Commonwealth. The initial commonwealth legislation established two new financial system regulators: The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority will provide prudential regulation of superannuation, insurance and all deposit-taking institutions, including credit unions, building societies and friendly societies. The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority commenced operations on 1 July 1998. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has responsibility for market integrity and consumer protection across the financial system, including investment, insurance and superannuation products.

It was originally intended to transfer the non-bank financial institutions to APRA by 31 December 1998, but the Commonwealth did not introduce its legislation effecting this transfer until March of this year. The Commonwealth has just recently passed legislation to give effect to the transfer. The Financial Sector (Transfer of Business) Bill 1999 and the Financial Sector Reform (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill (No 1) 1999 were passed on 27 May. Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory have all passed legislation that will transfer the State regulatory regime to the Commonwealth. Apparently all the other jurisdictions are on track to achieve a 1 July result. Western Australia is one of the last jurisdictions to introduce legislation into the Parliament to give effect to this transfer.

The Government's performance in presenting this Bill to Parliament is indicative of its handling of its legislative program. This Bill was only second read in this Parliament on 3 June, even though the State Government wants to have the legislation in place by 1 July. The State Government has again dragged its feet in presenting legislation to this Parliament. It is indicative of this do-nothing Government. While the Government has been tardy in its introduction of the legislation, industry bodies have been very vocal in trying to ensure a 1 July start date. The Opposition has received correspondence from the Australian Bankers' Association, the Credit Union Services Corporation and the Australian Association of

Permanent Building Societies, all expressing strong support for the legislation. Luke Lawler, Senior Adviser, Public Affairs from the Credit Union Services Corporation, wrote -

State and Commonwealth officials and the credit union, building society and friendly society industries have been working hard to achieve the 1 July start date. It is in everyone's interests to avoid any slippage, particularly due to the need for implementation of the transfer to be bedded down in time to avoid hampering preparations for Y2K.

Mr Larkey, Executive Director of the Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies, wrote -

We are very supportive of the transition of the prudential and corporate regulation of building societies from the jurisdictions of the States and Territories to federal arena. We are also very supportive of the 1 July 1999 transfer date.

The Australian Bankers' Association has also been strongly supportive of the legislation. Tony Aveling, the chief executive, wrote -

On behalf of our members, I am writing to advise that we strongly support the urgent passage of the WA Financial Sector Reform legislation and the suspension of the relevant standing orders that will be necessary to achieve this.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements reported on this matter in May 1999. The report on financial sector reform made the following recommendation -

That appropriate legislative amendments be enacted for the purposes of achieving the arrangements for the transfer of regulatory responsibility for certain financial institutions from Western Australia to the Commonwealth.

Given the strong support this legislation has from the industry groups concerned, and the recommendation made by the standing committee of this Parliament, the Opposition lends its general support to the Bill. It will also support any government move in the upper House to ensure that this legislation is passed by 1 July 1999. Nevertheless, I take this opportunity to clarify a number of issues, and raise some concerns on the matter.

The new regulatory environment is aimed at increasing the competitive pressure between banks and non-bank financial institutions. It was claimed in the second reading speech that "With increased competitive pressure introduced into the banking or deposit-taking environment, this should provide for increased choice, improved services and lower cost products and services". "Should" is the key word in that statement. The key test of this legislation is whether real benefits pass on to the customers and the community in general. The banking industry has been the subject of much public criticism of late. Action taken by the major banks has included: Closing branches in country towns; continually increasing fees and charges while enjoying increased profits; and discouraging at every opportunity any personal contact with clients. All of these have caused resentment within the community. Non-bank financial institutions have in some way benefited from this resentment, and have had the opportunity to capitalise on customer dissatisfaction with the banking industry. The nature and structure of many of these institutions have allowed them to offer different services and to capture some markets neglected by the major banks.

The CreditCare program run in regional Australia is an example. Under that program, credit unions have stepped into country towns when the last bank pulled out. This program has been highly successful in Queensland and New South Wales, while in Western Australia Paraburdoo has benefited from the program. I sincerely trust that with the creation of a new level playing field - where banks and most other financial institutions are regulated in a similar fashion - the diversity and choice offered by the different institutions are not eroded. I would hate this legislation to result in non-bank financial institutions offering the same service and products as banks, compromising genuine choice for the community. It is one thing to have a level playing field, and another to lose choice. Industry groups, however, are confident that this will not be the case, and that the proposed change will bring genuine benefit to customers. The changing regulations will result in non-bank financial institutions being able to offer an increased number of services, services which they cannot currently provide in their own right. Non-bank financial institutions also hope to benefit from a change in the public's perception of their institutions as less safe than banks. We all know that that perception is not backed up by the reality but now that we shall have a common regulatory environment, I am sure it will assist non-bank financial institutions to make a claim for customers in the marketplace. Many people believe that banks operate under much stricter control than do other types of financial institutions. This new regulatory environment, in which all financial institutions will be regulated in the same manner, will help to address these concerns.

I now move to some of the details in the Bill. The Opposition understands that the transfer of regulatory responsibility from the State to the Commonwealth will not result in reduced physical presence in Western Australia; that is, an office of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority will exist in Perth. I sincerely hope that this local presence will continue, and that the Commonwealth Government will not decide next year to close the States' offices, simply as a cost-cutting exercise. The Opposition also understands that the Bill requires the transfer of staff from the Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority on terms and conditions no less favourable than those currently applying. The Opposition seeks a further commitment from the State Government that these changes will not lead to job losses, or declining working conditions for the Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority staff.

I also seek clarification of the regulatory environment for terminating building societies. I understand that terminating building societies will not fall under the APRA body. The question remains as to which body will continue to regulate this part of the industry.

The Opposition is disappointed that the coalition Government did not introduce this legislation into the Parliament earlier. The Government's actions have led to unnecessary anxiety and uncertainty for the financial sector and the wider community.

This could have been avoided if the Government had managed its legislative program effectively. The Opposition, however, supports the Bill and will support government action to have this legislation passed by 30 June 1999. We believe it is worthwhile reform, which has the potential to provide benefits to customers and the community as a whole. We will monitor the situation to ensure that the level playing field that will apply will not undermine the real choice people have about the sorts of financial institutions they can use.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Treasurer) [4.48 pm]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his cooperation in assisting us to get this legislation through the Parliament by 30 June. He asked for assurances on two questions. First, the agreement guarantees that staff who are transferred will be employed under terms and conditions which are no less than their current conditions. That guarantee is written into the agreement. The Leader of the Opposition also asked about the position of terminating building societies. They will remain under the control of Homeswest. If we wanted a long debate, we could look at the history of building societies, credit unions and so on over the past couple of decades. This area has caused many problems and concerns. It was a credit to the States that in the last amendments to regulatory powers, they were prepared to put in place a cooperative scheme, but it has now become appropriate for it to become a national regulatory scheme. I thank the Opposition for helping this legislation to be passed by the required date.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and transmitted to the Council.

PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Ms McHale) in the Chair; Mr Kierath (Minister for Planning) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows -

No 1

Clause 2, page 2, line 7 - To delete the words "is, or days as are respectively,".

No 2

Clause 5, page 3, line 15 to page 5, line 17 - To delete the clause.

No 3

Clause 6, page 5, line 18 to page 7, line 20 - To delete the clause.

No 4

Clause 11, page 11, lines 19 to 24 - To delete paragraph (a).

No 5

Clause 12, page 12, lines 10 to 17 - To delete the clause.

Mr KIERATH: I move -

That amendment No 1 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: The Opposition opposes the motion that amendment No 1 be not agreed to. The amendment refers to clause 2 and aims to delete the words which would allow parts of this Bill to be proclaimed at different dates. The whole reason behind message No 60 is that in the other Chamber the Labor Party and other parties combined to oppose the clause of the Bill that would deal with giving a new right of appeal if a local government refused to initiate a town planning scheme. Members will be aware from the debate in this and the other Chamber that we on this side of the Chamber oppose that notion. We believe amendment No 1 is necessary as it takes away from the minister the option of implementing parts of this Bill at different times. We were particularly affronted about a year ago when the minister suggested that the legislation would include the right of appeal but it would not necessarily be proclaimed for a year if local government behaved properly. We believe the Government is either a legislator that brings in legislation and tries to have it passed or it is not a legislator, does not bring in legislation and tries to resolve it through other measures. With this amendment we take away that option from the minister, which is consistent with our general thrust of not agreeing with the new appeal right that the minister is trying to introduce.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Mr KIERATH: I move -

That amendment No 2 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: Again on this side of the Chamber we disagree with the minister's motion to disagree with amendment No 2. This amendment seeks to delete clause 5. Clause 5 is at the heart of the Bill and we object to the part that deals with the new appeal right. It is not worth going over the arguments in any detail again but we on this side believe local government

has a valuable role to play in planning and that role must be protected if we are to have true and proper orderly planning that is responsive to community needs. As was said at the time of the debate, other mechanisms are available if people truly believe corruption or something untoward is occurring.

Mr Kierath: Are you suggesting we use the other mechanisms?

Dr EDWARDS: These were some of the arguments put to the Opposition. If people truly believe there is corruption, they should take their information to the Anti-Corruption Commission or follow other avenues of complaint now available to them. We believe this appeal right is unnecessary. The minister launched the planning peer review panel, which has not had adequate time to educate local government so that planning could be improved. We must delete this clause to take away that totally unnecessary appeal right.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Mr KIERATH: I move -

That amendment No 3 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: I oppose the motion. If this amendment is passed, it will allow the minister to enforce an appeal tribunal decision if an aggrieved person complains under the new appeal system and the tribunal makes a determination that goes against the local government decision. Consistent with our whole theme, the Australian Labor Party does not believe this provision is necessary. We are concerned that this clause is in the Bill but we have not yet seen the promised appeals legislation that has been on the drawing board since the last election.

Mr Kierath: With a bit of luck it will be here next week.

Dr EDWARDS: With a bit of luck, touch wood! For the very valid planning reasons that we do not support the notion of the new appeal right, we cannot support this motion.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Mr KIERATH: I move -

That amendment No 4 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Dr EDWARDS: We will be opposing amendments Nos 4 and 5. These are basically machinery-type amendments that flow from the amendments to the body of the Bill made in the upper House.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Mr KIERATH: I move -

That amendment No 5 made by the Council be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Report

MR KIERATH (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [4.59 pm]: I move -

That the report of the Committee be adopted.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (32)

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

Noes (18)

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

Question thus passed.

Report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr Osborne, Dr Edwards and Mr Kierath (Minister for Planning) drew up the following reasons for not agreeing to amendments Nos 1 to 5 made by the Council -

Reasons for disagreeing to certain Legislative Council amendments -

The Legislative Council has amended the Bill by deleting clauses 5, 6, 11(a) and 12 and amending Clause 2.

Clauses 5, 6, 11(a) and 12 establish a right of appeal against discretionary decisions of local government with respect to amending a town planning scheme.

Amendment 1

Clause 2

Clause 2 has been amended to delete words that would have enabled the delay in proclamation of part of the Act. This clause enables the Government to delay the implementation of the appeal provisions and thereby afford the opportunity for the Planning Peer Review Panel to prove its success or otherwise.

Amendment 2

Clause 5

Clause 5 provides for a landowner to request a local government to prepare an amendment to rezone that person's land and establishes that where such an application is refused or delayed or where an unreasonable requirement is imposed the applicant may appeal to the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal.

This clause provides for decisions to be reviewed by an impartial party. All other planning decisions made by local government are subject to review.

It is a fact that unreasonable demands have been placed upon landowners in the past but the absence of an appeal right has been of great frustration to landowners and has resulted in acceptance of inconsistent and onerous conditions.

Planning issues should be assessed upon their planning merit. The fact that the appeal is specifically to the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal will provide comfort to local government, as the determination would be based on planning merit.

The appeal affords the opportunity for an amendment to be formulated and advertised, it does not pre-empt its outcome, which, rightly, is the result of a process of public advertising and consideration of submissions by the local government and the Minister for Planning.

Amendment 3

Clause 6

Clause 6 empowers the Minister for Planning to enforce decisions of the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal where the local government has continued to defy the determination in respect of the need to prepare an amendment to a town planning scheme. This clause is necessary to give effect to clause 5.

Amendment 4

Clause 11(a)

Clause 11(a) clarifies that the appeal right allowed under clause 5 is included within the definition of "appeal" under section 37 of the Act.

Amendment 5

Clause 12

Clause 12 is required to reflect the exceptional situation established under clause 5 whereby an appeal against a local government decision in respect of an amendment is restricted to the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal in contrast to other planning appeals which may be made to the Minister for Planning or the tribunal. This clause is required to qualify section 39 by establishing that appeals against local government decisions on amendments are exclusively to the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal.

MR KIERATH (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [5.15 pm]: I move -

That the reasons be adopted.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [5.15 pm]: We disagree with this report. Obviously we supported the amendments that were made in the other place; however, because of the numbers, we were forced to be on the committee of reasons. I will not go through the amendments, because most of the arguments were put earlier this evening. However, we take exception to two facts. Firstly, the minister stated in the report that unreasonable demands have been placed upon landowners in the past and there should be an appeal right. That has not been adequately demonstrated to us. We believe there are other ways of solving these types of problems that have not been investigated, and that much better paths can be gone down than the path the minister is trying to take. We also wonder why the minister is sending this matter back to the other House. We will not change our minds, and we assume the other parties will not change their minds. The minister will hold up a Bill that contains two other important sections that local government needs to have implemented as soon as possible. I refer in particular to the head of power for planning fees, and the section that deals with regional planning. I hope this matter can be dealt with as quickly as possible. We oppose the report.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (30)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Day	Mr Masters	Mr Shave
Mr Baker	Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Trenorden
Mr Barnett	Mrs Hodson-Thomas	Mr Minson	Mr Tubby
Mr Bloffwitch	Mr House	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Mr Board	Mr Johnson	Mr Omodei	Mrs van de Klashorst
Dr Constable	Mr Kierath	Mr Pental	Mr Wiese
Mr Court	Mr MacLean	Mr Prince	Mr Osborne (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Cowan	Mr Marshall		

Noes (19)

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

Question thus passed; reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

LOAN BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from 3 June.

DR TURNBULL (Collie) [5.20 pm]: I rise to continue my remarks on the attraction and retention of nurses, doctors and allied health professionals in country areas. This issue has two very important components: The current situation; and the future and how we can attract more young people into nursing, allied health and doctoring.

I will address first the desirable factors and a National Party policy designed to attract young people to the country. We should attract people while they are secondary students, just before they go into the tertiary system. The cost of tertiary education has recently increased and this policy would involve higher education contribution scheme payment forgiveness. Each year a person spent working in the country would be deducted from the period he or she would be required to make HECS payments. Some people might say that that is a stupid idea and that we cannot do it. However, it is currently done to attract tertiary-trained people into the armed services.

This is a good scheme because when young people start work they face many costs, particularly in the country. If they earn a reasonably high income while working in the country, they must pay those costs in addition to their HECS payment. The HECS payment forgiveness would come at a time when they really need it.

A doctor who wishes to train as a general practitioner has already finished six years of university training and he must then commit to another four to five years of postgraduate training. His salary at that time is not very high and the additional HECS payment is very noticeable. If the HECS payment is forgiven in return for promising to go to the country, the person making such a commitment during postgraduate training would continue to focus on that commitment. Many young people go through university thinking they will go to the country to give back something for the costly education they have received. As time goes on, they get married and start fitting into city life. During postgraduate training, which can be four years, that commitment starts to wane. I have seen many young people who were enthusiastic and prepared to say early in their training that they would go to the country but who subsequently found it all too hard.

Those who make the commitment to go to the country would be forgiven payments while they stayed, but if they did not honour that commitment they would then be required to make the payments. They would be forgiven the HECS payment only while they stayed in the country.

This scheme would not relate only to doctors, but also to nurses and allied health professionals. Allied health professionals are in very short supply. Physiotherapists, podiatrists, speech therapists, dieticians, community health nurses and community health workers could also be offered this relief from repaying their HECS fees during their postgraduate training and when they go to the country. That would be a tangible benefit. I am not talking about thousands of dollars, but it would come at a time in their lives when they need those funds. That would be a very good way to attract young people, particularly those in years 11 and 12. If they made that commitment they would have all those years of reinforcement while they did their training. For a medical student, that is 10 years, which is a very long time to maintain such a commitment. Many young and enthusiastic people give up, take the easy way out and stay in the city or go overseas to have other experiences.

Once these people go to the country we must provide attractive working conditions. We are currently dealing with nurses having time off when they need to cope with family commitments. The few city people who go to the country to work from time to time need to return to the city and at a time that suits them. I am pleased that the Health Department and the Minister for Health have recently informed the country health services that they can negotiate with nurses about a flexible rostering system that will allow them to have time off when it suits them. That is a very important move forward in negotiations for country nurses.

Of course, allied health professionals, nurses and doctors in the country face issues such as housing. It is very important

that there be suitable housing for people in the country. The old nurses' quarters are not attractive to nurses and allied health professionals nowadays. They want units, duplexes and triplexes and we must provide them. This does not apply only in the north west and the mining and pastoral areas; this affects all country areas. This is an issue in the south west, Collie, Boyup Brook and Boddington.

We must also allow for adequate training. If nurses, health professionals or doctors go to the country, they feel cut off from ongoing training. Funds must be included in country health service budgets to enable nurses, doctors and allied health professionals to attend training courses. They need a full day to travel; there is no point in telling them they can have four hours to attend a conference, because they cannot get there and back in that time. These issues must be factored into country health service budgets.

In conclusion, I clearly emphasise that the budgetary processes must include necessary factors to try to overcome some of the disadvantages of working in a country health service, and to make such work more attractive to staff.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [5.30 pm]: As the Opposition understands this Bill, it seeks the authority for the State Government to borrow money so it can assume responsibility for debt raised on its behalf in the past by the Commonwealth. Under the 1927 commonwealth-state financial agreement, the Commonwealth undertook to borrow money on behalf of State Governments. The importance of these borrowings has diminished over time as state authorities have undertaken increased borrowings in their own right. At an Australian Loan Council meeting held in June 1990, the States agreed to assume responsibility for refinancing their financial agreement debt as it matured each year between 1990-91 and 2005-06.

The Bill seeks authorisation to raise loans up to \$260m for the purpose of the redemption of maturing financial agreement debt. However, the second reading speech provides no detail as to the level of loans to mature in 1999-2000. Although the speech states that the current balance of the authorisation as at 30 June 1999 for redemption of maturing financial agreement debt is estimated to be \$10.1m, no mention is made of the level of commonwealth debt expected to mature in 1999-2000. I take the opportunity to ask the Treasurer to outline the amount of financial agreement debt to mature in 1998-99. What is the amount of financial agreement debt expected to mature in 1999-2000? What is the balance of financial agreement debt? It is a concern that the second reading speech does not contain this detail. As is the case in most second reading speeches on finance Bills introduced by this Government, there is a lack of detail.

Such Loan Acts were introduced in 1991, 1995 and 1997. It is interesting to look at previous debate on these Bills. When the Loan (Financial Agreement) Bill was discussed in 1991, the member for Nedlands took time to talk about taxes and charges. In 1991 he claimed that the "whole area of state taxes and charges is one on which we need to concentrate". He said -

On 24 May the Australian Bureau of Statistics brought out its latest figures on taxation revenue in Australia and I spent some time going through them. By contacting the bureau I was able to obtain the 1984-85 statistics in today's . . . dollars terms to have a comparison with what has taken place since 1984. It is interesting to note that since 1984 Western Australia's taxes and charges have increased by 20 per cent in real terms . . .

After these comments, the member for Cottesloe chipped in to say, "The irony of that is that they are now looking at a deficit." Is that not interesting? Let us look at the Government's performance on taxes and charges.

Since 1992-93, state tax revenue, as defined by the ABS, has increased by 56 per cent in real terms. The in his analysis compared 1984-85 to 1989-90. When we undertake a comparable exercise for 1994-95 to 1999-2000, state taxation has increased by 26 per cent in real terms. This is significantly higher than the 20 per cent referred to by the current Treasurer in 1991. It is nice to know that the comments of the member for Cottesloe are timeless. Yes, member for Cottesloe, we have a record revenue growth, and we still have a deficit. The current Treasurer did not stop there in the 1991 debate. He spoke about specific increases in motor vehicle registration charges, payroll tax and a number of other state taxes, and their impact on ordinary families.

Let us consider the Premier and Treasurer's record since coming to government. Payroll tax collection has increased by \$292m since he assumed office, which is an increase of 56 per cent. Land tax collection has increased by \$443m, which is an increase of 76 per cent. Stamp duty collection has increased by \$262m, which is an increase of 90 per cent. Taxes on motor vehicles have increased by \$195m, which is also 90 per cent. Then we have the big election promise of a social dividend for Western Australians. What did Western Australian families receive for that promise? Nothing but higher taxes and charges, including huge jumps in motor vehicle registration fees and relentless increases in public transport costs. A typical household is paying an extra \$427 a year in state taxes and charges since that promise was made. We all know that the Premier and Treasurer tried to salvage the concept of a social dividend last year by redefining it as a debt-free future for Western Australia. Nevertheless, he abandoned that concept by increasing debt in next year's budget.

This state budget saw an increase in total public sector debt of approximately \$800m in 1999-2000, which was an increase from \$5 008m in 1998-99 to \$5 800m in 1999-2000. This followed an increase of \$314m between 1988-89 and 1997-98. Across the general government sector, net debt increased by \$400m in 1997-98, and by \$449m in 1998-99, and it is expected to increase by \$509m in 1999-2000. The Premier was asked to explain the massive debt increase in the budget Estimates Committee hearings. The Treasurer was asked why general government net debt is expected to increase by \$509m while capital outlays are expected to increase by only \$156.9m in 1999-2000. His initial response was to attribute the increased net debt to increased funding on health and education. In other words, the Premier claimed that the increase in net debt was partly due to increased recurrent funding for health and education. When pressed on the issue, he continued to fumble around and give his usual nonsensical answers. We would like to know the truth. Is the Premier closer to being able to

explain why net debt is increasing by \$509m across the general government sector while capital outlays are increasing by only \$157m? Is this increase in net debt partly due to increased recurrent expenditure?

The Premier was also asked to confirm that the general government sector was expected to run a deficit of \$638m in the 1999-2000 year. I asked the Premier a question: In the general sector, outlined in table 2 on page 226, is there a budget estimate deficit of \$638m for 1999-2000? The answer was as follows: "The Leader of the Opposition is quoting from the budget figures." Heaven forbid that the Leader of the Opposition should quote from the Government's budget figures in a debate on the budget! What a pity that the Premier is not more conversant with the budget figures and what they mean. It clearly shows the Premier's approach to discussing the financial health of our State. He does not provide answers. He either does not know or simply wishes to misconstrue reality in the answers he provides.

Since the 1999-2000 budget was brought down, the Premier has been unable to face reality. Under his leadership, there is a record general government deficit. Even under accrual terms, there is a general government and consolidated fund deficit. The Government has enjoyed massive revenue growth, sold \$4b worth of public assets, watched public services erode and delivered a deficit to the public of Western Australia. However, what is worse for Western Australia is that at this time of financial vulnerability, the State Government must accept a new taxation package which will greatly affect the financial future of this State. The GST is a regressive centralist tax which will harm not only Western Australians at the checkout, but also the financial future of the Government and its taxpayers. The Howard-Lees package will be a financial disaster for fixed and low income earners, and a compliance nightmare for small business, and has the potential to greatly affect state government revenue and state development.

These are all issues the Premier has helped to create and is now helpless to stop. Why? It is because he has embraced the centralist and regressive GST. He knew that by accepting such a package last year he was simply handing power from the State to the Commonwealth. He willingly did so to look after John Howard's political interests. Now he can do nothing but accept it. When the compromise package was released, we heard a lot of huffing and puffing from the Premier. That has now gone from a whimper to complete silence. His posturing as the determined defender of the State lasted all of 24 hours, but as we saw in the House recently, he is already on the way to another capitulation.

My last comments relate to the Loan Allocation allocations. The Australian Loan Allocation oversees state, territory and commonwealth government public sector borrowings and uses a system of Loan Allocation allocations. Loan Allocation allocations are based on net borrowings as indicated by government deficit or surplus position. Page 231 of the *Economic and Fiscal Overview* shows the budgeted loan allocation for 1998-99, the estimated actual loan allocation for 1998-99 and the budget deficit for 1999-2000. This table shows a massive increase in the loan allocation from a budgeted figure of \$374.2m in 1998-99 to an estimated outcome of \$760m. The 1999-2000 figure has also increased to \$851.8m. These allocations have had to increase to service the increasing deficits that the Government is running across its activities.

In conclusion, let me ask again about some of the details not contained in this Bill. In particular, we are seeking the amount of financial agreement debt which will mature in 1998-99; the amount of the financial debt which is expected to mature in 1999-2000; and the current balance of the financial agreement debt. For once we live in hope that the Premier will provide a real answer to those questions.

MS McHALE (Thornlie) [5.41 pm]: My contribution to this debate will relate to matters in my electorate, particularly to education, and the impact of the budget on my shadow portfolios of the Arts and Heritage. They arise out of what we learnt during the Estimates Committee. I will canvass a number of related issues during my remarks if I have time.

Last year the Government committed to provide \$100m for computers in schools; \$80m for government schools and \$20m for private schools. This time last year I placed on record the current state of affairs in my schools with regard to technology. In my previous speech I indicated briefly that on the whole, the schools in my electorate said that the money was coming through for the hardware, and they were generally happy with the funding for the hardware, but that they had a number of concerns about the management of the funds and the software. Since I brought that to the attention of the House, I have some additional information which I would also like to put on record, and perhaps seek a response from the Minister for Education because this is an issue affecting all schools in all electorates. It relates particularly to the purchasing of software. As I understand it, a number of my schools had independently, but in the context of the money coming from government for technology and computers in schools, bought software because obviously the schools needed the software at that time. Unbeknown to the schools, the Education Department had been negotiating with Microsoft for a licence to use its products. The perception of the schools is this: They feel they will be paying twice for the software because the schools have purchased the software, not knowing that negotiations were taking place with Microsoft, and the cost of the licence with Microsoft is coming out of the allocation to schools for computing funding. The schools are saying that had they been fully aware of the negotiations, they may not have purchased the software. No indication was given of any contract for any licence becoming available. It appears that schools may not benefit to the extent that they thought they would benefit from the allocation of funding because they have already purchased the software. I hope that if schools find themselves in this situation, some adjustment will be made to the allocation from the computing funding, which is something I would like the minister to consider.

Concern has also been expressed about the difficulty that some schools have faced when developing the technology plan that they were required to develop, and also purchasing the equipment. Teachers were expected to assess technical needs when they may not be experienced or qualified to do so. They felt that it would be easy for something to be excluded in the development of the technology plan that would be required to run the new systems. If that is the case, the onus is on the school to find the money for the additional equipment. The message from the schools is that in terms of the overall commitment, the money for the hardware was very satisfactory, and I have commended the Government for the commitment

to technology. However, some refining of the management of the exercise should take place to ensure that the money is best spent. I hope the minister will take heed of this feedback from the schools and consider making some adjustments to the process of managing the fund.

I wish to put on record a number of other matters of concern in schools, the first one being security. Although I was not able during the Estimates Committee to explore with the minister the funding available for security, it is important to put on record that the concerns schools have about security are ever increasing. At least two of my schools have submitted to the Education Department requests for funding for security fencing. Although I feel that putting a fence around a school is detrimental, in concept anyway, to the notion that the school is very much part of the community, however, it is indicative of the fear and the real experiences that schools have suffered from vandalism, theft and so on. These two schools have been waiting for about three years to be informed of, or to be granted, funding for security. That is of great concern to the school community. I hope that when the department has finalised its deliberations on how it will spend the maintenance funding, the provision of security at those two schools will be seriously considered. Another question of maintenance and capital works relates to Yale Primary School. The parents and citizens association has raised with me the appalling state of the boys' toilets. Apparently, whether it is winter or summer, these toilets give off an extremely awful odour.

Mr McGowan: It smells like a toilet.

Ms McHALE: It smells like an awful toilet that has not been cleaned for months. It is interesting that it is the boys' toilets, not the girls' toilets. I am not sure what that says about the standard of the toilets. The Deputy Premier is giving me one of those knowing looks. If he would like to visit the school in my electorate, I am sure they would be happy to give him a tour, but I will keep my distance.

Mr Cowan: I will take your word for it.

Ms McHALE: I am glad the Deputy Premier will take my word for it because it is not a pleasant experience. These are the types of real concerns that are raised with me, and I hope the department will have the money in its budget, or the will to find it, to rectify an obviously revolting situation at the school. It is not fair for the boys to suffer that problem, and it is not only the boys who suffer, it is also the rest of the school community. The toilets stink regardless of whether one is inside or outside. It is not very pleasant at all.

I will make a number of remarks about the effect of the budget on the Arts portfolio. It is clear there has been a real reduction in the allocation of funds and the availability of funding to the arts industry. It is a sad and sorry state of affairs. It is also indicative that no savings have been made by the establishment of the Ministry for Culture and the Arts. It was clear during the Estimates Committee that the ministry was unable to quantify the supposed savings that were to be derived by establishing the Ministry for Culture and the Arts, nor was it able to quantify in dollar terms the money that was to have been freed up and reinvested in delivering the arts and art services. The Ministry for Culture and the Arts has been operating for 18 months, but we have not seen the anticipated savings and reinvestment in the arts industry; instead we have seen an increase in the cost of running the bureaucracy. That is not a desirable outcome. The Minister for the Arts proposed that money and people's time would be freed up. However, it is clear the trend is in the opposite direction and the effect of that will be dire. The effect of no real increase in funding will lead possibly to the closure of some of our established arts companies. We know from public debate that the Western Australian Ballet Company experienced significant financial difficulties late last year. There is talk now that it will close because funding has not been increased for that company or any other major company. If that happened, it would be very sad for the cultural fabric of our State.

I will also reflect on the budget of the Heritage portfolio. As we move out of the twentieth century into the next millennium, and we focus on our history, cultural heritage and future, it is ironic that there is a significant cut to the Heritage budget. It is estimated in the budget papers that there will be a 30 per cent reduction in the number of buildings that will be assessed in the 1999-2000 financial year. The projected figures indicate that instead of about 125 heritage buildings being assessed, only about 90 will be assessed. That means a significant number of our heritage buildings that are yet to be assessed and listed on the state heritage list could fall through the net because of the reduction in funding. I predict that we will see an increase in the number of heritage buildings being demolished. That is an appalling state of affairs, and it is an indictment of the Government's commitment to preserving our heritage. I am most concerned about the significant reduction in funding and what it will mean to preserving our social and industrial heritage. At a critical time in our history, it makes no sense to cut back on preservation and assessment of our heritage when we want to take it with us into the future.

Another area of the Heritage Council's budget which has been cut is education. Unless we educate building owners, local councils and community members about the importance of heritage and what can constitute heritage buildings, inadvertently or even deliberately, again we lose parts of our history which clearly are irreplaceable, and we will lose forever that reflection of our history and identity. We and future generations are the losers. We must raise our voices and indicate that the Government has let down the community insofar as it is not preserving and protecting our heritage to the extent that it should.

I also put on record two matters of great concern to me that were highlighted again during the Estimates Committee. The first matter is the parlous state of funding to women's health centres and, in particular, the Government's management of postnatal depression. One of the submissions to the Government came from the Western Australian Council of Social Service, which indicated that a serious injection of funding into women's health centres was required. Many of those centres have not had an increase for a number of years, and they are at the forefront of dealing with women's health and, in particular, postnatal depression. The minister indicated that the incidence of postnatal depression in our community is between 10 and 20 per cent. That is a significant proportion of women who have live births. One in five women are suffering significant postnatal depression, yet the agencies which are on the ground to assist these women to deal with

postnatal depression in its earlier stages, rather than let it get hold of them and cause problems later on, are not being funded adequately. That is a shameful situation. The minister was unable to indicate whether an increase would be granted, which suggests that there will not be an increase. I fear for the women who go to health centres in terms of the services they need and the services that will be delivered.

My last comment relates to retention rates for Aboriginal children, particularly the appalling downward trend for Aboriginal boys. Figures just released by the minister indicate clearly that the system is failing Aboriginal children, particularly boys. There has been a 6 per cent reduction in retention rates for all Aboriginal boys who start year 1 and finish year 12, and the figure is currently 12 per cent. In 1993 the figure was 18 per cent. Clearly something is going wrong. We see the effect of that in the law and order figures and the truancy rates, and it is a parlous state of affairs.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

MR MCGOWAN (Rockingham) [7.00 pm]: I will take the opportunity presented by this Bill to speak at length about a matter of considerable importance to my electorate of Rockingham, the State and, indeed, the security of our nation. It has to do with defence forces in my electorate. This was brought into considerable focus yesterday by HMAS *Farncomb* sinking the former HMAS *Torrens* off the Western Australian coast. I will say a few words about the Collins-class submarines, the role they play and my support for the project and the men and women who work in those submarines. I will also say a few words about a project that I have in mind for other former ships and submarines to be sunk as dive wrecks off our coast. In that context I do not include the former HMAS *Torrens*.

Yesterday for the first time since 1986, to the best of my recollection, an Australian submarine fired a war shot at a ship. On that previous occasion one of our Oberon-class submarines fired a mark-48 torpedo, which is the same class of torpedo that was used yesterday, at an old collier by the name of *Colac* off the coast of New South Wales. On that occasion the result for the collier was pretty much the same as that for former HMAS *Torrens*. What happened yesterday certainly proved the effectiveness of our submarines and of their torpedoes. I would like to think it was a very useful exercise on the part of the Navy and a fitting finale for the former HMAS *Torrens* through its being put to some use by the Navy for proving the effectiveness of our submarines.

All of our submarines will be based at HMAS *Stirling*, Garden Island, in my electorate of Rockingham. The six Collins-class submarines, some of which are still to be constructed, will all be home-ported in Western Australia. I think that the original plan was for one to be permanently situated off the east coast of Australia. The three new submarines that have arrived already are HMAS *Collins*, HMAS *Farncomb* and HMAS *Waller*. The other day HMAS *Otama* home-ported at HMAS *Stirling*. The *Otama* is the last of the Oberon-class submarines. I think she has only another 18 months of service, which she will serve out at *Stirling*.

These submarines have quite a history. The *Otama*, which of course is the last of her class in our Navy at least, was one of six Oberon-class submarines which we purchased from the United Kingdom in the 1960s and early 1970s. I think the *Otama* was launched in about 1973 and the other five Oberon-class submarines were launched in the late 1960s. They were constructed at Greenock in Scotland. The whole of their design was based on the most advanced German U-boat that was designed in 1944. The hull design was so good that many submarine designs were based upon it. The O-boats served our country well as operational submarines. I do not think they ever performed any roles in a warlike situation. However, the time eventually arrived, as with all submarines, when they got paid off. As I have indicated, there is only one left, and that is *Otama*.

I want to congratulate the Navy on the effectiveness of HMAS *Farncomb* yesterday. It was a very good example of what our Collins-class submarines are capable of. The project was signed by the then defence minister in 1987. It is a very ambitious program which has received a great deal of criticism generally from people who are very ill-informed about the matter and just look for a subject with which to get into politicians, the Government, the military and Australia's ability to do things in this country. Most of that unwarranted criticism has come from ill-informed commentators or disgruntled ex-naval officers who are looking for their five minutes of fame on television.

When Australia originally undertook to build the Collins-class submarines, there were various other contenders for the project. There were other designs but I think the three principal contenders were a British designed Upholder-class submarine, a German design and a Swedish designed Kockums type 471 submarine, which was the one we eventually decided on. It was designed in Sweden but completely manufactured here in Australia. This was a very ambitious project. In reality, it was probably the most ambitious engineering, construction and software project ever to be undertaken in the history of this country, and as such it was bound to experience problems and hiccups. Two of those submarines are now operating. The third submarine, HMAS *Waller*, will be commissioned in July. The fourth submarine, HMAS *Dechaineaux*, will be commissioned later this year and is in Adelaide, where it is being constructed.

I am very proud of the fact that those submarines are being made in Australia. It was believed by some people when we decided upon this deal, and it is also believed by the people who have criticised this decision subsequently, that these submarines could not be built in Australia. In my view, that is an ill-conceived view of the world, and it reflects a mentality that probably should no longer exist. This submarine project is worth \$5.5b. One criticism of the submarine design is that Australia should have a lot of smaller submarines rather than these big and powerful Collins-class submarines. However, Australia's coastline is almost 23 000 kilometres long, and we need powerful, ocean-going submarines that can cover large areas of the ocean, can be deployed for long periods of time and have a large range. The Collins-class submarines meet those requirements.

These submarines will be the largest conventional submarines in operation in this day and age. They will not be the largest

conventional submarines ever built, because during the Second World War, the Japanese Navy operated a submarine that was roughly the size of an aircraft carrier and had a deck from which planes could take off. The range of these submarines is in excess of 9 000 nautical miles, on one tank of fuel. They can dive to in excess of 180 metres. Their displacement when submerged is 3 350 tonnes, and when surfaced is 3 050 tonnes. They are 78 metres in length. They are powered by three Hedemora 18 cylinder diesels. They can do a phenomenal speed, for a conventional submarine, of 20 knots under the water and 10 knots on the surface. Their armament is spectacular. They have six torpedo tubes, each of which can fire either a mark-48 torpedo, which is a formidable weapon, or an encapsulated harpoon anti-ship missile. Those capabilities are spectacular for a conventional submarine. I am informed that their software packaging and sonar equipment is as good as any operated by any navy in the world, including the United States Navy, although the US Navy no longer operates conventional submarines, nor does the Royal Navy. These submarines are worth in excess of \$600m each. They have incredible capabilities.

The training for these submarines is done at HMAS *Stirling*, which is the submarine headquarters and has a submarine school and a submarine escape training facility. The crew, many of whom are my friends, are flown between Perth and Adelaide, where the trials on the new submarines are being conducted. The crew members undergo intensive training, involving all sorts of engineering, computer and software training. It is beyond me to explain it, because I do not understand it, but they constantly undergo courses to ensure that when they go to sea, they are capable of operating these very expensive submarines. The captain of HMAS *Farncomb*, which yesterday sank the decommissioned *Torrens*, is Lieutenant Commander Greg Sammut. He is 32 years old and is remarkably young to be a submarine commander in peacetime. What he does not know about submarines probably no-one knows. He is responsible for 42 lives when that boat goes to sea. HMAS *Farncomb* can travel at a speed of 20 knots under the water, which is around 35 to 40 kilometres an hour, and go away to sea for up to four months. All of the people in charge of these submarines have spectacular abilities, training and discipline.

I went on a tour of HMAS *Waller* when it was home-ported at HMAS *Stirling* a few weeks ago. I have been on some Oberon-class submarines, but I have never been on a Collins-class submarine. I was amazed by the capabilities of that submarine. The crew conditions on the Collins-class submarines are far better than on the Oberon-class submarines. The Collins-class submarines have 42 crew, comprising six officers and 36 sailors. The Oberon-class submarines have in excess of 70 crew, so the crew have to do what is known as "hot-bunking", whereby when one crew member gets out of bed, another one gets into the same bed, so the bed is still warm. The crew on the Collins-class submarines can have a daily shower when at sea, because the submarines are designed to manufacture sufficient quantities of water, and the showers are also a bit more accessible than are the showers on the old "O" boats, on which the crew shower only once a week.

The Collins-class submarines are spectacular. The control room contains the sonar and weapons software, which are computer controlled. The submarine is driven by what I would describe as a joystick, such as can be found in a video arcade, but it is capable of driving a 3 000 tonne machine at 20 knots under the sea. These new submarines have female crew members, and from my experience on board HMAS *Waller*, no-one appears to have any complaints about that. A lot of the equipment is mounted on rubber so that it does not make a noise and is more shock absorbent in battle conditions.

Some of the complaints about these submarines were aired on *Four Corners* a couple of weeks ago. Those people had an agenda to knock this project. I have the utmost confidence in the people who crew these submarines. I have seen these people in training and in operation. These people are steely-eyed and confidence-inspiring in the way in which they operate. Some criticism was made today of the sinking of the *Torrens*. The sinking of the *Torrens* was an excellent use of a submarine and an excellent training exercise to show what our submarines can do. Some criticism has come from embittered former naval officers. The best analogy I can draw is between the Collins-class submarine and what was known as the TFX fighter jet, as the F111 fighter bomber was known before it came into active service. The F111 was ordered by the Menzies Government in the 1950s. The purchase was subject to criticism from the then Opposition, members of the public and within the Government because the jets took a long time to arrive and were beset by technical problems. The jets arrived 12 years late. Since its purchase, the F111 has been widely acknowledged as the one of the best fighter bombers in the world. When it is retired from service, the F111 will have had an operational life in excess of 50 years from the time it was first flown for the Royal Air Force. The initial criticisms about time delays and technical problems have now been forgotten and the F111 is now widely admired. It allows replacement of electronic warfare and control packages to update it.

Similarly, the Collins-class submarine has been criticised. It was not as far behind schedule as the F111 but it has experienced a few hiccups. I do not deny that there have been problems but I have every confidence that the Navy and the Australian Submarine Corporation will sort them out. They are determined to get this submarine up to operational capacity and to make it the best conventional submarine in the world. I am convinced that they will succeed in doing that. I suggest that in a couple of years' time the criticisms will have been forgotten and we will know that we have the best submarine in the world.

Our biggest defence asset, apart from stable government and good relations with our neighbours, is the air-sea gap. It means we are fairly secure from any sort of attack. That gap will be patrolled by this very effective submarine, which can deal with multiple targets at any time while remaining quiet and unnoticed. We also have a highly competent and capable surface fleet. We also have an air force which is capable of dealing with any threats to this air-sea gap. One does not need to be a student of defence to know that the air-sea gap is our principal defence weapon. Provided we have equipment to deal with the gap and patrol it effectively, we should be secure into the future.

I mentioned the crews of these submarines. They are intensely well trained. The commanding officers must pass the perisher course which used to be conducted in the United Kingdom and is now run in the Netherlands. Officers who fail that course are unable to command a submarine. Therefore, we know that those who pass this intense training know what they are doing.

Many of our older submarine officers have served in the North Atlantic with the Americans and the Royal Navy, and some of them served when the world was dealing with the threat of the Soviet Union in that area. The crew members are very good. They are tested by being taken through the submarine to explain every single gauge and piece of equipment and what they would do in an emergency, and how to fix the equipment or shut it down. That is only a rudimentary explanation of the assessment process. These crews spend long periods away from home, up to six months at a time. We have some late nights in Parliament and get a bit grumpy about that. We have done all-night sessions here, attended functions until all hours and worked on weekends, but these men and women leave home for four or five months at a time to live in a metal shell under the ocean for weeks on end. If members think we have it tough, they should think about that. I cannot imagine any tougher environment to live in. It is a credit to these people that they do it so stoically and enthusiastically. In return they receive, in my view, poor remuneration. The average submariner is paid a certain wage depending on his rank as an officer or rate as a sailor. On top of that he receives a submarine service allowance. For a qualified submariner serving at sea with more than eight years' service, that allowance is \$18 750 on top of his normal salary. A submarine-trained person serving at sea with four to eight years' service receives \$18 200. A person with less than four years' service receives an allowance of \$17 200. A trainee at sea receives \$12 000 on top of his base pay, and a person who is submarine qualified and not serving at sea receives \$5 000 on top of his base pay. That is grossly inadequate. These people might work up to 18 hours a day for four months at a time. Their base salary might be \$30 000 to \$35 000 and they receive an allowance of \$18 000, which takes them to about \$50 000 a year for that work, the separation from their families and the fortune they spend calling home from overseas. It is not enough money for what they do. They do not do this work for the money but because they love it; these people like their jobs. However, they should be paid a lot better.

I will conclude by clarifying some things which have appeared in the media today. I would like to see a dive wreck park established off the coast of Rockingham on the west side of Garden Island in a 20 metre basin inside the five fathom bank. That site is ideal for the Perth diving and recreational market. I would like to see HMAS *Moresby* sunk there and the former HMAS *Orion* made safe and sunk in that area as an attraction for the diving and tourism markets. I have never indicated that I did not want the Navy to sink the *Torrens* in the way it did. The *Torrens* was for the Navy to deal with as it wanted, and it dealt with it effectively. However, these other vessels have been decommissioned for several years and I would like to see them used effectively in producing some enjoyment and jobs in my community. The Rockingham community would benefit by up to \$2m a year from these two vessels being placed on that site.

I would like to see it as the start of something bigger, with more ships being sunk in that spot. It is an environmentally attractive option. It would mean habitats would start where none has existed before, and it would put Perth on the map. The wreck of HMAS *Swan* off Dunsborough is good, but it is a long way from the Perth market. The site I have selected is shallow enough so that even if people are not divers and are merely snorkellers, they can swim over the area and see the magnificent ship and submarine on the ocean floor. I suggest this site over any other in the metropolitan area for two very simple reasons: First, it is out of the way of any shipping lanes; secondly, the site is in close proximity to the historic home of not only the Royal Australian Navy in this State, Garden Island, but also these two ships. In summary, that is the project I am pushing. I have no criticism of the Navy for what it has done. I would like to see this project come to fruition for the people of not only Rockingham, but Western Australia.

MR NICHOLLS (Mandurah) [7.31 pm]: I would like to contribute to the debate by focusing on some capital works undertaken in the Mandurah area. As members may be aware, for many years there have been calls for government capital works programs to be undertaken in Mandurah. Over the past six years or so commitments have been made to a number of projects which have been completed and have added to or benefited the Mandurah community. One project which has been foreshadowed is the Mandurah ocean marina, an issue which has been prominent in the Mandurah community for many decades. The area known as Dolphin Pool has been the subject of numerous prospective development projects and ideas. With the joint help of the Deputy Premier, the local council and a number of local organisations, the construction of the Mandurah ocean marina at Dolphin Pool is a real prospect and one which will provide a definite benefit to the Mandurah community and the surrounding region.

Other projects that are currently foreshadowed or for which funds have been committed include the senior campus to be built at the Mandurah TAFE college site. It will provide a state-of-the-art facility for year 11 and year 12 students. I look forward to it with great anticipation because it will be of major benefit to the young people in the Mandurah area. I hope this model will be followed in other electorates around Western Australia to provide additional benefits for young people going through those important years of study. Funds have also been committed for Halls Head Middle School. This will alleviate much of the pressure from Mandurah Senior High School, in particular. It has suffered for a number of years because of the inadequate buildings and limitation on space. It has been "demountable city" for over a decade to my knowledge. That detracts from its ability to provide an ideal environment in which to study and excel.

The Peel technical and further education facility extension is another major commitment to the community. Members may not be aware that in 1998 or in early 1999, if my memory serves me right, the then Minister for Education visited Mandurah to open a new TAFE annexe, which comprised two rooms at the local SkillShare building. At the time I believed the commitment was in reaction to the community's desire to see TAFE facilities provided locally. It did not allow for the growth in the TAFE demand that was required locally, but at least it provided a start. To the credit of people, such as Kay Wilson and others, involved in training, the Department of Training and the ministers that have followed since that time, we saw the TAFE facility move to an annexe which provided more options for study. We then saw a commitment to the new Peel TAFE college under this Government. It was a real commitment to training young people and adult students in the Mandurah area. The demand for technical and further education services and training has been such that the next stage of the facility has been brought on. My understanding is that the stage has come on earlier - the minister may indicate whether that is correct - than originally planned.

Mr Kierath: Yes.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is an indication of the needs within the local area and also the commitment by the Department of Training and the minister to meet those needs. As a local member, it is often my desire to see more facilities and support given to young people, in particular, who are trying to break into employment; however, employment opportunities must also be provided. That is probably the biggest challenge we face in our community. I say, quite categorically, that that challenge does not rest solely at the feet of government. The people of Mandurah and the surrounding region must recognise that the community at large must embrace opportunities and be prepared to seek compromises to achieve employment opportunities, rather than simply sitting back and demanding that government or government agencies fix the problem.

The Government has an important role to play when it comes to providing infrastructure for such employment generation. One example I highlight is the need for light industrial and commercial land to be zoned in this area. I commend the Minister for Planning and his people in the Ministry for Planning for heeding the calls from local government agencies and local members of the community for more land to be zoned in that way. As part of the regional structure plan that I hope will come before the House by the end of this year, we should see a large amount of land, which abuts the Serpentine River in the Murray shire, zoned as commercial or light industrial, and that will provide a real opportunity for more employment generation there.

Another issue that is vitally important when talking about public works is the freeway extension. Members of this House, former and present Ministers for Transport and other ministers are probably sick and tired of hearing me talk about the need for the extension, and hearing what may sound like a broken record. The extension of the Kwinana freeway to Mandurah is an essential part of the infrastructure needed for employment creation, particularly in commercial or clean industrial development. A number of government agencies, including the Peel Development Commission and the local council, and a number of community organisations, the chamber of commerce being notably one, have worked tirelessly for the extension of the freeway. Although I applaud the Government's move to remove the traffic lights from the freeway, provide the flyovers and extend the Kwinana Freeway to Foley Road, which will connect with Safety Bay Road, I make a request to the Government and this House; that is, that the priority for the extension of the Kwinana Freeway not be put aside and not be simply left because of the capital works program that we have embraced.

There is no doubt that the capital works program that the Government is now undertaking, which will include the widening of the Narrows Bridge, will enhance the transport options for people in my electorate and those south of the river. However, it is important that as development progresses and as the need for more efficient transport corridors impacts on businesses and residents alike, planning be put in place and funding be provided to extend the Kwinana Freeway all the way through to Mandurah. If I had my way, we would commit to a program of road development which would see the Kwinana Freeway extended to Mandurah and connected to the planned Peel deviation. That would provide a major transport corridor from Perth to Bunbury, bypassing Mandurah, and give a cost-efficient option to many primary producers to transport their produce from their farms to the port at Bunbury, the container port at Fremantle more importantly, or the airport. Currently, many of those producers face additional costs simply because of the inadequate transport corridors that are in place. As more and more vehicles use the roads, there will be greater expense and more delays, not to mention the road safety issues about which we continually hear. Those are some of the capital works programs that are important. I commend the Government for its commitment to those programs, and I commend those programs to this House as a major advance for the people of Mandurah and the surrounding region.

Some of the issues which I will now raise deal with specific services that I want to see addressed. The first issue is the express bus service from Mandurah to Perth which is known as the 107, which has been one of the most successful public transport initiatives that has been introduced since I have been a member of Parliament. It has been so successful that whenever an additional service is introduced, it becomes overloaded and people are left behind because the demand cannot be met. I am sure members of this House have become a little tired of hearing my continual requests that additional funds be made available so that bus services can be increased. However, I stress that public transport from Mandurah to Perth is not taken for granted. The people of Mandurah find it difficult to get around. We have a limited internal bus service, and it does not provide an adequate connection with the public transport service between Mandurah and the metropolitan area. If a very good service were provided, people would leave their cars and use it. That is something this Government has been trying to do for a long time, and it is one of its goals in trying to shift the reliance on private vehicles to public transport.

Therefore, I urge the Government, and in particular the Minister for Transport, to seriously consider the option of purchasing another double-decker bus, as was previously done, to add passenger capacity. Double-decker buses accommodate approximately 64 or 65 passengers whereas the normal coaches that are used accommodate approximately 44 or 45 passengers. Therefore, we could carry more passengers for almost the same cost with a double-decker bus and provide a better quality service. The double-decker buses that are being suggested are not new; they are second-hand buses from the east coast. However, I understand they will be more than adequate for our needs for up to 10 years, at which time either the Mercedes-Benz buses that are being sourced can be provided or we can consider alternatives.

I stress this is not an issue that we can put on the backburner for three years and say that we will get to it. I ask members to put themselves in the position of the people who stand at the bus stop at six o'clock in the morning, particularly on the cold and wet mornings that we have experienced recently, only to discover that the bus is full and it drives straight past. These people then have to find alternative means of getting to work. We have a responsibility to try to resolve that problem. The solution definitely in the short term is to provide double-decker buses. They are available or able to be sourced from the eastern States at a cost that is attractive or at least manageable.

I refer now to the transport of patients from Mandurah to health services in the metropolitan area. I will not digress or cover

what I intend to raise later this week in my grievance to the Minister for Health. Suffice to say that when frail, aged people who are not able to drive, who do not have transport options and who need to get to health services are told that they must be prepared to pay up to \$80 for transport to the health service and return, we are missing the point. If we are talking about providing services for the betterment of our community, I cannot accept that we should force frail, aged pensioners to pay up to \$80 simply to get to a health service that they need. If they can access the service locally and they choose of their own accord to go to the metropolitan area rather than use the service locally, that is their right to choose and a payment should be imposed. However, when they do not have the option to access that service and their health requires that they access the service for their quality of life, as a Government we should be providing transport. I will continue to pursue that option with the Minister for Health, even though I know that he is in a difficult position because of the budgetary situation. However, it is an issue that is fundamental to the quality of life of many residents of Mandurah.

Another issue relates to transportation from central Mandurah to the hospital. This Government in its wisdom has built a magnificent, new hospital building in Mandurah. It will provide much needed services to the community. However, again, many of those people who do not have their own transport and who are frail, aged and sick and who are unable to get themselves to the hospital need access to transport services, as do their partners and their families who wish to visit them if they are required to remain in hospital. We have a limited service, but there is an urgent need for a better service. I again urge the Minister for Transport to consider this issue and also, if possible, to provide some options that we may explore, even if it be in conjunction with other services that are provided. I have been working in conjunction with the local agencies that provide transport services, such as St John Ambulance Australia, the Silver Chain Nursing Association, the Red Cross, and home and community care services. They are working together, and we all want to make a difference to the community, but there is a need for the Government to provide resources where it is unable to provide those services within the constraints placed on many community agencies.

I now refer to damage caused to schools. I note that in the media recently there has been discussion about School Watch and ways of reducing the damage done to schools. On a number of occasions Mandurah Primary School has been vandalised, as have other schools in the Mandurah area. I am very concerned that little activity has taken place to identify the culprits and, even when those culprits are caught, little effort is made to get some recompense. That is heartbreaking for those involved with the school, particularly when much of the damage is wanton vandalism. It is not that the offenders want to raise funds or steal items because they have a drug habit or some other excuse; most of the damage is done just for the sake of destroying property. We need to address that, although I must confess that I do not have the answers. I believe people in the local community want to play an active role, and it is a matter of formulating a strategy that will be effective.

I now refer to another service that I believe is worthy of praise. I have a personal interest in this service, which I support, and I am its patron. I refer to the Mandurah disability sport and recreation service which provides respite care to people with disabilities in the community. It does this by caring for people with disabilities during the day and also by holding camps so that the carers, usually their parents, can gain some respite to do their shopping, relax or do other things. The group operates on a shoestring budget and it needs between \$10 000 and \$20 000 a year to operate. I have made a request to the Minister for Disability Services, although I know he is in a very difficult situation and has heavy demands on his funding. I urge the minister and the Government to recognise the benefits provided by this group, for very few funds, and the value of respite care for carers. It is a very valuable service to the community. I will approach the minister again personally and formally request him to consider this. I bring it to the attention of the House because the Government should provide resources to community groups which can provide these services with very few funds and very cost effectively.

The last point I raise is about attitudes to road safety. I draw the attention of the House to an article which appeared in the *Sunday Times* this week under the heading "Call for law to get tough". The newspaper purports to have carried out a survey, the results of which suggest that Western Australians want the police "to get tough and cut the State's mounting road toll". The article states -

They want more traffic police, tougher penalties for law-breakers and more speed cameras, a Times poll has revealed.

I had a closer look at the survey and it appears that it is the result of only 153 responses from the Western Australian population, which is absolutely pathetic. Secondly, this article and this type of research suggests that the Western Australian community wants more police on the roads, more Multanovas and tougher penalties, but I am sure it is not representative of the views of the people in my electorate. The word in my electorate is that people want more police off traffic duties and catching offenders breaking into houses and harming people. The community does not want police redirected from those duties, and placed behind trees trying to catch people driving a couple of kilometres above the speed limit. The article reports a comment by Assistant Police Commissioner Mel Hay - I assume it is correct - as follows -

It is good news that we have public support for more speed cameras and tougher legislation.

I want to send a clear message to Assistant Police Commissioner Mel Hay that that is not the message I am getting in my electorate. I believe he would be far better removing police from traffic duty; the priority is to stop people breaking into houses, pinching handbags and beating up old people. I do not have a problem with Multanovas, but I have a problem with the way in which they are apparently being applied. I have always understood that the legislation intended that they be located in major accident black spots, in order to reduce the potential harm to road users. It is my belief that they are nothing more than revenue raisers. They are not located at the black spots. I recall making a comment previously in this House suggesting that there was only one common point between the 20 highest accident black spots and the 20 most common places for the location of a Multanova. The justification for the introduction of Multanovas was to reduce speed on the roads. As I came along the Kwinana Freeway to Parliament today, I saw an operator setting up a camera beside a light pole

so that it could not be seen. I regularly see the sign notifying people that they have passed a Multanova, as required under the legislation, turned around so that people cannot see it. We are not seeing any efforts to educate people on road safety, but rather efforts to raise funds. I stress that I am one of those who would like the speed limit raised on the freeways further down south, so that people are not fined when travelling over the current speed limit on a safe road in dry conditions where there is absolutely no risk.

On the other side of the equation there are other road safety problems, one of which I will highlight. There is a pedestrian crossing south of the Pinjarra Road-Mandurah bypass intersection, between the lights and the new bridge. It is on a curve in the road, there are trees around it, and the speed limit in that area is 90 kilometres an hour. Children as young as five years of age must use that pedestrian crossing to go to school on the other side of that dual carriageway. I have raised this matter with Main Roads and asked whether an overpass could be constructed. I was advised that an overpass is not preferred, and that the pedestrian crossing will be shifted further south to solve the problem. With the traffic load on that road, it will not be long before some unfortunate person is hit by a vehicle, and then some unfortunate driver will be hung, drawn and quartered because he has run over a child, or hurt or killed somebody. Some action should be taken before that happens. If Main Roads wants to locate that pedestrian crossing in that very unsafe place - a crossing needs to be in place but it should be an overpass. Alternatively I urge it and the Minister for Transport to install pedestrian lights and a crossing. The pedestrians can operate the lights and the traffic can be stopped while they cross the road.

Although I know it all costs money, the reality is that it is unreasonable to reduce the speed limit to 60 kilometres an hour in that location in order to say that it is safe for young children and elderly people to cross. However, on the other side of the equation it is totally unsafe to leave the crossing where it is or to shift it a few metres further south because the department's view is that it does not have enough money to construct a safe crossing, or overpasses are no good because people will not use them. If we have the resources to spend millions of dollars on other programs, such as upgrading the roads or employing police officers to drive up and down the roads trying to catch drivers doing a few kilometres over the speed limit, we have the resources to make this crossing and crossings like it safe for young children and elderly people to use.

I finish on that note because I believe it is of absolute importance that this type of unsafe crossing be addressed as part of road safety and not the rubbish that my friend - and I do call him a friend - Grant Dorrington often speaks out against; that is, motorists driving a few kilometres over the speed limit being socially unacceptable. The point I make to him and many other people involved in this industry is that motorists actually want to participate in road safety but, when they see situations such as this pedestrian crossing left unattended or Multanovas hidden in the bush, their attitude is that it has nothing to do with safety and everything to do with revenue.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [8.01 pm]: I find myself strangely agreeing with the last speaker, especially on the issue of Multanovas and where they are placed as far as being revenue collectors rather than a deterrent for dangerous driving. It is amazing that they are positioned in many instances inside D-restriction zones at a 70 kilometre point when one has just driven from an 80 or 90 kilometres zone, rather than in higher speed zones. Some of the positions of the Multanovas in the southern corridor are designed so that people spend half their time ensuring they are in the right speed zones. Some of the speed zones along the areas in front of Kwinana defy logic. There are 90, 80 and 70 kilometre zones in dual carriageways where the conditions of the roads appear to be exactly the same. Many people have great difficulty in knowing which speed zone they are in from the surrounding terrain. I was not going to mention the Multanovas; however, the last member prompted my interest in that subject.

I mention briefly my disappointment that a number of issues have not been addressed in the budget documents. It is disappointing to many people in my region that some of the urgent needs have not been addressed. I will go through a couple of them. I thank the Minister for Education for the advice that he will visit Tom Price.

Mr Barnett: Are you coming to Tom Price with me?

Mr RIEBELING: No. I mentioned that Friday was the only day I could not attend and that is the day the minister is going. However, I thank the minister for going. I have advised numerous people in Tom Price of the joyous occasion and I have no doubt that they will take the opportunity to show the minister the problems.

Mr Barnett: I will give your apologies at the school.

Mr RIEBELING: I have already done that. There is no need for the minister to look after my interests; I am more than capable of looking after my own interests in the area. However, it is a good thing for the minister to take the time to witness firsthand the two education issues in Tom Price which were not, but which should have been, addressed in the budget. One of the issues is the Tom Price gymnasium. I have said a couple of times in this place that Tom Price has the only senior high school in the State, other than Margaret River, without a gymnasium attached to the school. In Margaret River I understand there is access to one, but in Tom Price there is no gymnasium in the town of the type that the school could make use of. It is disappointing that probably the hottest part of the State has the last senior high school in the State to have an enclosed, airconditioned gymnasium. Most people would think, on looking at the weather patterns, that schools like Tom Price would be the first of the schools to receive that sort of protection from the elements; however, that is not the case.

The other issue, the North Tom Price Primary School, is also a glaring example of government neglect - including Labor Governments - in that a verandah was built around the primary school for the kids to leave their bags on, to line up on and to leave their lunches and the like in an enclosed area. However, in Tom Price the enclosed area is not quite enclosed; it has a wooden slat board cover that, when it rains, offers no protection from the elements. I have given the Minister for Education a copy of a video of that protection in a storm. Has the minister been able to look at the video on Tom Price?

Mr Barnett: No, I have not.

Mr RIEBELING: Before the minister goes to Tom Price in July, I am sure he will have the opportunity to see what happens to the North Tom Price Primary School kids when it rains. I believe the minister will be able to have some impact on those two issues. I understand that the construction of a gymnasium is probably too big an item to be added to the budget. However, the renovations or alterations to the North Tom Price Primary School may be able to be met under the maintenance budget of the Education Department in this financial year. That is what is hoped will be achieved out of the minister's visit.

It is also disappointing to the people of Karratha that other deficient areas have not been tackled seriously in the budget, such as the provision of a permanent doctor at the Nickol Bay Hospital, an area that has been wanting for at least 10 years. From the time I was in local government, there has been a major call for a doctor to be based at the Nickol Bay Hospital. At each election since my election to this place, both sides of politics have promised to place a doctor in the Nickol Bay Hospital and the minute the election is over that desire dissolves until the next election. At each budget, of course, people in my area look for the "doctor decision" to be implemented but as yet that has not occurred.

The member for Riverton, when he was the Minister for Health, massively cut the budget for the patient assisted travel scheme by about \$1.5m. The then minister said that the patient assisted travel scheme had been adjusted so that the extra \$1.5m that was saved by the cuts he made, would be put towards the employment of more specialists in the country areas rather than the reverse situation. That should have been implemented, because more specialists in country areas would reduce the call on the patient assisted travel scheme. However, we did not see any improvement in the number of specialist services. All we saw was the patient assisted travel scheme being wound back, access to specialist services by people living in the north being reduced substantially and no huge improvement in the specialist services, except for natural improvements as a result of processes implemented many years ago. Progressively, more specialists have come to the area, but the provision of services has not been accelerated since \$1.5m was taken from the system.

Mr Bloffwitch: There has been an increase in Geraldton. Extra funding has been injected and extra operations have occurred. I am surprised to hear that Karratha has not gone the same way.

Mr RIEBELING: No doubt the member for Geraldton is surprised. To be brutally blunt, most people in my area think that Geraldton is in the south. It is not that far from here.

Mr Bloffwitch: You are right. The fact that we are catered for means that we are in the south. The Government looks at it the same way.

Mr RIEBELING: I am talking about people in remote areas who need to access services that people in the south west take for granted. This Minister for Health says that orthodontic services are not considered to be specialist services, and that people can have that treatment when they reach adulthood even though it is more difficult. No parent in Western Australia would accept that decision, other than the Minister for Health. He is the only one who thinks it is reasonable that people should wait until they have reached adulthood before they have correctional orthodontic treatment. Many young people requiring orthodontic treatment do not seek it simply because of their appearance. Many people consider that the service should be available as a matter of urgency through our health system.

We have approached the minister time and again, and occasionally we have been successful in a PATS claim for people accessing specialist dental surgery in Perth. In a recent case a two year old child did not qualify under the PAT scheme but would have qualified if she had been more sick. The response to the application was that if the child developed blood-poisoning she would qualify for the scheme. If the problem were allowed to run its course she would have become that sick. Fortunately, we managed to convince the minister of the stupidity of that requirement and the child accessed the specialist services. We should not have to undergo the stress of convincing the minister that people in remote areas must have access to treatment that people in the metropolitan area take for granted. Yet again the Government has failed to address the problems it created by changing the PAT scheme. Unless a specialist service is available locally, the changes do not benefit people in remote areas.

Due to changes to airline scheduling in the north, such as Qantas withdrawing from a number of linking towns, the ability for people in inland towns to access specialist services in the coastal Pilbara region has decreased dramatically. Through necessity, the cost of the PAT scheme in my area will increase substantially in the next year. Through no fault of the Government's but due to the airline changing its schedules, people in Tom Price and Paraburdoo will not be able to access the services of specialists who go to Port Hedland. That will exacerbate the problem.

Some other matters that should have been addressed in this budget relate once again to Homeswest stock in Karratha. Even though Homeswest officers try their very hardest to respond to the needs of the community, the office has no ability to respond to any demand for housing stock. People have been on the Homeswest list for two or three years. The problem of course has developed as a result of both this Government and the previous Government selling Homeswest stock to a point at which the stock has reduced by about 400 houses since 1992.

Mr Barnett: But there has been a big improvement in the quality of the Homeswest stock.

Mr RIEBELING: I do not think that is correct in relation to the rebuilding program. The building program in Karratha has been very small compared with the number of houses sold. Much of the stock sold was not old stock; it was in Millars Well and Pegs Creek. The older stock at Bulgarra has not been sold as easily. Homeswest has not sold some of the old stock it wanted to sell; nonetheless, it has got rid of much old stock and everyone agrees with that. The initial aim of selling old stock in Karratha was that for every two houses sold, one would be put back into the system. That was guaranteed to the then shire president. I know that because I was the shire president at the time. That guarantee was not fulfilled. We sold

400 houses and now we have 50, which has created an inability for Homeswest to respond to people's needs. I feel sorry for the officers who work in Homeswest because they have a hell of a time telling people that they are unable to respond to the needs of the community. I highlight the young mother who has three little children and who lives in a transportable box - it was designed to be an office - at the back of a house. It is considered to be adequate housing, not because anyone really believes it; but because there is nowhere else in the Karratha area to house them.

I refer now to the state of the road between Wickham and Karratha, to which I referred briefly some time ago. I understand that the construction of three bridges is budgeted for in the next financial year. That road, especially as Robe River is now extensively contracting out, is used for workers to travel to the major population base and to Robe River, and a small group of people travelling in the reverse direction because housing is cheaper in Wickham.

Mr Barnett: Which section of the road?

Mr RIEBELING: I am referring to the section between Roebourne and Karratha.

Mr Barnett: Are you referring to the main highway?

Mr RIEBELING: Yes. It floods in three places. Main Roads is designing three bridges. I agree that we could have beautiful bridges, but the road should be built up and culverts developed, which would be a cheaper solution. Main Roads agreed that would be much cheaper but said it wants to repair the road correctly. It floods only two or three times a year, so surely the culvert solution would be adequate. However, because Main Roads wants to build proper bridges which cost a great deal of money, nothing can be done this year.

The other people who travel on that road are students. There has been a huge increase in children from Wickham travelling to Catholic schools, mainly in Karratha, so much so that it is likely that next year Wickham High School will close. I was somewhat dismayed that none of the 26 kids who attended the grade 7 graduation to which I went last year intended to go to Wickham High School the following year. The parents have decided that they do not wish to support that school, and it will probably close at the end of this year. That highlights the need to fix that road. At least twice in the past six months, rain has flooded that road, and children who had been bussed to Karratha to attend the primary schools had to be billeted in Karratha overnight, a long way from their parents, which caused a lot of distress to both the parents and the children. St Luke's College is very concerned about that matter. I hope the Government will look at building a culvert on that road rather than a bridge. A bridge is probably a better solution, but it will be very expensive and will be an overkill when the road is flooded only three or four times a year.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House).

ENERGY COORDINATION AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Ms McHale) in the Chair; Mr Barnett (Minister for Energy) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows -

No 1

Clause 5, page 3, lines 6 to 8 - To delete "from the flange, joint or other point at which the system connects to a transmission system".

No 2

Clause 5, page 3, lines 15 to 25 - To delete the lines.

No 3

Clause 5, page 3, lines 26 and 27 - To delete "licence granted for the purposes of section 11I" and substitute "distribution licence or trading licence".

No 4

Clause 5, page 4, after line 3 - To insert the following words -

"small use customer" means a customer whose consumption of gas is less than 1 terajoule per year;

No 5

Clause 5, page 4, lines 4 and 5 - To delete "means transportation or sale;" and substitute -
means -

(a) the transportation of gas through a distribution system; or

(b) the sale to small use customers of gas transported through a distribution system;

No 6

Clause 5, page 4, lines 8 to 15 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

"trading licence" means a licence having the classification referred to in section 11D (1) (b).

No 7

Clause 7, page 6, lines 10 to 12 - To delete the lines.

No 8

Clause 7, page 6, line 20 - To insert after the word "sell" the words "to small use customers".

No 9

Clause 7, page 6, line 21 - To delete "transmission or".

No 10

Clause 7, page 7, lines 14 to 22 - To delete the lines.

No 11

Clause 7, page 8, lines 1 to 8 - To delete the lines.

No 12

Clause 7, page 8, lines 10 to 14 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

11G. (1) A person must not in a supply area or part of a supply area -

(a) construct, alter or operate a distribution system; or

(b) transport gas through a distribution system,

except under the authority of a distribution licence granted by the Coordinator that applies to that area or that part of that area.

Penalty: \$100 000 and a daily penalty of \$5 000.

(2) A person must not in a supply area or part of a supply area sell to small use customers gas transported through a distribution system except under the authority of a trading licence granted by the Coordinator that applies to that area or that part of that area.

Penalty: \$100 000 and a daily penalty of \$5 000.

No 13

Clause 7, page 8, after line 17 - To insert the following new subclauses -

(2) The Governor must not make an order under subsection (1) unless he or she is satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so.

(3) The Governor, in determining whether the making of the order would not be contrary to the public interest, may take into account one or more of the following matters -

(a) environmental considerations;

(b) social welfare and equity considerations, including community service obligations;

(c) economic and regional development, including employment and investment growth;

(d) the interests of gas customers generally or of a class of gas customers;

(e) the interests of any licensee, or applicant for a licence, in respect of the supply area or part of a supply area to which the order, if made, would apply;

(f) the importance of competition in gas industry markets;

(g) any other matter that he or she considers relevant.

No 14

Clause 7, page 8, lines 24 and 25 - To delete "section 7 of the *Energy Coordination Amendment Act 1997* (**"the commencement"**)" and substitute "an order under section 11A".

No 15

Clause 7, page 9, line 1 - To delete "the" and substitute "that".

No 16

Clause 7, page 9, line 5 - To insert after "commencement" the words "of the relevant order".

No 17

Clause 7, page 9, line 9 - To insert after "commencement" the words "of the relevant order".

No 18

Clause 7, page 9, lines 13 and 14 - To delete "appeal against the refusal" and substitute "an application for review of the decision".

No 19

Clause 7, page 9, lines 15 and 16 - To delete "appeal being brought or an appeal is brought" and substitute "application being made or an application is made".

No 20

Clause 7, page 9, line 19 - To delete "appeal" and substitute "application".

No 21

Clause 7, page 9, lines 24 to 27 - To delete the lines.

No 22

Clause 7, page 10, lines 1 to 3 - To delete the lines.

No 23

Clause 7, page 10, after line 4 - To insert the following -

Restriction on operation of this Division and Division 8

11J. This Division and Division 8 have effect subject to sections 90 and 92 of the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998*.

Coordinator to consider public interest

- 11K.** (1) The Coordinator must not exercise a power conferred by this Division unless he or she is satisfied that it would not be contrary to the public interest to do so.
- (2) The Coordinator, in determining whether the exercise of the power would not be contrary to the public interest, may take into account one or more of the matters referred to in section 11H (3).

No 24

Clause 7, page 10, line 13 - To insert after "applicant" the following words "in the gas industry in the State".

No 25

Clause 7, page 10, lines 14 to 17 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (b) in the case of an application for a trading licence -
- (i) the methods or principles that the applicant proposes to apply in determining its prices or charges; and
- (ii) the terms and conditions of any proposed standard customer contract between the applicant and any purchaser of gas from the applicant;

No 26

Clause 7, page 10, line 19 - To insert after "gas;" the following word "and".

No 27

Clause 7, page 10, lines 20 to 26 - To delete the lines.

No 28

Clause 7, page 11, line 5 - To delete "to supply gas; and" and substitute "for the transportation of gas".

No 29

Clause 7, page 11, lines 6 to 9 - To delete the lines.

No 30

Clause 7, page 11, lines 14 to 30 - To delete the lines.

No 31

Clause 7, page 12, lines 11 to 14 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (4) Subject to subsection (3), the terms and conditions of a licence must be substantially similar to the terms and conditions of any other licence with the same classification under section 11D (1) that applies in the same supply area or part of a supply area.

No 32

Clause 7, page 12, lines 16 and 17 - To delete "with regulations made under section 15 of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*" and substitute -

with -

- (a) the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Law; or
- (b) regulations made under section 15 of the *Gas Standards Act 1972*.

No 33

Clause 7, page 13, lines 3 and 4 - To delete "exceed 10 years from the day of grant or renewal of the licence." and substitute -

exceed -

- (a) in the case of a distribution licence, 21 years from the date of its grant or renewal; or
- (b) in the case of a trading licence, 10 years from the date of its grant or renewal.

No 34

Clause 7, page 13, line 18 - To delete "a".

No 35

Clause 7, page 13, line 19 - To delete "fee" and substitute "fees".

No 36

Clause 7, page 13, lines 21 to 26 - To delete the lines.

No 37

Clause 7, page 14, lines 1 to 3 - To delete the lines.

No 38

Clause 7, page 14, after line 17 - To insert the following new section -

Decisions as to grant, renewal or transfer

- 11S. (1) Subject to section 11K, the Coordinator must grant, renew or approve the transfer of a licence if he or she is satisfied that the applicant -
 - (a) has, and is likely to retain; or
 - (b) will acquire within a reasonable time after the grant, renewal or transfer, and is then likely to retain,the financial and technical resources to undertake the activities authorized, or to be authorized, by the licence.
- (2) The Coordinator must take all reasonable steps to make a decision in respect of an application for —
 - (a) the grant or renewal of a licence; or
 - (b) approval to transfer a licence,within 90 days after the application is made.

No 39

Clause 7, page 14, after line 23 - To insert the following paragraph -

- (a) the date of the grant, renewal or transfer;

No 40

Clause 7, page 15, after line 4 - To insert the following subclause -

- (3) The Coordinator must ensure that written notice of a decision to refuse to grant, renew, or approve the transfer of, a licence, together with a statement of the reasons for the decision, is given to the applicant within 14 days after the decision is made.

No 41

Clause 7, page 15, after line 18 - To insert the following new subclause -

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1) or sections 90 and 92 of the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998*, a licence has effect subject to the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Law.

No 42

Clause 7, page 15, line 22 - To delete "If the licence specifies a" and substitute "A licence must specify the".

No 43

Clause 7, page 15, line 23 - To insert after "determination," the words "including the manner in which an amendment is to be notified to the licensee, and".

No 44

Clause 7, page 16, line 2 - To delete "under subsection (4) or".

No 45

Clause 7, page 16, lines 6 and 7 - To delete the lines.

No 46

Clause 7, page 16, lines 16 to 26 and page 17, lines 1 to 7 - To delete the lines.

No 47

Clause 7, page 17, line 20 - To delete "to the provisions of" and substitute "to -".

No 48

Clause 7, page 17, lines 21 to 24 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (a) the provisions of section 48 of the *Energy Corporations (Powers) Act 1979* that apply to a licensee by operation of section 11ZO; and
- (b) any contractual rights that the licensee may have to interrupt, suspend or restrict the supply of gas,
- and does not limit those provisions or rights.

No 49

Clause 7, page 18, line 23 - To delete ", where applicable,".

No 50

Clause 7, page 18, lines 24 and 25 - To delete "in relation to the supply of gas." and substitute "to the extent that those standards apply to the supply of gas by the licensee.".

No 51

Clause 7, page 21, lines 4 and 5 - To delete "has failed to comply with the condition imposed by section 11X or is otherwise" and substitute "is".

No 52

Clause 7, page 21, lines 19 and 20 - To delete ", other than that imposed by section 11X".

No 53

Clause 7, page 22, after line 17 - To insert the following new subclause -

- (5) If -
- (a) a distribution licence is cancelled under this section; and
- (b) regulations of the kind referred to in subsection (4) (a) are made,

Division 9 applies, with all necessary changes, for the purpose of enabling gas to be supplied after the cancellation, as if references in that Division to a licensee were references to the person in whom the assets, rights and interests of the former licensee are vested under the regulations.

No 54

Clause 7, page 22, lines 19 to 22 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- 11ZF.** (1) Following the cancellation of a distribution licence under section 11ZE, the former licensee —
- (a) is to ensure that any distribution system constructed or operated by the former licensee under the licence is left in a safe condition; and
 - (b) is not to remove any part of such a system except with the approval of the Minister.

No 55

Clause 7, page 22, line 28 - To insert before "premises" the words "land or".

No 56

Clause 7, page 23, line 13 - To delete "section 11ZC" and substitute "sections 11ZB, 11ZD and 11ZF".

No 57

Clause 7, page 23, after line 15 - To insert the following new subsection -

- (1) In this section -
- "Board"** means the Western Australian Gas Review Board established by the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998*.

No 58

Clause 7, page 23, line 16 - To delete "who is aggrieved" and substitute "adversely affected".

No 59

Clause 7, page 24, line 2 - To delete "appeal to the Minister against" and substitute "apply to the Board for a review of".

No 60

Clause 7, page 24, line 3 - To delete "30" and substitute "14".

No 61

Clause 7, page 24, lines 5 to 20 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (3) The Board must make its determination on the review within 90 days after receiving the application for review.
- (4) The Board may extend, or further extend, the period referred to in subsection (3) by a period of 30 days if it considers that the matter cannot be dealt with properly without the extension either because of its complexity or because of other special circumstances.
- (5) If the Board extends the period, it must, before the end of the period, notify the applicant of the extension and the reasons for it.
- (6) An application under this section does not operate to stay the decision unless the Board otherwise determines.
- (7) On the application of a party to proceedings under this section, the Board may conduct the proceedings in the absence of the public.
- (8) The Board may require the Coordinator to give information and other assistance, and to make reports, as specified by the Board.
- (9) In proceedings under this section, the Board may make an order affirming, or setting aside or varying immediately or as from a specified future date, the decision under review and, for the purposes of the review, may exercise the same powers with respect to the subject matter of the decision as may be exercised with respect to that subject matter by the Coordinator.
- (10) The Board may make such orders (if any) as to costs in respect of a proceeding as it thinks fit.
- (11) The Board may refuse to review a decision if it considers that the application for review is trivial or vexatious.
- (12) A determination by the Board on the review of a decision has the same effect as if it were made by the Coordinator.
- (13) A reference in Part 6, Division 2 of the *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998* to proceedings before the Board includes a reference to proceedings under this section.

No 62

Clause 7, page 24, line 23 - To insert after "may" the words ", subject to section 11ZE (5),".

No 63

Clause 7, page 25, lines 1 to 7 - To delete the lines.

No 64

Clause 7, page 25, lines 13 and 14 - To delete the lines.

No 65

Clause 7, page 26, lines 4 and 5 - To delete "the *Land Acquisition Act*" and substitute "Part 9 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*".

No 66

Clause 7, page 26, lines 17 and 18 - To delete "land in the *Land Acquisition Act* includes an interest in land or" and substitute "an interest in land in Part 9 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* includes an".

No 67

Clause 7, page 26, line 20 - To delete "the *Land Acquisition Act*" and substitute "Part 9 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*".

No 68

Clause 7, page 26, line 24 - To delete "The *Land Acquisition Act*" and substitute "Part 9 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*".

No 69

Clause 7, page 27, lines 3 and 4 - To delete "the *Land Acquisition Act*" and substitute "Parts 9 and 10 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*".

No 70

Clause 7, page 27, line 8 - To delete "*Land Acquisition Act*" and substitute "*Land Administration Act 1997*".

No 71

Clause 7, page 27, lines 23 to 27 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

Part 1 of Schedule 2 includes -

- (a) the holder of a distribution licence;
- (b) any transferee of a distribution licence under section 11R; and
- (c) any person in whom the assets, rights and interests of a former holder of a distribution licence are vested under regulations referred to in section 11ZE (4).

No 72

Clause 7, page 28, lines 1 to 3 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (2) A reference to a corporation in a provision of the *Energy Corporations (Powers) Act 1979* referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 2 includes -
 - (a) the holder of a trading licence;
 - (b) any transferee of a trading licence under section 11R; and
 - (c) any person in whom the assets, rights and interests of a former holder of a trading licence are vested under regulations referred to in section 11ZE (4).

No 73

Clause 7, page 28, line 4 - To delete the words "referred to in subsection (1)".

No 74

Clause 7, page 28, line 5 - To insert after "made" the words "under section 26".

No 75

Clause 7, page 28, lines 6 to 9 - To delete the lines and substitute the following lines -

- (a) restrict the operation of, or add a further requirement to, a prescribed provision in relation to a licensee or class of licensees;

No 76

Clause 7, page 28, line 11 - To insert after "any thing" the words "authorized by a prescribed provision".

No 77

Clause 7, page 28, line 14 - To insert after "any thing" the words "authorized by a prescribed provision".

No 78

Clause 7, page 28, line 16 - To insert after "any thing" the words "authorized by a prescribed provision".

No 79

Clause 7, page 28, after line 16 - To insert the following -

(4) In subsection (3) -

"licensee" includes a person referred to in subsection (1) (c) or (2) (c);

"prescribed provision" means a provision of the *Energy Corporations (Powers) Act 1979* referred to in Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 2.

No 80

Clause 7, page 28, lines 17 to 26 and page 29, lines 1 to 6 - To delete the lines.

No 81

Clause 8, page 29, line 17 - To insert after "type" the words -

, other than agreements relating to the provision of access to gas distribution capacity that are covered by the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Law.

No 82

Clause 8, page 29, lines 21 to 24 - To delete the lines.

No 83

Clause 8, page 29, line 30 - To insert after "business" the words "in the gas industry in the State".

No 84

Clause 8, page 30, line 1 - To insert before "specifying" the words "if the licence is a trading licence,".

No 85

Clause 8, page 30, line 5 - To delete "amendment or".

No 86

Clause 8, page 30, line 22 - To insert before "specifying" the words "if the licence is a trading licence,".

No 87

Clause 8, page 30, after line 31 - To insert the following lines -

(l) if the licence is a trading licence, specifying standards of customer service to be applied in supplying gas under the authority of the licence;

No 88

Clause 8, page 32, after line 4 - To insert the following -

Part 1 - Provisions applicable in relation to distribution licences

No 89

Clause 8, page 32, after line 14 - To insert the following -

Part 2 - Provisions applicable in relation to trading licences

s. 4 (1)
(definition of
"service
apparatus")
s. 4 (2)

s. 43
s. 46 (7), (8),
(11) & (16)
s. 48
s. 66

s. 67
s. 67A
s. 74
s. 79
s. 84 (2) & (3)

No 90

Clause 9, page 33, after line 21 - To insert the following -

(3) The *Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998** is amended in section 8 (1) -

- (a) by deleting "or" after paragraph (a);
- (b) by deleting the full stop at the end of paragraph (b) and substituting the following -
" ; or " ; and
- (c) by inserting after paragraph (b) the following paragraph -
" (c) a system for which a licence is in force under Part 2A of the *Energy Coordination Act 1994*.

[* *Act No. 65 of 1998.*]

".

No 91

Clause 9, page 33, after line 32 - To insert the following -

- (5) The *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969** is amended in section 4 (1) in the definition of "pipeline" by inserting after paragraph (d) the following paragraph -
" (da) a pipeline that is part of a distribution system as defined in the *Energy Coordination Act 1994*;

[* *Reprinted as at 19 February 1992.*

For subsequent amendments see 1997 Index to Legislation of Western Australia, Table 1, p. 177.]

".

No 92

New clause 7, page 4, after line 26 -To insert the following new clause -

Section 10 amended

- 7. Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (1) the following subsection -
" (1a) The Minister must not under subsection (1) direct the Coordinator with respect to the performance of the Coordinator's functions under Part 2A in respect of a particular person or a particular application. "

Mr BARNETT: I move -

That amendments Nos 1 to 92 made by the Council be agreed to.

This Bill has had a long parliamentary passage, commencing in 1997. The legislation relates to the gas industry and to the licensing of transmission, distribution and gas trading activities. It also addresses third-party access to transmission and distribution pipelines. The Bill passed through this Chamber and was then debated in the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council then referred the Bill to the Legislation Committee, which proposed a number of amendments which were agreed to by the Government in that place. During that period, further discussion and consultation took place with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, which resulted in further amendments being made. Also during the period, changes were made to other legislation with regard to the gas pipelines access rules, as laid out in the national access code, and some of those changes were incorporated in this legislation so that it would be compatible with that code. We now have a piece of legislation that has had a significant amount of amendment, some by opposition members in the upper House, some by the Government, and some by the passage of time with other associated legislation. Many of the amendments are of a technical nature and tidy up and clarify various aspects of the Bill. The legislation is now consistent with the general licensing arrangements that operate in other States. However, the legislation is probably less prescriptive in nature and in that sense is a more light-handed form of regulation. The Legislative Council committee made 18 recommendations. That process was added to by subsequent events. I acknowledge those members of the upper House who contributed towards improving the legislation. I also thank the Office of Energy, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy for their contributions.

The following major amendments are proposed: The coverage of transmission systems will be deleted; trading licences will be limited to small use customers, which will now be defined as those who consume less than one terajoule of gas per annum; the power of the Governor to exempt a person from holding a licence will be made more definitive by the inclusion of objective criteria; the transitional provisions relating to the need for existing market operators to obtain a licence will apply from the date on which supply areas are constituted; the Bill will be made consistent with the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act 1998, with access arrangements to pipeline services now covered under that Act and not the amendment Bill; the public interest test for the grant of a licence will be made more definitive by the inclusion of objective criteria; licence conditions will be substantially the same for similar licence types within a particular supply area; licence terms will be amended to 21 years for a distribution licence and 10 years for a trading licence; the ability of the Coordinator of Energy to reduce licence fees will be deleted; the holder of a distribution licence which has had its licence cancelled will not be permitted to remove any part of the distribution system without the prior approval of the Minister for Energy; and the appeal mechanism for licensing matters will be changed from the Minister for Energy to the Gas Review Board established under the provisions of the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia)

Act. That summarises what will be achieved by those 92 amendments, which reflect those changes, plus the consequential amendments.

Mr GRILL: We will not object to any of these amendments, for the reason that we were largely responsible for the Bill being amended. The minister is correct; the legislation did pass through this House and went to the other Chamber, where it was dissected by my colleague Hon Mark Nevill, who did a critique of the Bill of some length and dimension, and with considerable insight.

The Bill was designed to put in place a scheme for the licensing of gas distribution within designated areas called "supply areas". The Coordinator of Energy was responsible for administering that scheme and for granting licences. One of the catalysts for the legislation was the distribution system in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, which was going out to tender at the time. There were four tenderers, one of which was AlintaGas, which was ultimately awarded the contract. The irony is that time has shown that the provisions of this legislation were not necessary for that process.

This amended Bill is much reduced in scope from the original Bill. I have a copy of the amended Bill showing the deletions and additions. It is a very different piece of legislation from that which went through this House two years ago.

The problems that our colleague Hon Mark Nevill saw with the legislation were also picked up by the Standing Committee on Legislation in the upper House. It was Hon Mark Nevill's view that, firstly, the legislation had not been put in place with sufficient consultation with the industry generally, the Mines Department, the Department of Resources Development and other parties, and the minister has conceded that. Much more consultation with industry and others has resulted from that observation.

Secondly - this is very important - the Bill as it was first drafted was anti-competitive. It cut down dramatically the level of possible competition within this industry in the development of primary and secondary gas markets. The legislation was also over prescriptive - that has been acknowledged by the minister to some degree - and it allowed for far too much regulation.

In addition, the legislation did not contemplate the adoption of the national gas access code. I know that some four or five months later the minister announced that we would be adopting that code.

Mr Barnett: In fairness, the national gas access code was evolving during that time.

Mr GRILL: It was to some degree, but it had been accepted by other States. I argued publicly that we should adopt that code and put in place a truly independent regulator. The minister knows that the industry was very concerned about the fact that we were not embracing a fully independent regulator. This legislation was set up in such a way that the Coordinator of Energy, who was the chief adviser to the minister, would be the de facto regulator in this State. Industry was concerned about that. It is to the Government's credit that it has recognised that and has amended the legislation.

Mr BARNETT: I agree with much of what the member is saying. I publicly acknowledge that Hon Mark Nevill played a very constructive role in this. I am not sure I entirely agree with the interpretation about the access codes, and I would like to hear more.

Mr GRILL: I reassert that this Bill did not contemplate the adoption of the national gas access code. I say that because a number of provisions in the original Bill were contrary to the national gas access code. They have been removed as a result of activities in the other place. It is now appreciated that the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act, which embraces the national gas access code, has superseded the original Bill in many respects.

It was clear to any reasonable observer in the gas industry in this State that it was essential to have an independent regulator, and we have moved down that track. We have not accepted the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission as that regulator; a regulator will be appointed in this State. While some other States have accepted the ACCC in that role - the Opposition would have preferred that and made it clear when we debated the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Bill - we now have an independent regulator. I understand that a decision has been made that the regulator will be the former chief executive officer of Main Roads, Ken Michael. Given his qualifications and experience, that is probably a good appointment.

Whether we will in due course revert and pick up the ACCC as the regulator is something that only time will tell. The minister has conceded that that is a possibility as time goes on and the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act makes provision -

Mr Barnett: I said that if we have interstate transmission lines, we will accept that.

Mr GRILL: That is down the track.

This Bill has been amended to remove reference to transmission pipelines and third-party access. These matters are now dealt with by the Gas Pipelines Access (Western Australia) Act. As the minister said, the legislation is now consistent with the national gas access code.

The original Bill gave special privileges to AlintaGas. I will not go through all the areas in which those privileges were granted, but they were liberally granted throughout the legislation. That set up a differential between the state-owned AlintaGas on the one hand and possible private operators on the other hand. That problem has also been removed in this second version of the legislation.

As I stated, under the original legislation, the Office of Energy might well have become a full-blown regulator. That

is no longer the case. The Opposition believes that the Office of the Coordinator of Energy has a legitimate role in advising the minister and performing other duties, but it should never become a full-blown regulator within this State. The appeal provisions in the original Bill were inappropriate, if not improper, in the sense that appeals from the Coordinator of Energy's decisions would have gone directly to the minister. In many respects that has the perception of being an appeal from Caesar to Caesar. That amendment has made this legislation better in many respects.

Mr BARNETT: The member's last comments were a fair assessment. When the Office of Energy was established in 1995, it was probably in my mind that it would be both a policy adviser and a regulator. That was the thinking given that those functions and electricity and gas had been subsumed in what was then the State Energy Commission. The approach was to split it and have the electricity and gas operations as commercial entities and the Office of Energy as the independent adviser-cum-regulator. Events moved on and we are now in a position with developments both within the State and particularly nationally whereby the regulatory role has become truly independent.

This legislation relates to the licensing of distribution areas and was introduced in 1997 to deal specifically with the distribution of gas within Kalgoorlie following the construction of the goldfields gas pipeline. The national access code does not relate to licensing; therefore, it is a separate exercise. Also, while the national access code was being developed in 1997, this process was not complete. Although other jurisdictions may have committed to the code, they had not adopted it. Indeed, not all jurisdictions around Australia had agreed to the code at that stage, and certainly had not legislated it into place. We proceeded ahead of the game because of the circumstance of Kalgoorlie. As a result of events, delays and debate in the upper House and other legislation, including the adoption of a national access code, events have caught up with the legislation.

The member is right: It is significantly changed and is now consistent with the national code. It proceeded because of Kalgoorlie. I do not think there is anything right or wrong about that. If it had gone through without amendment, we would be here amending the original Bill to make it consistent with the code. It is evolution which has taken time. However, it ultimately allowed Kalgoorlie to take place. Ironically, it ended up with AlintaGas being the proponent and the project could have proceeded without that measure. Nevertheless, we needed such legislation to give confidence that the Kalgoorlie exercise was an open and competitive process, which it was. It happened that AlintaGas won on commercial grounds in a very fair contest.

Mr GRILL: The original Bill contained provision for appeals from the Coordinator of Energy to the minister. The new Bill will have an appeal mechanism whereby the WA gas review board will be established, and decisions to be made by the Coordinator of Energy can be appealed to the WA gas review board. That will be at arm's length from the coordinator, and certainly from the minister. It will be a more open and accountable process.

These matters were all proposed by Hon Mark Nevill. He could see problems more clearly in this legislation than perhaps we did in this House and perhaps even some people advising the minister. The new WA gas review board will be able to review decisions of the Coordinator of Energy, such as the non-grant renewal or transfer of licences, licence conditions and licence amendments. We agree with that process. The Coordinator of Energy under the original legislation was to have considerable discretion in the way he was to exercised a number of his powers. The new Bill reduces fairly heavily that level of discretion. Remaining discretion has been rather heavily circumscribed. In making decisions, it will also be incumbent on the coordinator to take into account certain objective criteria. Whereas the discretion under the original legislation was open, the discretion to be exercised by the coordinator must be exercised in accordance with certain criteria, which is an improvement.

Two types of licences will be involved; namely, distribution and trading licences. I understand that initially one form of licence was to be involved. Those two licences are pretty well defined under the legislation. The trading licences would be for small customers.

Mr Barnett: There were to be three licences originally - transmission, distribution and trading. The transmission is out because of national access. Distribution and trading will remain.

Mr GRILL: There will always be distribution and trading licences. I take that correction. Also I understand that the power of the Coordinator of Energy to waive or reduce licence fees has been deleted, and a new annual fee structure will be put in place. That is more open and accountable. The Bill has been amended to provide for non-discriminatory licence conditions within supply areas. Also, I understand that emergency powers have been granted to holders of licences to deal with certain situations. That matter was also averted to by Hon Mark Nevill in the other place.

A host of amendments are listed on 16 pages of the Notice Paper which were thoroughly canvassed in the upper House.

Mr Barnett: Many of them are consequential on the major amendments.

Mr GRILL: Yes. To go through them all would be difficult. I am glad we will not proceed on that basis. The Opposition supports the legislation. I give credit to Hon Mark Nevill, who did a magnificent job on this legislation. His work is reflected in better legislation before us.

Mr RIPPER: I do not pretend an expertise on this issue which I do not have. I have come into debate on this Bill at a late stage, but I can make some comments. First, it seems to be an example of the benefits of bicameralism. We might from time to time not see the other place as improving legislation developed here. However, there seems to be bipartisan agreement that the changes to the Bill supported by the upper House should be supported here.

Mr Barnett: I thought the Labor Party had an enlightened policy of one House of Parliament.

Mr RIPPER: The Labor Party used to have that policy but has become increasingly convinced of the benefits of bicameralism in recent years.

I join the member for Eyre in paying tribute to the work of Hon Mark Nevill. Clearly, his initiative and the committee on which he served played a key role in all these amendments. A direct and indirect role is involved. A significant number of amendments result from the work of the committee on which Hon Mark Nevill served. Also, further amendments relate to further consultation on which the Government has embarked with various interested parties as a result of the upper House debate on the legislation.

I am taken by the way in which the amendments improve the checks and balances within the legislation and constrain the exercise of discretion. For example, the Bill contains a power to exempt an entity from the need to be licensed under proposed section 111. I notice that one of the amendments the upper House has suggested, and we support here, is that the power to exempt must be based on public interest grounds. An extensive list of public interest grounds is provided. In addition, a new provision requires the coordinator to exercise powers in accordance with the public interest, and refers back to the same list of public interest considerations which apply to the power to exempt an entity from the need to obtain a licence. My colleague the member for Eyre has referred to the requirement in the legislation for equivalent licence conditions to be offered to different suppliers within the same supply area. He used the term "non-discriminatory"; however, that seems to be a matter of commercial justice which we can all support now that it has been pointed out to us by our colleagues in the upper House.

Finally, the minister is in the somewhat unusual position of being dependent on the Office of Energy for policy advice, being responsible for a major gas utility and, in the original legislation, was to be the appeal mechanism. Obviously conflicts of interest arise in those three different responsibilities. It is good that the legislation will now include an independent appeals mechanism whereby people who are disgruntled with the decisions of the coordinator do not have to appeal to the minister who is the person responsible to Parliament for the work of the coordinator, and can appeal instead to the gas review board which is to be established.

On the basis of the very brief study of the legislation in which I have engaged it appears that, from accountability and public interest points of view, the legislation has been improved by the work of the upper House. On the basis of discussions I have had on this side of the Chamber, directly and indirectly our colleague, Hon Mark Nevill, has played a key role in all the amendments that have come forward.

Mr BARNETT: I thank both the member for Eyre and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for their support. As I said previously, I also acknowledge the work of upper House members, particularly Hon Mark Nevill who played a constructive and important role, as did the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy together with the Office of Energy. I stress that the Office of Energy personnel has been monitoring the changes that have been happening to other legislation.

I also make the observation - I do not make it in any defensive way - that when this Bill was first introduced in 1997, the deregulatory process was at a very early stage. Members might say how advanced it is here and we may have differing views about that, but I have said a number of times in this Chamber that when one moves effectively from a highly regulated, if not monopolistic, situation to a more open competitive economy, economics have much to do with those two points. It has very little to do with the transition process involved in getting from one to the other. Most of the disagreements that have been debated across this Chamber related to the transitional progress. This Bill reflects all the accountability provisions and I agree it is far better now, but it also reflects the stage to which we have moved in the past couple of years. The path was far less evident two years ago. While the minister of the day may seem to have greater responsibility, this does not present any serious conflict in my view, although I agree that potentially it could have, but it was also appropriate for that stage of the deregulatory process. We are now two years down the track and a long way further on. Within a couple of years we hope we will be at the end of the process. With the full deregulation of the gas market applying from July 2002, and if the privatisation of AlintaGas takes place, according to the speeches we have heard, utopia will be created, because a truly competitive, independent gas industry will exist with the Minister for Energy essentially being irrelevant. Members opposite may argue that is already the case, but it will be the case by July 2002.

Mr RIPPER: I must place very firmly on the record that the Opposition does not agree with the privatisation of AlintaGas and we would not see that as contributing to the minister's utopia. I will give a brief summary of what we support: We support competition, but not privatisation. Let it stand on the record that the minister's attempt to incorporate us in support for privatisation will not gain any support from this side.

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

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

LOAN BILL 1999

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage.

MR BOARD (Murdoch - Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [8.55 pm]: I inform the House of a very special event that I attended this evening as the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests. It was a special

awards presentation conducted by the Governor of Western Australia to promote and support the cultural diversity within our business community. This program is sponsored by the International Business Council of Western Australia. It is an award process which sponsors both small business and large corporations which have used their cultural diversity in ways which promote trade, and produce and enhance the skills of our migrant community.

We are very proud that we have people from over 190 different ethnic origins living in Western Australia. For a long period, all persuasions of Government in Western Australia have supported policies which provide access and equity for migrants to government services. However, we have not moved to the next phase which is to use cultural diversity in a way which will enhance and develop the prospects of Western Australia. For a long time, many of our migrants were not forthcoming about their skills; that is, they did not use their language at the front counters and their talents were frequently overlooked. In many ways people were encouraged to become Australians and Western Australians and to hide their cultural backgrounds. While migrants are very proud to be Australians and extremely proud to be Western Australians, the reality is that we should be using their language skills and connections to promote trade and business for Western Australia.

Mrs van de Klashorst: Are we not already doing that?

Mr BOARD: We are doing that, but we should be moving to the next phase; we should promote cultural diversity and take advantage of the opportunities it creates in the rest of the world so that Australia's isolation is no longer a disadvantage to us. By using the Internet, technology and our cultural diversity, we can have a situation in which Western Australia is a winner in world trade. Using our cultural diversity and the connections and skills of our migrants, we will be able to show the world what we have achieved in this great State of ours.

Tonight's awards were attended by companies, both small and large, which have grown. Their growth has been promoted by employing people from different cultures and with different language skills, and by using those skills to enhance their businesses and create trade with other countries. The migrants' connections have been used to provide business opportunities. One only needs to look at the banking, business or tourism sectors to see that tens of thousands of people in employment in this State have those skills which we have underutilised. We need to use their skills in the development of products, to package those products to meet our export needs and to enhance advertising and the promotion of Western Australia and its products.

All of these things are available to us, if we can only utilise those skills. Tonight's awards, of which I was very proud to be part, as the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, were sponsored. The inaugural process is to recognise small, medium and large businesses which have used and capitalised on their cultural diversity for the benefit of not only the employees, but also trade in Western Australia. It was a wonderful night. The awards will grow in stature and the International Business Council of Western Australia has a strong program in promoting not only through its organisation but also through the Chamber of Commerce, business and ethnic organisations in this State. That program will become one in which all organisations which employ and promote our cultural diversity will look at ways to enhance our trade prospects through cultural diversity. During the awards process I was pleased to challenge our ethnic communities. The Ethnic Communities Council and the Australian Asian Association of Western Australia have provided great backup and support to the government initiatives in ensuring that the messages about the strength of our cultural diversity are spread through the wider community. Those communities are taking up that challenge with gusto and it augurs well for change in the next millennium to see all organisations of ethnic origin and business organisations working in close collaboration to enhance the skills of those organisations and ensure that those businesses which have language and cultural skills are used to the advantage of Western Australian business.

MS ANWYL (Kalgoorlie) [9.02 pm]: I welcome the opportunity to make some remarks in the context of the budget. A number of them will be specific to my electorate and many will relate to issues of social development. Major economic issues are confronting Kalgoorlie at the moment, not the least of which has been occasioned by the extremely sharp fall in the gold price that has occurred recently. The gold price has now fallen to its lowest level in more than 20 years. Although that is causing concern in the goldfields, unfortunately we are seeing a loss of confidence in the industry generally in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. That translates to average constituents of mine, many of whom are choosing to sell up and relocate now, because there is a fear that if they wait too much longer, the negative spiral will continue and they will not be in a position to sell their homes. For most of my constituents their home is their major asset; that is, if people are fortunate to own their home or are buying it from the bank. There are some 600 properties on the market in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Although many of those are selling, there is a slower than average market. That figure of 600 does not sound a lot when there are about 12 500 households in that city, but that is almost 100 per cent more than is usually on the market.

Mr Grill: Ray White Real Estate did a count last week and it was actually 700.

Ms ANWYL: The member for Eyre said that he understands the figure to be 700. I got my information in Hannan Street yesterday, but the member for Eyre may have more accurate information. It may have been a proper audit by a real estate agency. The figure of 600 to 700 is a significant number of homes. There is a degree of lack of confidence. I do not criticise individuals for having that lack of confidence, but it is important to note that the goldfields has undergone cyclical change in the past. It is reasonable to expect that commodity prices will firm at some stage and there will be increasing investment. This Government chooses to focus on the issue of native title to the exclusion of all other issues confronting the resources industry in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Unfortunately, the State Government is joined by its federal counterpart in continually making things more difficult for the mining industry.

Today I received an answer to a question on notice. The information I received is that \$28.3m was collected from the

gold royalty as at 3 June this year. That \$28.3m could have translated directly into employment opportunities for people in the gold industry. The minister representing the Minister for Mines gave me a list of companies which have paid gold royalties in the current financial year. Out of that list of companies, at least five have ceased their operations in less than 12 months. Five of those companies which have contributed to the payment of the gold tax no longer operate. Each of the companies that has ceased to operate has ceased to employ, and that is a cause for concern.

There is a degree of economic vandalism about this tax. The Government, and in particular the Deputy Premier, who is the Minister for Regional Development, has repeatedly refused to order any kind of inquiry into the impact of the royalty on the goldfields and the Murchison and Gascoyne communities. One must ask why the leader of the National Party is not concerned about the effect that this tax is having on those smaller communities. We who live in remote areas of Western Australia know that small communities are particularly vulnerable. I was interested to read in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* this week - I am sure the member for Eyre will take this up when he makes his contribution to the debate - that concerns have been raised about the changes that have occurred within Norseman with contract labour being employed and fly-in fly-out labour having taken over from local workers. Some figures for the number of jobs that have gone out were supplied by an unnamed local worker. It is not just the closure of mines; it is also about the workers employed in the goldfields mines who, in many cases, do not reside in the goldfields. Many of them may reside in Geraldton, in your electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker. The shame of the whole issue is that our communities are suffering in the goldfields, yet the Government does not seem to be paying any attention to this issue.

I said that \$28.3m has been raised from the gold royalty, largely from mines in the goldfields region, although there are some mines in other areas. Clearly, this Government should be applying at least a significant percentage of those funds to studying the impact of the royalty. As a gesture of good faith in this current climate, the Government could withdraw the royalty for a period. It is not good enough to suggest that all of these issues are solely related to native title, which is what the Government is suggesting to the Western Australian people. Sooner or later, Western Australians will understand that the Court Government has presided over making things much more difficult for the local community.

We saw this week widespread industry concerns about the Federal Government's decision to downsize the budget for geological surveys and the storage of information. It was stated that there would be some long-term ramifications. Mr George Savell of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies suggested that long-term repercussions would arise from that Federal Government's decision. Let us remember that this decision was made by the federal Treasurer who presided over the sell-off of major amounts of our gold bullion stock. I suggest that we are still seeing some ramifications of that decision in the loss of confidence. Confidence is about perceptions. This Government could do something about it but it does not seem to be displaying an interest.

There is a parallel with the major restructuring that will inevitably occur with the timber industry. The Court Government is reacting, albeit very slowly, to the absolutely overwhelming groundswell of support for change. I have been approached by men who have worked in the timber industry for a very long time. Some have been quite hostile to the position of the Australian Labor Party. However, others have said that they have been in the industry for 20 years but that we are doing the right thing and we must stop what is going on. I suggest that those people have a vested interest in what happens in the debate. However, even those people whose livelihoods depend on the harvesting of that natural resource have recognised that there must be some change. What is the Government's position on policy changes which are causing the loss of some jobs? It is to say that it will ensure that the workers who are affected by any policy decision will have some financial assistance and their communities will have some help when it comes to restructuring. If one translates that to the experience of the mining industry, of that \$28.3m that has been collected through the gold royalty, how much has been put into assisting the mining industry through these difficult times? I would suggest not 1¢ has been put in. Why is there one rule for policy decisions which impact on the timber industry but when it comes to the gold industry and a very clear policy decision that the Court Government made after the last state election, there is not the same rule?

Economic diversification is being spoken about a lot in Kalgoorlie-Boulder because of a loss of confidence in the community generally. Some measure of forward or lateral thinking always happens when times are tough. If one looks to the historical nature of other gold producing communities - I say this as a Victorian who had great grandparents in the eastern goldfields of Western Australia and the goldfields of Victoria - it is clear that some notable successes occurred among some goldfield towns and cities in Victoria when it came to looking at that industry diversification way back in the beginning of the century. If one looks at Ballarat -

Mr Cowan: Why did I think you were going to mention Ballarat?

Ms ANWYL: I have a lot of ancestors from Ballarat. They moved from Ballarat to the eastern goldfields but then chose to move back again. One of the things that the founding fathers did in Ballarat was to make sure there was some form of manufacturing industry, some of which continues today even though the manufacturing industry is widely recognised not to be flourishing generally in Australia. That foresight led to some ongoing employment that is not mining based.

Recently we sat through the Estimates Committee hearings. Many members of Parliament are on record speaking about the unsatisfactory nature of the Estimates Committee. We rely on budget papers which I suggest are less than expansive. Many government and opposition members of Parliament exert a great deal of pressure to obtain further detail, and rightly so, relating to their electorates or their pet interests.

One of the issues confronting my electorate is this concept of the diversification of industry. Over the past three years that I have been in Parliament, certain issues recur in the budgets of development commissions. Some aspects of the

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission are referred to again and again. When asked specific questions about projects in the Estimates Committee, notably about the Mungari heavy industry estate and the transport hub, the Minister for Regional Development said -

I would share the concerns of the member for Kalgoorlie that quite often many of these projects seem to have a permanent place on the budget papers and I would like to see some of them signed off as well.

It is good to know that the minister and I agree when it comes to the fact that we would both like to see some progress on certain projects. Focusing on one of those due to time constraints, the transport hub has been the focus of a huge amount of investment of time and energy by members of the community, certainly by people who are engaged in the transport business in the goldfields. A number of infrastructure needs relate to that, one of which is certainly the goldfields-Pilbara highway. There is also the issue of the Leonora to Esperance rail line.

Mr Cowan: Some projects have achieved remarkable progress, particularly the Pilbara-goldfields highway where planning is under way and it is budgeted.

Ms ANWYL: Mount Keith to Wiluna is another.

Mr Cowan: It is a starting point.

Ms ANWYL: I do not dispute that. The minister and I share an ambition; that is, to see that the whole transport hub is achieved. I am sure this has occurred from government to government and is not entirely the fault of this Government, because it is a fact that roads are expensive. Having said that, it is clear that with the transport hub everybody is speaking about the privatisation of Westrail issue. Legislation of course has been brought into this place, sponsored by the Deputy Premier. I presume that we will deal with it in the next few weeks or so. I am sure the Deputy Premier is aware that a meeting was held recently between the member for Armadale in her capacity as spokesperson for Transport, the board members and I think some visiting development commission heads, all of whom were interested.

People who are natural supporters of the Court Government and active in the Liberal Party - I am not sure about the National Party - are totally opposed to this move. Why is the Government pressing on with something that does not seem to have the support of its traditional constituency in country areas? Perhaps it is because there is a perception that country members do not count; I am not sure. However, a number of questions need to be addressed. I look forward to debating that legislation in this place. For the record, some of the major problems confronting my electorate are the pressure of working hours, transience and the difficulty we experience in attracting qualified public servants who will stay in the centre. These problems hinder community development. I recognise that the Minister for Youth has contributed to this concept of community development and cohesion of youth services by announcing that a youth development officer will operate from Kalgoorlie-Boulder very soon.

Mr Board: In one week.

Ms ANWYL: I lobbied for that type of position. I saw from the job description that this officer will be writing the minister's speeches and so forth. I did not lobby him for that part of the job.

Mr Board: Will he?

Ms ANWYL: I am happy to inform the minister that he will. Nevertheless, I am grateful that somebody will have the job of coordinating the relevant agencies because there are a lot of players in the youth area. Kalgoorlie-Boulder as a city has the youngest average population outside the metropolitan area. The average age is 29. A number of the issues which manifest themselves are in part a reflection of this large number of young people. One is the number of young families and children. In addition, there are roughly 150 disabled people on the books of the Disability Services Commission local area coordinators. There are two pressing needs. The first is respite care. I raised this issue with the Minister for Disability Services today because there is no proper respite facility in the town. A large, old home administered by a community-based management committee was used for that purpose but I noticed on the weekend as I was driving along Burt Street that that premises is up for auction. I understand that the land in question is likely to be the main attraction rather than the improvements on it but \$200 000 to \$300 000 is likely to be paid despite the present depressed market. Young children and adults with principally intellectual disabilities are using a palliative care hospice for respite care. That is not the most desirable situation. I do not criticise the people who have arrived at that temporary outcome because they are trying to do the best they can with limited means but I am concerned that Kalgoorlie is to lose this asset vested in the Disability Services Commission without a clear undertaking from the Government that that money will be reapplied into a purpose-built and designed respite facility. Without that undertaking, Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be poorer as a community for that loss.

Many people require respite care but a proper audit of those needs has not been carried out. I believe the Disability Services Commission bears responsibility for that audit but in a rather disturbing move it claims that is a matter for the community-based management committee known as the Goldfields Individual and Family Support Association. That is a community-based agency made up of volunteers, all of whom have disabled children to care for. These volunteers have been told to conduct this audit and present to the Government a full plan of the needs of disabled children and their families in the goldfields area. That is simply not on and I hope reason will prevail. The auction is not until mid-July and there is plenty of time for the minister to intervene and ensure that a proper audit of needs is carried out and some commitment is made to building a proper respite care facility. In addition, proper accommodation of a cluster type is needed for intellectually disabled adults. A distraught but extremely emotionally strong mother came to see me. Mrs Rowe has resided in Kalgoorlie for many years and has a 41-year-old daughter with a profound intellectual disability.

Mrs Rowe was recently diagnosed with a serious illness and I am sure her recovery is not being helped by the trauma of not knowing what will happen to her daughter in the event of her death. There are no other relatives and due to a lack of proper respite care the daughter recently stayed at the Kalgoorlie Nursing Home. I do not criticise that facility but it is a home for aged people and at 41 years of age this woman is not in the same category as the other residents. This illustrates the problems facing the electorate, but the resolution of them would not be very difficult. I accept there is not enough money to meet every need of the disabled but when there are 150 disabled people in a city, a proper and appropriate facility for the disabled is necessary.

The final issue I raise is the need for some sort of alcohol and other drug treatment facility in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The population of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is much younger than the state average. I am continually told by the head of the Western Australia Drug Abuse Strategy Office that high incomes and a young population translates to a lot of illicit drug use in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I might also be told by other learned people in the health field that I should expect higher than average rates of alcohol abuse. However, those alcohol and other drug problems translate into problems for more than just the individuals and their families. We know that many people in prison have alcohol and other drug problems yet there are very limited programs for alcohol and other drug users in the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison despite the rhetoric of the relevant minister. With the abolition of the Alcohol and Drug Authority we have seen a contraction of services on offer. The Holyoake Kalgoorlie Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service has left Kalgoorlie after many years. We have a community drug team, the contract for which is held by CentreCare. It has taken over that role and Holyoake has left. Holyoake had a lot of contact with the many diverse people in the community. I believe Kalgoorlie-Boulder needs a drug treatment facility. Prior to the by-election in March 1996 the Premier announced a task force and I participated in that process despite some comments the Premier has made. I presented a submission on behalf of the local drug action group. Kalgoorlie had a local drug action group long before the minister began talking about such groups with his drug strategy.

Together with others, I presented a submission which resulted in the Premier's task force into the social issues in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The task force stated that one of the top priorities was a facility that would cope with alcohol and other drug abuse. We do not have a rehabilitation facility for alcohol or other drugs. The Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital must be used for detoxification and rehabilitation. The pressure on the beds there is phenomenal. People are not able to stay there for rehabilitation for long periods. Rents are so high that if people are living in situations in which they cohabit with other illicit drug users, as is usually the way, they are hardly able to afford to rent a place of their own so they can get out of that environment. There must be a residential facility. Statistics show that four and a half times the State average of needles and syringes are being used in Kalgoorlie. That is not good enough. No other regional centre has anything like that statistic. The longer the Government chooses to stick its head in the sand over this issue, the longer these people in Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be impacted on by this situation. Whether it is violent or other property crime, there will be ongoing impacts. Economic downturn means there will be less ready cash to purchase illicit drugs, and I suggest the addictions will not disappear with employment.

In 1996 the task force found that Kalgoorlie needed a facility. Here we are in 1999 and we are still waiting, with not one dollar being allocated in the last budget for that facility. Furthermore, the hospital is coming under increasing pressure. The shortage of general practitioners means that more and more people are approaching the accident emergency department, yet the hospital is being forced to assume the role of providing Fitpacks, dealing with detoxification and rehabilitation which, in turn, puts patients and nursing and other staff at risk. Of all the things needed in Kalgoorlie, there is a requirement for some sort of rehabilitation facility.

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [9.32 pm]: I will raise a few issues arising out of the budget papers which are directly impacting on my constituents in Willagee. First, I will speak briefly about an issue related to Fremantle Hospital, the main hospital servicing the Fremantle area and the hinterland of my electorate. It relates to an inquiry from a constituent recovering from a heart operation. Before I go on, I will give the background to my comments. Although there was a smallish nominal increase in the Health budget this year, when we take into consideration the rises in the cost of living, inflation and population, we find there has been a 1.7 per cent cut in real per capita terms in this budget. That does not reflect the situation. Each year - I am sure every Minister for Health has had this experience - the pressure on the Health budget grows simply because of the availability and cost of treatments. I understand there is a great difficulty for State Governments with limited resources to keep up with the growth in demand in the budget; nevertheless, there has been a real decrease in the amount of funding applied to the health area this year. The pressures in the health system will only grow unless there is a remarkable increase of funding from, perhaps, the Commonwealth Government.

My constituent recovering from a heart attack was involved in a rehabilitation program offered by the Fremantle Hospital for recovering heart attack victims. He successfully completed a six-week recovery program which was offered at ward F4 at the hospital. Almost immediately after he had finished, he went back for follow-up treatment and was told the program had been closed. He alerted me to this fact because he thought it was most unfortunate for a number of others involved in this program while he was going through it. I inquired of the Minister for Health whether this was the case and if it was, why it was the case. Yesterday, I got a reply from the Minister for Health about the recovery program at Fremantle Hospital which, in part, states -

Thank you for your letter of 3 May 1999 regarding changes to physiotherapy rehabilitation services at Fremantle Hospital.

I was advised that Mr Burns had provided the minister with a report on this issue. The minister did not provide me with a report, but rather with this response, which continues -

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Program has . . . been suspended due to difficulties with staff availability . . . it is hoped to recommence the program as soon as these difficulties are resolved.

Unless members happen to be one of those who are dependant on the cardiac rehabilitation program, this might not mean much; however, for those who are hoping to be involved in a program that deals with recovering to full or better health after a heart attack, this is a matter of great concern. I urge the minister to intervene on behalf of people like my constituent and ensure that if there is a staffing problem which has resulted in this program being closed, that it be resolved immediately and not be left to the passage of time for the hospital to resolve the issue. It is beholden on Governments to provide the best possible health programs for people of the State, particularly those who are dependent on a service at a hospital to recover after a serious illness or health crisis. I was sceptical when the constituent came in and alerted me to the closure of program. I did not believe a hospital or the State Government would allow it to happen. I urge the Government and the minister to do all they can, and as quickly as possible, to ensure the cardiac rehabilitation program at this hospital is reopened immediately.

Another issue relates to Homeswest. As members might imagine, a considerable number of Homeswest tenants live in the suburbs I represent, particularly, in Willagee, Hilton, Hamilton Hill and Coolbellup, although there are Homeswest properties in Samson and Kardinya as well. I estimate probably between 25 per cent and 30 per cent - this might be a conservative estimate - of the work that comes through my office is related to Homeswest in some way or another. This work involves people who are Homeswest tenants or those who are trying to get that sort of accommodation or are being moved out of that accommodation for one reason or another. The situation seems to be deteriorating, despite the fact that the Government is involved in a very laudable Homeswest regeneration program in suburb of Coolbellup, for which I give it full marks. It is also continuing a regeneration program in Willagee, although it is not a prototype to be used in other suburbs because a large amount of clear-felling was done which left the suburb laying barren for a long time, and which created all sorts of antisocial problems. Several issues arise from the Homeswest activities in my electorate.

I preface my comments by saying that the Homeswest staff in the Fremantle office under the directorship of Mr Murray Emery do a fantastic job under the circumstances. Mr Emery is one of the most committed public servants I have ever met, and his staff do what they can in very difficult circumstances. However, the circumstances are these: There is a growing waiting list of people for Homeswest accommodation. There is a diminishing supply, and Homeswest is coming under more and more pressure because of this growing waiting list and its housing stock being in decline. The decline in the housing stock is caused by the fact that Homeswest and government policy, which I support fully, is to reduce the concentration of Homeswest properties to about one in nine in any one suburb. That concentration of properties is going from 30 or 40 per cent in suburbs like Coolbellup and Willagee. Therefore, a big shift is happening. However, what is not happening at a pace to meet the change in the nature of the housing stock is the provision of new properties for people to rent. Too many people are now being left without the possibility of accessing public housing.

The figures that I saw most recently showed that the national average for public housing stock in Australia is around 6.2 per cent of all housing stock, whereas in Western Australia 5.4 per cent of all housing is public housing. Therefore, Western Australia is already well below the national average in the provision of public housing. I hate to think that we are falling even further behind.

One of the criteria that Homeswest does not take into consideration in my area is homelessness. Homelessness is not a criterion upon which Homeswest will allocate housing. That is a major problem, particularly when a report released some three weeks ago from a national committee pointed out that in Western Australia in the last calendar year approximately 15 000 people presented themselves as homeless. The Family and Children's Services budget for last year shows that the number of supported accommodation cases from Family and Children's Services was 11 000. Homelessness is a major problem in Western Australia. It seems almost unbelievable that in a State like ours this should be a major problem. However, it is. The Government should be doing all it can to meet this problem by the provision of public housing. It is not doing enough, although, as I said, I support the general thrust of its regeneration program and the diminution of the concentration of Homeswest stock in any one suburb.

A situation involving Homeswest has arisen in the suburb of Kardinya. A couple who both have a disability and who are living in private rental accommodation are on the Homeswest waiting list. Homeswest has bought the property in which they are living. However, because Homeswest has such a long priority waiting list, it is evicting the couple who are in the property because it has more pressing cases to house than the couple who are already in the property.

Ms MacTiernan: How long have they been on the waiting list?

Mr CARPENTER: They have been on the waiting list for about a year. However, there are people in Fremantle who have been on the waiting list for much longer than that. Some people are on the waiting list for five years. It illustrates the pressure that Homeswest is under. I have taken up the issue with the Homeswest management. They basically concede that that is a difficult situation, but they are locked into a position in which they have already promised the accommodation to somebody else. It illustrates the seriousness of the problem when a couple who are on the Homeswest waiting list are being forced out of their private rental accommodation because Homeswest has bought the property and there is a queue of allegedly more deserving cases waiting to get into it. I do not know whether that problem has been resolved satisfactorily as of today. However, the last information I had from my office was that it had not been.

In the suburb of Willagee there is another problem arising from Homeswest activity. Homeswest is keen to sell as much of its rental stock in Willagee as it can. It has actually transferred the management of some of these properties to a private company called Perth Management Services. Perth Management Services manages a number of properties in Willagee on behalf of Homeswest. What is happening to the tenants in those properties is that as the properties come

up for redevelopment or sale, those tenants are being provided with 60-day exit notices, and they do not have the security of being Homeswest tenants because they are actually the tenants of Perth Management Services. Therefore, these people are finding themselves in the situation in which they are renters in properties owned by Homeswest but managed by a private management company, and they are being given 60-day notices to leave the properties, thus pushing them out into a market in which Homeswest cannot house them and the private market is already under severe pressure. These people have been forced to look at arrangements like bond assistance and rental assistance packages, which although originally may have been useful packages, are inaccessible to many people who still cannot come up with the amount of money required to meet the bond and rental requirements of moving into new private rental accommodation.

In a nutshell, the pressure on Homeswest accommodation in the electorate of Willagee is immense. Far more people are wanting Homeswest accommodation than are able to be provided with it. In fact, the stock of accommodation is diminishing rapidly, and a large number of people are not being housed in public housing accommodation elsewhere. As members of Parliament who represent the kind of electorate that I represent know, this is a grave problem.

Mr Cunningham: I think we have been mesmerised by the regeneration program.

Mr CARPENTER: Yes. Homeswest is rightly taking a great deal of pride in its regeneration program. However, at the same time there is a problem which is probably more serious; that is, that so many people are unable to access public housing in Western Australia in circumstances in which 15 000 people were registered as homeless last year and Homeswest does not consider homelessness as a criterion for the provision of housing. Therefore, I urge the Government and the minister responsible, who I believe has some sort of social conscience, to look seriously at the difficulties and do all that he possibly can to convince Treasury officials that more funds are required in the Homeswest area.

I will make a couple of references to education in my electorate. The Minister for Education is here, so I want to lobby on behalf of the Coolbellup Primary School. It is a school which caters for a largely Aboriginal population. The school numbers are quite small. A dynamic and well-meaning principal is at the school this year, and she is doing all that she possibly can to provide a quality education for the students. The school is in need of a new covered assembly area. There is an old cover over the assembly area, but it is run down, leaking and broken.

Ms MacTiernan: You have not moved Willagee to the western suburbs, have you?

Mr CARPENTER: No. The principal has asked - I have written to the minister - for the Government to provide funds for a new covered assembly area for the school. It is only a small area. I urge the minister to look kindly upon the school's application, because it is the minimum that could be provided for a school like Coolbellup.

There is another issue relating to a school which is slightly outside my boundary but which is attended by children within my electorate, including my children. I refer to the Melville Primary School. As with some other inner-city schools, the student population is increasing. The problem arises because its preschool and kindergarten intake is higher than the capacity of its year 1 level. Parents of children in the kindergarten and preschool years have been notified that their children are not guaranteed a place in the following year. For instance, a child accepted in the preschool class may not be able to proceed to year 1 in that school, even if that child has brothers or sisters attending that school. The school boundaries have disappeared, which is a pity. Rather than divert children to other schools in the area, I urge the minister or the education authorities to address the problem in a different way; that is, if there is a shortage of accommodation to cater for the preschool children progressing to year 1, additional accommodation should be provided. That would avoid the need for families with more than one child of primary school age to send their children to different primary schools. Members who have two or more children attending primary school will appreciate the difficulties of their attending different schools, even if those schools are only a few kilometres apart. The prospect of sending their children to two separate schools does not fill the parents with great joy. I ask the Minister for Education to look at that problem, which is about to erupt at the Melville Primary School, and perhaps to find a more suitable solution than simply moving some children to other schools.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [9.52 pm]: I will do something quite novel and actually discuss the Loan Bill, which is a departure from normal practice! I have concerns about this legislation and the way in which parliamentary scrutiny is available for many of the loans that are undertaken by the Government. I had hoped the Treasurer would be in the House to respond by way of interjection to some of my queries, but I note that we are graced with the presence of the Deputy Premier who, no doubt, is fully across the issues and may be able to provide guidance on these matters.

Mr Cowan: Look behind you at the stunned face of the member for South Perth.

Mr Pental: He has never been accused in his life of being fully across the issues.

Ms MacTIERNAN: He is certainly considered to be one of the most able performers on that side of the House, although there is not a great deal of competition there!

One of my concerns is the borrowings undertaken by the Government in a variety of areas that members are unable to examine in the normal budgetary processes; for example, the borrowings undertaken each year by Westrail. We know that Westrail's capital debt is increasing quite dramatically each year. We have no opportunity in the estimates process to scrutinise what is happening and the reasons for these debt levels. Notwithstanding that we pay more than \$150m of taxpayers' funds into Westrail each year, it is not considered to be a consolidated fund organisation. The Government's payments are either warehoused through the Department of Transport or through Treasury Department and, therefore, Westrail escapes the scrutiny of the budgetary process. That is highly unsatisfactory. This year I have taken up the matter with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who suggested that these issues might be raised under the aegis of

the Loan Bill. I waited until we received a copy of the Loan Bill and went through it. I note that it deals only with the authority to borrow money for the purpose of redeeming maturing financial agreement debt, and that it does not provide authority for borrowings for public purposes generally.

I was hoping that the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier or anyone else with information about how the Government's finances are operating, would provide some information as to which legislation deals with the borrowings the State is proposing to undertake in relation to Westrail. It does not appear to be the Loan Bill, and it certainly does not appear to be the appropriation Bills, Nos 1 and 2, because members were told in the Estimates Committee that they could not ask questions about them. Which Bill deals with the borrowings the State is proposing to undertake for Keystart? Homeswest is another organisation which apparently is not funded from the consolidated fund. Perhaps the Deputy Premier can enlighten us on which Bill provides the Government with the authorisation to raise loans that are not loans of this limited type.

Mr Cowan: I suggest that you go through *Hansard* and find out how many times members of the Opposition have asked that question of Treasury officers, who are far more competent than I am to answer the question. To my knowledge, the answer has never been given.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is the Deputy Premier saying that the answer is that there is no answer? I do not believe this is a matter that we should skate over lightly. Clearly, there is a major problem in our parliamentary scrutiny processes. We know that these very large borrowings are being made on behalf of the State - in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars and accumulative liabilities in the billions of dollars in Homeswest and Westrail alone. We know that ultimately the State is responsible for these debts; they are state debts. I note the presence in the Chamber of the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. Perhaps he can help us, as the Deputy Premier cannot help us. We need to know which legislation provides the Government with the authority to undertake the borrowings by agencies such as Westrail and Homeswest.

Mr Bloffwitch: They have their own authority and all we would do is organise the money for them.

Ms MacTIERNAN: How would they have their own authority?

Mr Bloffwitch: They are corporate entities.

Ms MacTIERNAN: With respect, the member for Geraldton has fallen into the classic error we have seen even the Treasurer fall into; that is, he believes that Westrail has a separate corporate existence. It does not. Westrail does not have a board, and its debt is the debt of the State. It is no more separate or corporatised than is Main Roads or any other department.

Mr Barnett: Western Power and AlintaGas borrow through Treasury Corporation.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am saying that we do not have a separate corporatised entity. No legislation has been introduced.

Mr Barnett: That is a different issue, but the debt arrangements with Westrail are the same as with AlintaGas and Western Power.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Does the minister think that it is appropriate that we have absolutely no capacity in this place to scrutinise in our estimates procedures the debt arrangements of those organisations?

Mr House: When we were in opposition we asked the then Labor Government that question on all of these occasions and it seemed to think it was appropriate.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Yes; however, this Government is a different mob. It promised to be different and promised the people of Western Australia that it would bring in open and accountable Government.

Mr House: We have been different all right. You wouldn't believe how different we've been.

Ms MacTIERNAN: We have certainly moved out of the 1980s. There is a new expectation of accountability. If the minister's best answer to any of these questions is that the Labor Party was just as bad as the present Government -

Mr Barnett: No.

Mr Bloffwitch: No, we could not be that bad.

Several members interjected.

Ms MacTIERNAN: - that is not a strong case for the Government, is it? Is there anything in any of the set of Bills to come before this Parliament that enables the State to undertake the expansion of debt that is occurring, for example, in Westrail and Homeswest? Is there a Bill that does provide that authorisation?

Mr Barnett: Not specifically, no.

Mr Kierath: It was money provided through terminating building societies.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is frightening that the comment of the former Minister for Housing actually proves my very real concern that the Government has a profound misunderstanding of how Keystart works and of the State's potential financial exposure. The former Minister for Housing commented that it was money provided through terminating building societies. Of course that is absolute nonsense. The reality is that the Government borrows the money and gives that money to the terminating building societies. In the final analysis it is the Government's debt with which we are concerned.

Mr Barnett: Matched by corresponding obligations of Keystart borrowers to repay. Therefore, in a defined sense there is no net borrowing in Keystart; it is matched, other than in the case of default.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The minister should look at the problem of the high rate of negative equity before he states with any confidence that there is a great deal of correlation between these -

Mr Barnett: There may be problems with Keystart, but the point is that an expansion in Keystart loans does not necessarily equate to an expansion in debt.

Ms MacTIERNAN: In my view it equates to an expansion of liability.

Mr Barnett: And expands assets.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It expands assets but it certainly expands liability. If the minister uses that logic, the State could continue to borrow and borrow and never be concerned about it because for each borrowing -

Mr Barnett: Only if the risk of default becomes a problem because of the marginal nature of some borrowers. It is the ability and credibility of borrowers and default that are the issues.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is also the credibility of the valuation process, which is probably the substantial reason contributing to a substantial negative equity problem emerging for the State in Keystart loans.

Mr House: If my memory serves me correctly, that is exactly the problem that we found when we came into Government.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is right.

Mr House: We had to clean up the mess that was left by your mob.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I acknowledge that. However, the circumstances were very different. The difference in the late 1980s when the scheme was established was that at that time there was an interest rate of some 10 per cent, which in the space of two years blew out to 18 per cent. There was therefore a negative equity problem certainly in Keystart that was not in any way confined to Keystart but was fairly general across the board. The extraordinary situation in the current circumstances is that we have had declining interest rates in the past four years and we still have a growing negative equity problem. The Government must be really good at financial management to generate substantial negative equity in circumstances in which we have declining interest rates. I have to say that takes a real talent.

Mr Barnett: The threat to Keystart is a decline in property values and that is what happened during that period - the values of properties fell.

Ms MacTIERNAN: During which period?

Mr Barnett: When there was a great deal of defaulting and many people walked out of their properties.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Which period is the minister talking about?

Mr Barnett: In the late 1980s and early 1990s. Property values fell, largely under the impact of high interest rates, and people simply walked out of their properties.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That is right. That decline in property values was largely attributed to the increase in interest rates. We are not in that situation now. We now have a real problem with a split in the value of a new home and an existing home. We have a two-tier market which we are not addressing. If anything, we are exacerbating it with the Keystart scheme and the way in which the scheme is biased towards forcing low income people into new homes rather than existing homes. I can see that the Minister for Primary Industry has the giggles and in some way is distracting the more able of his colleagues.

Mr House: It would not take much to distract you, would it?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I can see that we will not get very far. It is interesting to note that unfortunately we have been unable to obtain any enlightenment from the luminaries on the front benches on where one might go to define the authorisation of government to increase the debt to the State with non-corporatised organisations such as Westrail and Homeswest; yet we are debating a special Bill for the purpose of retiring maturing financial agreements. It is very disappointing. However, a report has been presented from the procedures committee that refers to us correcting this problem in the estimates process. I hope that the Government will give serious consideration to supporting that suggestion. It is untenable to have such large borrowings being undertaken without any capacity during the budget process to scrutinise in any way those ever-increasing liabilities to the State.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cunningham.

AUSTRALIA ACTS (REQUEST) BILL 1999

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), read a first time.

House adjourned at 10.09 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, CRIMINAL RECORDS SCREENING FOR APPOINTEES

1949. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier:

- (1) Is it Government policy to require criminal records screening for appointees to Government boards and commissions?
- (2) If so, what procedures are in place to screen applicants for criminal records prior to appointment to Government boards and commissions?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) There is no formal government policy in this regard. However criminal screenings would be conducted where there is a statutory requirement or a perceived need.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, IMPACT ON FAMILIES

1955. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article that appeared in *The Australian Financial Review* on 28 January 1999 concerning the Federal Government's Goods and Services Tax?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the article reports on claims made by Professor Peter McDonald, Head of Demography at the Australian National University, that the Government's tax package discriminates against families with children as non-parents on the same level of income as parents will receive the same tax cuts under the tax package?
- (3) Has the Minister/Government examined the degree to which the proposed tax package will impact on families?
- (4) If so, has the Government examined the views of Professor Peter McDonald?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Does the Government intend to make any submissions to the Federal Government to provide a greater level of tax concession for families with children?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am aware of Professor McDonald's claims. However, I consider these claims and the way they were reported in the article as misleading. Professor McDonald was reported as saying that the Federal Government's tax reform package discriminates against families, on the grounds that non-parents on the same income level as parents would get the same tax cuts. This statement is misleading, as it fails to take into account the new \$2 billion families package announced as part of the tax reform package. The key elements of the families package, which builds on the Family Tax Initiative (FTI) introduced by the Federal Government in 1997, are as follows:

doubling the extra \$1,000 tax-free threshold for each dependent child that is currently available under the FTI, providing additional assistance of \$140 a year per child;

doubling the extra \$2,500 tax-free threshold for one income families with a child under 5 years that is currently available under the FTI, providing additional assistance of \$350 a year per family;

increasing the maximum assistance for childcare for lower income families by \$7.50 a week, or 7%;

increasing the level of income at which Family Allowance begins to be income tested, from the current \$24,350 to \$28,200;

reducing the rate at which Family Allowance phases out above this income level, from the current 50% to 30%; and

simplifying the administrative system of family assistance.

These measures, combined with the proposed personal income tax cuts, will ensure that families with children are major beneficiaries of the new tax system. The proposed GST-free treatment of health, education and childcare will also assist families.

- (3)-(7) The Commonwealth Treasury and other Commonwealth departments have already done extensive modelling showing that families will be fully compensated for the GST.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

2116. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Women's Interests:

What active steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the proportion of women representatives on boards and committees increases?

Mrs PARKER replied:

Women's Policy Development Office

As Minister for Women's Interests, I -

participate in Cabinet decision making regarding appointments to Government Boards and committees

constantly raise the issue of the need for increased gender balance in appointments (The proportion of women on these Boards and Committees has increased from 18.4% in 1997 to 25.6% in 1999)

host an annual International Women's Day cocktail function for Government Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). CEOs are asked to invite women in their sector who make a significant contribution to decision making within that sector. This is a strategy to bring to CEOs' attention a need to increase awareness/visibility of women who are suitable for appointment to Government Boards and Committees

host networking luncheons for women CEOs from the public and private sector for the purpose of developing strategies to increase the representation of women in decision making.

at appropriate public and private functions, encourage women to nominate for the Interested Persons Register held in the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet.

And through the Women's Interests Portfolio the Women's Policy Development Office:

liaises closely with the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet regarding improved representation of women in accordance with government policy.

continues direct work with women's groups and government departments eg fax stream to women's groups alerting them to calls for nominations to particular boards.

monitors and comments on all Cabinet submissions relating to boards and committees. The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet monitor the outcome on their database.

has, when requested, provided a short list of suitable women for appointment to a particular board.

analyses board composition by portfolio and works directly with agencies to have an input at an early stage in the decision making process regarding board appointments.

worked with the Public Sector Management Office to produce 'Getting on Board', a guide to the recruitment and induction of members of Government boards and committees.

followed up on the above initiative with a complementary brochure for women considering board membership. The brochure is titled *Women: Interested in Appointment to a Government Board or Committee?* The publication was widely distributed.

promotes women's nominations for boards and committees and the Interested Persons Register at any appropriate opportunity.

PREMIER, LEADERSHIP

2126. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of an article on page 59 of *The West Australian* of 24 February 1999 which reported on a group assembled by the Inner City Housing Development Association (ICHDA)?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of comments made by Ken Adam to the effect that "this city is suffering very badly from a lack of proper leadership"?
- (3) What action does the Premier intend to take to overcome the poor leadership referred to in the article?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes, I have read the article and I am also aware that Mr Ken Adam favours the establishment of a Capital City Development Authority to oversee and plan development in the Central Business District of Perth. The member should be aware that since this Government was elected in 1992, there has been a substantial commitment to planning and development in Central Perth. Indeed the City was calling out for urgent attention and we have acted by enhancing King, Murray and Barrack Streets and demolishing the R&I Bank tower, to expose the historic Town Hall. Current enhancement options include a convention and exhibition centre, Barrack Square, the old Central Government building. The Capital City Committee which I have chaired is actively pursuing these issues as well as implementation of the Perth Access Plan and Northbridge Urban Renewal. A great deal more is happening to improve our Capital City under this Government which is showing the leadership necessary to get results.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2235. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Premier's control will the Premier provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr COURT replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2236. Mr RIEBELING to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Deputy Premier's control will the Deputy Premier provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2237. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Attorney General's control will the Attorney General provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2238. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2239. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr HOUSE replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore, the member can access this information in the Agriculture Western Australia and Fisheries Western Australia Annual Reports.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2241. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr KIERATH replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2242. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mrs PARKER replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2243. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr SHAVE replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2244. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies

under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Dr HAMES replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2245. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore, the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2246. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Health:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr DAY replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2247. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response :

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2248. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr BOARD replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2249. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2250. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2251. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2252. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;

- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for Culture and the Arts has provided the following reply:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2254. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2255. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, ELECTORAL ADVERTISING

2256. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

With regard to section 175ZE ("the section") of the Electoral Act 1907, for all government departments and agencies under the Minister's control will the Minister provide a breakdown of how much was paid in 1997-98 to each person, agency or organization which provided the following services -

- (a) advertising;
- (b) market research;
- (c) polling;
- (d) direct mail; and
- (e) media advertising?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Electoral Commission has advised that this information is available in each agency's Annual Report as it is a reporting requirement. Therefore the member can access this information in each agency's Annual Report.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, FREE TICKETS TO SPORTING EVENTS

2328. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has any sporting club or organisation provided the Minister with free tickets to any major sporting events in Western Australia?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) to which events were the tickets provided; and
 - (b) on how many occasions have tickets been provided?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) All members of Parliament, and the Minister in particular, receive hundreds of invitations to attend sporting, arts and social events every year. Whilst the Minister tries to attend as many events as possible, regrettably this is not always possible.
- (2) (a)-(b) This information is not readily available. Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific enquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, FREE TICKETS TO SPORTING EVENTS

2332. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has any sporting club or organisation provided the Minister with free tickets to any major sporting events in Western Australia?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) to which events were the tickets provided; and
 - (b) on how many occasions have tickets been provided?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1) All members of Parliament, and the Minister in particular, receive hundreds of invitations to attend sporting, arts and social events every year. Whilst the Minister tries to attend as many events as possible, regrettably this is not always possible.
- (2) (a)-(b) This information is not readily available. Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific enquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, FREE TICKETS TO SPORTING EVENTS

2334. Mr GRAHAM to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Has any sporting club or organisation provided the Minister with free tickets to any major sporting events in Western Australia?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) to which events were the tickets provided; and
 - (b) on how many occasions have tickets been provided?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1) All members of Parliament, and the Minister in particular, receive hundreds of invitations to attend sporting, arts and social events every year. Whilst the Minister tries to attend as many events as possible, regrettably this is not always possible.
- (2) (a)-(b) This information is not readily available. Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific enquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

MANDURAH CULTURAL PROJECT, CONSULTANT

2336. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

In relation to the consultancy work carried out on the Mandurah Cultural Project by consultant Bob Shields -

- (a) was this consultancy advertised;
- (b) if yes to (a) above, when and how many applicants were there for this work; and
- (c) if no to (a) above, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a)-(c) Mr Shields was identified as having a proven track record and skills for the tasks involved with the project. Mr Shields was a commercial property developer with considerable waterfront and commercial expertise. He also had recent experience in cinema development. These were the essential skills required for the role he undertook on the Mandurah project. He was introduced to the Mandurah Cultural Centre development to ensure that:
 - the project succeeded where previous proposals had failed; and
 - commercial opportunities were identified and realised.

Experience with Mr Shields in the conceptual phase of the project confirmed that he had the required expertise to undertake the longer term assignment. Mr Shields' responsibilities included:

- developing the concepts for the development and convincing both, the Government and the Mandurah City Council of their viability;
- identifying, creating and exploiting commercial opportunities;
- providing expert advice to the project on a range of matters including commercialisation and options for theatre design; and
- negotiating with potential lessees, government agencies and other parties to finalise leasing arrangements. Some of these negotiations were quite protracted due to difficulties in reaching commercial agreement to the terms and conditions imposed by government regulation. Mr Shields' skills and background were particularly useful in this regard.

There was a need to have someone of Mr Shields' background to facilitate the commencement of projects which were proving difficult to initiate. All parties involved were particularly pleased with his involvement and the fees of \$95,392.00 over a three and a half year period were considered by all connected with the project as very reasonable and value for money. Mr Shields provided specific expertise to a project that was floundering and facilitated the process by which it was put back on track. The end result of Mr Shields' facilitation of the project was the realizing of a very successful outcome. As the member may have an interest in successful project facilitation he may well enquire into the process associated with the Kalgoorlie Cultural Centre which was during the Opposition's time in government. The dispute over the long term funding arrangements for this project are ongoing and to this day unresolved.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, OVERPAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES

2355. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) On how many separate occasions has the Education Department overpaid its employees since 1 January, 1998?
- (2) What is the total value of these overpayments?
- (3) What is the value of overpayments still unrecovered from employees?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised that as at 24 May 1999:

- (1) Approximately 6 000 employees have been overpaid since 1 January 1998. These overpayments have arisen for a number of reasons, which include delays in processing forms, operator error, information not being processed before pays have closed, poor data integrity (particularly related to the migration of data from the old payroll system) and incorrect parameters being set for pay runs.
- (2) Approximately \$1 700 000.00 which is equal to less than 2 per cent of the total payroll. Having now cleared a backlog of errors whereby teachers have not been paid, the Education Department has set up a special team to calculate overpayments based on payroll reports that are run on a regular basis. These reports identify overpayments that have occurred as a result of operator error or delays in processing information. In addition, the team is working from reports that identify overpayments that affect groups of employees due to specific circumstances. This team undertakes the calculation and raises the appropriate paperwork to pass on to the Recoveries Section who then negotiate repayment by the employee.
- (3) Approximately \$1.14 million remains uncollected. The Department has an ongoing program of recovery for the outstanding overpayments. It is expected that the majority of overpayments will be recovered within a reasonably short period of time, particularly now that a dedicated team has been able to focus on this issue. Historical data suggests that recovery rates have improved dramatically since the special team working on this has been established. The Education Department will continue to co-operate with overpaid employees to ensure that money is recovered as quickly as possible without placing unnecessary financial strain on staff.

FLUGGE, MR M.

2357. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Primary Industry:

- (1) At what level and on what basis was Mr M Flugge employed in the Minister's office?
- (2) Was Mr Flugge employed by Agriculture Western Australia after leaving the Minister's office?
- (3) If yes, at what level and on what basis was he employed by Agriculture Western Australia?
- (4) What process was followed by Agriculture Western Australia in the appointment of Mr Flugge?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) Mr Flugge was selected through a full merit based selection process and appointed for a position advertised in the press. He was employed by AGWEST, from May 1996 to March 1997 as a Policy Officer, Level 6 under Section 64 (1)(b) of the Public Sector Management Act; the position was located within the Minister's office. From March 1997 he accepted an offer by the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet as a Senior Policy Adviser, Level 6 within the Minister's Office for "the term of Government".

- (2)-(4) Yes, consistent with Mr Flugge's previous merit based selection for employment with AGWEST he was offered and accepted a Section 64 (1)(b) contract for a Level 6 officer for a finite period. He was also offered and accepted an acting opportunity at Level 7 for a period of six months. AGWEST has subsequently advertised and merit selected for the position of Manager, Progress Rural WA for which Mr Flugge was the successful applicant. Mr Flugge has accepted a contract at Level 7 under Section 64 (1)(b) of the Public Sector Management Act for a five year period.

ROCKINGHAM-KWINANA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

2372. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Rockingham-Kwinana District Hospital and ask -

- (a) what was the number of beds available at the Rockingham Kwinana Hospital in the years -
- (i) 1996;
 - (ii) 1997;
 - (iii) 1998; and
 - (iv) 1999;
- (b) what has been the reduction in the number of beds at the Rockingham Kwinana Hospital in 1999;
- (c) do any wards close on the weekends at the Rockingham Kwinana Hospital;
- (d) if wards do close when does this take place;
- (e) what is the total number of medical and nursing staff at the Hospital;
- (f) what were the total numbers of medical and nursing staff at the Hospital in the years -
- (i) 1996;
 - (ii) 1997;
 - (iii) 1998; and
 - (iv) 1999;
- (g) has there been a reduction in the staffing levels at the Hospital in -
- (i) 1998; and
 - (ii) 1999;
- and if so -
- (aa) by how many staff; and
 - (bb) in what categories; and
- (h) when will the Government be establishing a bus service direct from Kwinana to the Rockingham Kwinana District Hospital?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a) (i) 1996 - 87;
- (ii) 1997 - 85 (reduction due to refurbishment of paediatric ward);
- (iii) 1998 - 85; and
- (iv) 1999 - 85;
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Yes. If demand for admissions is low, staff and patients will be consolidated for safety and efficiency reasons.
- (d) No designated time. Decision to consolidate is based on activity and patient acuity levels.
- (e) 114.7 FTE.
- (f) (i) 1996 - Nursing - 93.99 FTE / Medical - 5.8 FTE;
- (ii) 1997 - Nursing - 98.22 FTE / Medical - 6.0 FTE;
- (iii) 1998 - Nursing - 101.6 FTE / Medical - 7.0 FTE; and
- (iv) 1999 - Nursing - 105.7 FTE / Medical - 9.0 FTE
- (The hospital only has a limited number of medical employees, as most medical services are provided by private Visiting Medical Practitioners working on a contracted fee-for-service basis)
- (g) (i) no; and
- (ii) no,
- and if so -
- (aa)-(bb) not applicable.
- (h) The existing public transport link will be maintained from Kwinana to Rockingham with a transfer to the hospital from Rockingham. It is not possible for all journeys on the public transport system to be direct "door to door" services, and transfers at interchanges are often required in order to reach many destinations. This is common with public transport systems throughout the world.

ALCOA REFINERY, WAGERUP, HEALTH IMPACTS

2378. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister received -
 - (a) advice; or
 - (b) a written report from the Health Department regarding the concerns of the residents of Wagerup over claims of health impacts from the ALCOA refinery at Wagerup after Health Department officers met with residents and the Wagerup Workers Safety Representative?
- (2) Will the Minister table the advice or report received from the Health Department?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What action is being taken by the Health Department in relation to the concerns of the residents of Wagerup and the workers from the Wagerup refinery?
- (5) What is the status of this action?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) This is essentially an issue with prime responsibility lying within the Departments of Environmental Protection and Minerals & Energy. The Health Department of WA has now been drawn into it because of community concerns. The Department is of the view that the concerns are significant enough for them to be investigated. Essentially the residents are concerned about emissions from the liquor burner and oxalate kiln and dusts from the residue area. Alcoa have carried out substantial monitoring of the ambient air and emission levels (volatile organic compounds) have always been within accepted standards.
- (4) The Health Department is working with the Department of Environmental Protection in developing action plans to investigate the concerns the community has raised. As regards the workers from the refinery, this is not a Health Department issue and responsibility rests with the Department of Minerals and Energy and WorkSafe Western Australia.
- (5) This action is progressing.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2385. Mr CARPENTER to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Premier's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –
 Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997; and
 Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 – October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2386. Mr CARPENTER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Has the Deputy Premier's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices, the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the

Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997; and *Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998*, Report No. 8 – October 1998.

All agencies and the Deputy Premier's Office have taken note of Page 17 of the *Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998* of October 1998 and appropriate procedures for supporting documentation and authorisation are in place.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2387. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General's office, either directly or indirectly, expressed concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's -

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and *Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998*, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2388. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's -

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and *Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998*, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2389. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2390. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 – October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2391. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2392. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2393. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998 Report No. 8 – October 1998

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2394. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?

- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audit 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997, and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audit 1998, Report No. 8 – October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2395. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 – November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 – October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2396. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2397. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's –

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No 7 – November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No 8 – October 1998

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2398. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's -

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2399. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's -

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2400. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) Since the decision was made for the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet to assume responsibility for all expenditure in Ministerial Offices the communication between the Office of the Auditor General and the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet in relation to these matters is covered in the Office of the Auditor General's -

Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1997, Report No. 7 - November 1997; and Report on Controls, Compliance and Accountability Audits 1998, Report No. 8 - October 1998.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2402. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 2387.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2404. Mr CARPENTER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 2400.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2405. Mr CARPENTER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 2387.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2406. Mr CARPENTER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Has the Minister's office received any comment, either directly or indirectly, from the Auditor General's office expressing concern about use of Government credit cards outside the Government guidelines?
- (2) If yes, when were the comments made?
- (3) What was the cause of the concern?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1)-(3) See answer to question 2400.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2408. Mr CARPENTER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

In relation to the use of Government credit cards -

- (a) have any credit cardholders either working in the Ministerial office or with a Department/Agency for which the Deputy Premier has responsibility used their cards -
 - (i) for personal use; or
 - (ii) to gain frequent flyer points; fly buys or similar benefits;
- (b) if yes, will the Deputy Premier provide details of this use;
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

Ministerial Office

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
- (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Department of Commerce and Trade

- (a) (i) Yes.
- (ii) No. All departmental air travel booked in advance is paid by a single corporate credit card. Occasionally, when travel arrangements change whilst officers are away, they may need to use their corporate credit card to purchase or modify an air ticket. All frequent flyer points gained are used for departmental business only.
- (b)-(c) The Department of Commerce and Trade's policy is that only legitimate expenses incurred on departmental business are to be paid by corporate credit cards. However, on rare occasions officers have placed private expenditure on their corporate credit card. In the main, this has occurred in error when the officer has inadvertently mistaken his/her corporate credit card for his/her own personal credit card. However, on each occasion the private expenditure was immediately repaid to the Department.

Small Business Development Corporation

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy (CASE)

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission

- (a) (i) Yes, one instance of an officer using a corporate card for private purchases.
 (ii) No.
 (b) A corporate card was used to purchase authorised work expenditure. Included on the receipt were some unauthorised personal items mistakenly placed.
 (c) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission

- (a) (i) Yes. An ex-employee used the South West Development commission credit card to pay for an extra night's accommodation at a hotel after he lost his own personal card. The amount was repaid immediately.
 (ii) No.
 (b) Part of the stay at the hotel was associated with South West Development Commission business.
 (c) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2411. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

In relation to the use of Government credit cards -

- (a) have any credit cardholders either working in the Ministerial office or with a Department/Agency for which the Minister has responsibility used their cards -
 (i) for personal use; or
 (ii) to gain frequent flyer points; fly buys or similar benefits;
 (b) if yes, will the Minister provide details of this use;
 (c) if not, why not?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Fisheries Western Australia:

- (a) (i)-(ii) No.
 (b)-(c) Not applicable.

Agriculture Western Australia:

- (a) (i) Yes - 2
 (ii) No.
 (b) No.

- (c) (i) The matter is under investigation.
- (ii) The money was repaid immediately the error was realised.

Ministerial Office:

- (a) (i) Yes - 1
- (ii) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) The money was repaid immediately the error was realised.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDIT CARD USE

2418. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Health:

In relation to the use of Government credit cards -

- (a) have any credit cardholders either working in the Ministerial office or with a Department/Agency for which the Minister has responsibility used their cards -
 - (i) for personal use; or
 - (ii) to gain frequent flyer points; fly buys or similar benefits;
- (b) if yes, will the Minister provide details of this use;
- (c) if not, why not?

Mr DAY replied:

- (a)-(c) I refer the member to the answer to Assembly Question Without Notice 627 asked on 16 March 1999.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, SCREENING OF APPOINTEES FOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

2438. Dr CONSTABLE to the Premier:

- (1) Are appointees to any statutory boards -
 - (a) screened for records of criminal convictions; and/or
 - (b) required to make a declaration with regard to criminal convictions?
- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, which boards undertake this procedure?
- (3) If the answer to (1) above is no, why not?
- (4) Do any current members of any statutory boards have a record of criminal conviction?
- (5) If the answer to (4) above is yes, how many and on which boards do these members sit?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) There is no formal government policy in this regard. However criminal screenings would be conducted where there is a statutory requirement or a perceived need.

MINISTER FOR SENIORS, ITINERARY FOR TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

2446. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Seniors:

In reference to the Minister's answer to question on notice No. 1304 of 1998 where she failed to table her itinerary for her trip to Durban, South Africa in October 1997 -

- (a) will the Minister now table the itinerary; and
- (b) if not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

I refer the member to the answer to question on notice 1304 of 1998. I attended the Third Global Conference on Ageing in Durban from 19 - 23 October 1997 honouring a commitment given by my predecessor as Minister for Seniors, the Hon Cheryl Edwards MLA. The itinerary included travel to and from the conference and attendance at the conference itself. I table a further copy of the conference program for the member's information. [See paper No 1017.]

Representing the Government, I spoke at the conference in Plenary Session 2 on Monday 20 October, before an audience of approximately 1100 delegates from 52 nations. The theme for the session was *Women, family and ageing: Bridging the generations in a changing world*. The theme for the paper was *Managing change in an ageing society*. A copy of the speech is tabled. [See paper No 1017.]

I further participated in a panel discussion with South African Federal and State Ministers, members of Parliament and the Argentinian Minister for Social Security. All Ministers also participated in a Press conference. During the remainder of the week I attended various meetings, receptions and paper presentations. During these formal and informal meetings, other than the elected officials mentioned above, I have met with Dr Daniel Thursz, President of the International Federation on Ageing, Ms Bette Mullen, Director of International Relations with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Mr Bjarne Hastrup, CEO of DaneAge, Lady Sally Greengross, CEO of Age Concern in the United

Kingdom and EuroLink Age, His Excellency Dr Sam Motsenyane, South African Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and IFA Board Member and others. If the member has any specific query about any of these meetings, I would be pleased to provide him with further answers.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, CHILDREN SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL

2447. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What arrangements has the Department of Family and Children's Services made with the Education Department to provide support and services to those families where children have been suspended or excluded from Government schools?
- (2) Does the Family and Children's Services Department target its parent support and family intervention programs to these families?
- (3) If yes, how?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) Individual children who are under the care of the Department of Family and Children's Services are provided with individual support while suspended or excluded from Government schools
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Parent support and family intervention programs are available for all families in the community, and are not restricted to those families whose children have been suspended or excluded from Government schools.

EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, REDUCTION

2495. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of an article that appeared in *The Australian Financial Review* on 17 March 1999 under the heading of "BHP Joins Exploration Slump" which reported Australia's mineral and petroleum companies had slashed offshore drilling by hundreds of millions of dollars in response to poor global commodity prices?
- (2) Does the Premier now accept that the reduction in exploration expenditure has resulted from poor global commodity prices rather than any domestic issues such as native title?
- (3) Will the Premier explain how native title legislation would result in Australian mineral and exploration efforts offshore being reduced?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) I am aware of the article which indicates that BHP is reducing its exploration budget off-shore and in regard to the "greenfield" areas concentrating instead on searching closer to existing projects or known orebodies.
- (2) The fact that BHP intends to focus its exploration efforts on existing project areas rather than greenfields supports what the Government has been saying over the years, that is that native title is one of the most significant issues affecting access to new land for exploration purposes.
- (3) Native title legislation is obviously not the only determining factor but is a very significant issue in Australia where the minerals and petroleum sectors have to cope not only with the reduction in commodity prices but also with difficulties with gaining access to land for exploration purposes because of this legislation. The President of the W.A. Chamber of Minerals and Energy said at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting in May that unworkable Native Title processes were sterilising land and stifling exploration and highlighted the fact that there are nearly 12 000 mineral title applications caught in the system due to unworkable Native Title processes. These problems could be alleviated if the Opposition allowed the passage of the Government's Native Title (State Provisions) Bill. The recent demonstrations in Kalgoorlie and Fremantle against the Opposition's stance on native title legislation provided the best illustration of the industry views on the ALP's stubborn resistance to State legislation which would bring relief to the drilling and mining industry and create an incentive to concentrate their efforts in Australia rather than overseas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2498. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Premier's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Premier's officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and

- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by the Premier's officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) There are 8 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) Nine mobile phones have been purchased for use.
- (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
C Cahill	8	EL Falcon	\$59.43	Yes
J Gilleece	Group 2 (min)	VT Berlina	**	Yes
B Hillman	7	Camry	\$47.92	Yes
W Ireland	8	Camry	\$47.92	Yes
W Marmion	Acting 9	AU Falcon	\$59.43	Yes
D Smith	7	TF Magna	\$47.92	Yes
K Verboon	8	Camry	\$47.92	Yes
D Willmott	Group 2 (min)	VT Berlina	**	Yes
R Young	5	-	-	Yes

** Vehicle included as part of salary package

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2499. Mr RIEBELING to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Deputy Premier's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Deputy Premier's officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Deputy Premier's officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Ten.
- (4) Twelve mobile phones have been purchased for use by Deputy Premier's officers and nine of these are currently in use.
- (2),(3),(5)

Name	Level	Vehicle/Vehicle Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
H Cowan	MP	Ford LTD sedan	n/a	Yes
R Field	Class 4	Ford Fairmont sedan	n/a	Yes
J Shadbolt	7	Mitsubishi Magna wagon	\$47.92	Yes
P Jackson	8	Ford Falcon sedan	\$59.43	Yes
G Klem	8	Holden Commodore sedan	n/a	Yes
G McQuillan	7	Ford Laser sedan	\$47.92	Yes
M Beach	7	Nissan Pulsar sedan	\$47.92	Yes
C Bolt	5	Toyota Corolla sedan	n/a	No
J Bow-Marshall	3	Commodore sedan	n/a	Yes
L Mackin	6	Commodore sedan	n/a	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2500. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Attorney General's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Attorney General's officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?

- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by the Attorney General's officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1) There are 4 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) 3 Mobile phones have been purchased for use.
- (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Vehicle	Vehicle type	EVS payment	Mobile
Karry Smith	8	Yes	Holden Acclaim	Yes - \$59.43	Yes
Chris Morris	6	Yes	Holden Commodore Executive	Yes - \$47.92	Yes
Policy Officer - Nick Wood (Government plated - not for private use)	6		Toyota Corolla	N/A	No
Executive Officer Krisha Rowcroft (Government plated - not for private use)	5		Toyota Corolla	N/A	No
General Office Mobile	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2501. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There are 4 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) 5 mobile phones have been purchased for use:
- (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Mobile	Vehicle	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment Per Fortnight
J.Hammond	9	Yes	Yes	Holden Acclaim	\$59.43
R. Ellis	8	Yes	Yes	Ford Falcon	\$59.43
N. Cant	8	Yes	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$47.92
J. Whittome	6	Yes	Yes	Holden Vectra	\$47.92
A. Paterson	5	Yes	No	N/A	N/A

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2502. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1) There are 9 vehicles currently allocated.
 (4) 6 Mobile Phones have been purchased for use.
 (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
A Munro	A9	Ford Falcon	\$ 59.43	Yes
J Dedman	6	Holden Commodore		No
A Murrell	A8	Ford Falcon		No
D Beurle	A8	Holden Commodore		No
S Clancy	6	Toyota Camry		No
S O'Donoghue	A7	Ford Falcon		No
C Westaway	A6	Holden Commodore		No
J Cole	A6	Holden Commodore	\$ 59.43	Yes
J Trent	4	Ford Falcon		Yes

There are three (3) Mobile Phones available for general Office use.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2503. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for the Environment; Labour Relations:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
 (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
 (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
 (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
 (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Five.
 (2) Gail McGowan Acting level 9
 Derek Carew-Hopkins Acting level 9
 Geoff Paddick Level 7
 Dawn FitzGerald Acting level 7
 Nicole Trigwell Level 6
 (3) (a)-(b) Gail McGowan Ford Fairmont \$59.43
 Derek Carew-Hopkins Ford Falcon \$59.43
 Geoff Paddick Holden Commodore \$59.43
 Nicole Trigwell Mitsubishi Magna \$47.92
 (Payments are per fortnight).
 Dawn FitzGerald Holden Vectra Nil
 (4) Five.
 (5) Gail McGowan Acting level 9
 Derek Carew-Hopkins Acting level 9
 Geoff Paddick Level 7
 Paul Biggs Level 7
 Dawn FitzGerald Acting level 7
 Nicole Trigwell Level 6

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2504. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) There are 6 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) 10 mobile phones have been purchased for use.

(2),(3),(5)
As at 29 April 1999 -

<i>Name</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Vehicle Type</i>	<i>EVS Payment</i>	<i>Mobile</i>
Coordinator - Urban Development	Level 9	yes	Ford Fairmont AU	\$59.43	yes
Chief of Staff	A/Level 8	yes	Holden Commodore	\$59.43	yes (2)
Policy Officer	Level 7	yes	Ford Falcon	\$Nil**	yes
Policy Officer	A/Level 7	yes	Ford Falcon	\$Nil**	yes
Media Secretary	Level 6	yes	Holden Commodore	\$59.43	yes
Executive Officer	Level 5	yes	Toyota Corolla	\$Nil**	yes
Chief Adviser	Class 1	no	Not applicable	Not applicable	yes (2)
Policy Officer	A/Level 5	no	Not applicable	Not applicable	yes

** vehicle is not used for private purposes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2506. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) There are 6 vehicles currently allocated.

(2),(3),(5)
As at 16 March 1999:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Type of Vehicle</i>	<i>EVS Payment</i>	<i>Mobile</i>
Minister		Yes	Holden Caprice		Yes
Harry Skepper	Acting 8	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$59.43 per fortnight	Yes
Fred Calginari	7	Yes	Holden Commodore	\$59.43 per fortnight	Yes
John Clune	6	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$59.43 per fortnight	Yes
Michelle Miller	6	Yes	Nissan Pulsar	\$59.43 per fortnight	Yes
Bill Mitchell	7	Yes	Holden Commodore	\$59.43 per fortnight	Yes

- (4) 6 mobile phones have been purchased for use.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2507. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?

- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) There are 5 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) 6 mobile phones have been purchased for use.

(2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999 :

Name	Level	Vehicle	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment (per fortnight)	Mobile
I Wight-Pickin	8	Yes	Holden Commodore	\$59.43	Yes
C Allier	7	Yes	Toyota Camry	Nil	Yes
N Collard	7	Yes	Toyota Corolla	Nil	Yes
C Lacy	6	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$47.92	Yes
M Hayes	5	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes
M Franse	3	Yes	Toyota Corolla	Nil	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2508. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) There are 4 vehicles currently allocated.

(2)-(3) As at 16 March 1999:

NAME	LEVEL	TYPE OF VEHICLE	EVS PAYMENT
John Kime	8	Ford Futura	\$59.43
Steven Tweedie	7	Holden Commodore	\$59.43
Ann Ellis Young	7	Toyota Camry	Not applicable.
Hugh Ryan	6	Ford Laser	\$47.92

- (4) Four mobile phones have been purchased for use.

- (5) John Kime Level 8
Steven Tweedie Level 7
Ann Ellis Young Level 7
Hugh Ryan Level 6

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2509. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?

- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1) There are 5 vehicles currently allocated to the Minister's office.
- (4) 4 mobile phones have been purchased for use.

(2),(3),(5)

As at 16 March 1999 :

Name	Level	Vehicle	Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
R Reid	8	Ford Futura	6 cylinder	\$59.43 p/f	Yes
G Power	7	Mitsubishi Magna	6 cylinder	\$59.43	
A Thompson	7	Toyota Camry	4 cylinder	Nil	Yes
M Thompson	6	Mitsubishi Magna	4 cylinder	\$47.92	Yes
K Newman	6	Toyota Corolla	4 cylinder	Nil	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2510. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) There is one vehicle currently allocated.
- (4) No mobile phones have been purchased for use.

(2),(3),(5)

As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Mobile Phone	Vehicle	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment
W Shepherd	7	No	Yes	Camry Sedan CSX	\$47.92

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2511. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised that:

Name	Level	Vehicle	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
Dr L Bungey	8	Yes	Commodore VT Acclaim	\$47.92 pf	Yes
Mr P Tilley	8	Yes	VS Commodore Executive	\$59.43 pf	Yes
Mr J Robb	6	Yes	Magna V6	- *	Yes
Ms F McRobbie	5	-	-	-	Yes
Office Use		-	-	-	Yes

* EVS payments were not being deducted from Mr Robb's salary. Arrangements have now been made for this to be done and for back payment to the date of Mr Robb commencing employment in the ministerial office to be effected.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2512. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

(1)-(5)

I refer the member to the answer to the answer to Question No 2510

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2513. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) There are six vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) Seven mobile phones have been purchased for use.
- (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999 :

Name	Level	Vehicle	Vehicle Type	EVS Payment	Mobile
R Laming	Level 7	Yes	Mitsubishi	\$47.92	Yes
H Pereira	Level 7	Yes	Mitsubishi	\$59.43	Yes
R Stevens	Level 7	Yes	Holden	No	Yes
T Whittington	Level 7	Yes	Holden	\$59.43	Yes
H Joynt	Level 6	Yes	Ford	\$59.43	Yes
S Tonkin	Level 6	Yes	Ford	\$59.43	Yes
E Stevens	Level 5	No	N/A	N/A	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2514. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -

- (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
- (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) There are 4 vehicles currently allocated.
- (4) 4 mobile phones have been purchased for use.
- (2),(3),(5) As at 16 March 1999:

Name	Level	Vehicle	Vehicle type	EVS Payment (per fortnight)	Mobile
K Humfrey	8	Yes	Falcon Futura	\$59.43	Yes
B McGlew	7	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$47.92	Yes
K Stoney	6	Yes	Toyota Camry	\$47.92	Yes
Office Vehicle			Toyota Corolla	Not applicable	N/A
Ministerial Liaison Officer	4	No	N/A	N/A	Yes

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2515. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(5) I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 2500.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2517. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

- (1)-(5) See answer to PQ 2513.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2518. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)-(5) I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 2500.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, VEHICLES AND MOBILE PHONES

2519. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How many vehicles are currently allocated to the Minister's office?
- (2) What are the names and levels of the officer's allocated vehicles?
- (3) For each of the Ministerial officers allocated a vehicle -
 - (a) what is the type of vehicle; and
 - (b) what payment is the officer making under the Executive Vehicle Scheme for the use of this vehicle as at 16 March 1999?
- (4) How many mobile phones have been purchased for use by Ministerial officers?
- (5) What are the names and the levels of the officers allocated mobile phones?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

- (1)-(5) See answer to PQ 2513.

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, INVESTIGATION INTO CONDUCT OF OFFICERS

2530. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

I refer to the report by the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards into Agriculture Western Australia tabled on 9 March 1999 and the Minister's comments regarding an investigation into the conduct of officers in the Office of the Minister for Primary Industry as recommended in that report and ask -

- (a) who is carrying out this investigation;
- (b) when did the investigation commence;
- (c) when is it anticipated that the investigation will be completed;
- (d) which officers are being investigated;
- (e) have any of the disciplinary provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 been applied to any of these officers; and
- (f) if the answer to (e) is yes -
 - (i) which officers have had disciplinary action taken against them; and
 - (ii) what type of disciplinary action has been taken?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a)-(f) I refer the member to my Ministerial Statement of 4 May 1999 regarding this matter.

PUBLIC SERVICE, APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 64(1)(a) OF PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT ACT

2538. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services; Seniors; Women's Interests:

- (1) At any time since 1994, has the Minister, or the Minister's office, requested the appointment of a person to the public service pursuant to section 64(1)(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994?

- (2) Were any of the people the subject of such a request actually appointed pursuant to the Act?
- (3) If so, for each such appointment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) their classification and position at appointment;
 - (c) the date their appointment took effect; and
 - (d) their relevant employing authority?
- (4) Were any of these officers subsequently seconded to work in a Ministerial office?
- (5) If so, for each secondment, will the Minister specify -
 - (a) the officer's name;
 - (b) the classification and position to which the officer was seconded;
 - (c) the date this secondment was requested;
 - (d) the date this secondment took effect; and
 - (e) the Ministerial office to which the officer was seconded to?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(5) No.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION AWARD 1997

2554. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) In regard to the Crisis Assistance Supported Accommodation Award 1997 (cash award) for supported accommodation workers, how many of Western Australia's Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) services have not been funded to implement the award?
- (2) Which services have not been funded?
- (3) Why not?
- (4) How long does the Government propose to leave the other services either in breach of the award or in financial difficulty?
- (5) Is it true that services like women's refuges are being advised to cut services to clients?
- (6) Is the Minister aware that similar services in other States have been paid this award for many years?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1)-(3) Family and Children's Services purchases specific services from the non government sector. Organisations are funded to provide these services on the basis of a fixed identified dollar value, including provision for CPI or agreed Commonwealth/State indexations. All organisations funded by the department are expected to comply with relevant legislation.
- (4) The Award took effect from 1 January 1998. I wrote to organisations funded by the department in August 1997 offering to consider applications for increased funding to implement the conditions of the Award on a case by case basis. As part of the assessment process it was determined that 24 hour and extended hours services and organisations providing on-call or out-of-hours services would be the highest priority for funding increases.
- (5) Applications from women's refuges have all been high priority as they provide a 24 hour service. The only women's refuge which is a respondent to the award and has not received additional funding is the Narrogin refuge which chose not to apply. I am also waiting for applications from a number of non respondent refuges which are implementing other industrial agreements.
- (6) This Federal Award has been ratified at different times and in some cases with different conditions in other states.

GOLD CORPORATION, SALARY PACKAGES

2576. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Premier confirm that in the 1996-97 Gold Corporation Annual Report there was one officer between the salary band of \$140 001 - \$150 000 and one officer between the salary band \$380 001 to \$390 000 (which included a long service leave payment)?
- (2) If yes, who were those officers and what was the salary package which resulted in this income.
- (3) Will the Premier confirm that for the financial year 1997-98 there was one officer between the salary band of \$230 001 to \$240 000 and one officer between the salary band \$310 001 to \$320 000?
- (4) If yes, who were those officers and what was the salary package which resulted in this income?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(4) The information on salary bands of Gold Corporation's executive directors, which is published in line with

Australian Securities & Investments Commission requirements, is correct. Salaries of Gold Corporation executives are determined by the Corporation's board as authorised by the Gold Corporation Act 1987. The Corporation operates in a highly competitive environment as to its products and the acquisition and retention of key personnel. Details of salary packages are confidential, and it would not be appropriate for me to disclose the information requested.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, FUNDING FOR EFFECTS OF FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL AWARDS

2584. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) Will the Minister detail how much the Department funded the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia to assist non Government services to manage the effect of federal industrial awards during the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) Will the Minister detail -
 - (a) the nature and duration of this assistance; and
 - (b) the non Government services provided with this assistance?

Mrs PARKER replied:

- (1) \$274,074.
- (2) (a) The Industrial Information and Advisory Service provides industrial relations and award information and advice to non government services funded by Family and Children's Services, in particular to funded services being impacted by the introduction of three Federal industrial awards. The service includes a telephone advisory service to provide labour relations information and advice on various options available in dealing with industrial or award matters. The assistance also includes access to three consultancy sessions of two hours maximum duration and two days training per year regarding labour relations issues. Assistance is also provided by way of a regular labour relations information broadcast news bulletin.
- (b) There are currently 383 non government services funded by Family and Children's Services which can access the Industrial Information and Advisory Service.

SCHOOLS, PASTORAL CARE

2609. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government intend to allocate additional resources to expand pastoral care in schools?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) Pastoral Care is not a specific program, but rather is an approach to student teacher relationships and interactions. Every person in a school is responsible for the pastoral care of students. Schools have access to numerous resources in this area, and it is the responsibility of the school to develop appropriate strategies that consider the care of students. There are significant resources and programs that schools are able to access to further develop or enhance pastoral care in their school:
 - In the recently announced State Budget, \$3.1 million in funding has been provided as a second instalment in a four year program to support schools in implementing programs for students at educational risk.
 - Each district has a Student Services Team that consists of School Psychologists, Welfare Officers, and Aboriginal Liaison Officers.
 - The Education Department and the Office of Youth Affairs are providing funding that totals \$200 000 for 1999/2000 and \$250 000 for 2000/2001 to the Churches Commission to support the School Chaplains program.
 - Schools are able to access support services and resources from other government agencies such as the 33 In School Police Officers. These officers work as part of a school's student services team providing support to high schools and feeder primary schools.

BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY AND WAGE RESTRAINT

2611. Mr BROWN to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware of an article that appeared in the *Australian Financial Review* on Tuesday 16 March 1999 under the heading of "Business Productivity Booming" which reports wage restraint and productivity increases have generated the highest level of business profitability in Australia since the quarterly national accounts began in 1959?

- (2) Is the Minister also aware of the article that reported that profit share (the proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that is company earnings) is at a record high of just under 18%?
- (3) What initiatives is the Treasurer able to point to that have contributed to wages falling as a percentage of GDP?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) I am aware that profit share (the proportion of GDP which is company earnings) is at a record high. Profit share has been increasing gradually for the past two decades. However, this increase in the profit share has not been at the expense of wages. While the proportion of GDP attributable to wages fell over the 1980s, it has remained constant during the 1990s at just under 50%. The factor that has fallen as a proportion of GDP, to make way for the increase in profit share, is gross mixed income. This is made up of the profits and wages of unincorporated entities. This component has grown at a slower pace than wages and profits.
- (3) Firstly, wages have not fallen as a percentage of GDP, but have risen slightly over this government's term in office. This is in contrast to a declining wage share over the 1980s and the early part of the 1990s. The move to decentralised productivity based wage increases in both the State and Federal industrial relations systems has enabled healthy and sustained growth in both wages and profits. At the same time, productivity improvements have further increased international competitiveness and maintained strong economic growth.

POLICE, ENTRY LEVEL FOR OFFICERS

2636. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Government or Western Australian Police Service given any consideration to raising the entry level for police officers to year twelve?
- (2) Are the entry level educational qualifications compatible with or similar to the qualifications in-
 - (a) other states of Australia;
 - (b) United States of America; or
 - (c) the United Kingdom?
- (3) Is it true that some police services around the world have increased entry level qualifications for police officers to deal with some of the more sophisticated criminal activities now being encountered?
- (4) Is there any review underway to determine the appropriate educational level qualifications for entry into the Western Australian Police Service?
- (5) If so, what are the details of that review?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The current minimum entry level educational qualification for police officers is to have successfully completed at least Year 10 of school education. However, the Police entrance Evaluation to assess literacy and numeracy is based on Year 12 competency. 77% of the recruits that have joined the Western Australia Police Service since 1997 had achieved Year 12 or higher.
- (2)
 - (a) The entry level educational qualification for the other Australian police jurisdictions varies from year 11 equivalent to the requirement in Queensland to have completed a Diploma.
 - (b) Whilst it is difficult to compare educational standards between the many states of America, information from New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Spokane Police Departments has established the entry level to be High School Graduation or equivalent.
 - (c) The London Metropolitan Police requires a 'sound general education'.
- (3) The Western Australia Police Service is not aware of any strategies by other police services to increase the entry level qualifications to deal with some of the more sophisticated criminal activities now being encountered.
- (4) The current educational prerequisite is considered an appropriate minimum standard. However, entry standards are constantly monitored to ensure that applicants have the capabilities to cope with the educational requirements of police training and police work.
- (5) Not applicable.

UNDERGROUND POWER, HAZELMERE

2642. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Has any consideration been given to locating power lines underground in Hazelmere?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of such consideration?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) The Shire of Swan submitted two applications for funding under Round One of the State Underground Power Programme. These were not in the area of Hazelmere and were not selected to be implemented in Round One.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) There were 22 applications for Major Residential Projects and 39 applications for Localised Enhancement Projects for Round One of the Programme. Projects were assessed and selected on their merits against published criteria. Applications for Round Two will be invited from local government authorities around August 1999.

ALINTAGAS, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

2655. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Energy:

- (1) How many Kalgoorlie-Boulder households have now been connected to AlintaGas reticulated natural gas?
- (2) How many Kalgoorlie-Boulder businesses have now been connected to AlintaGas reticulated natural gas?
- (3) How many metres or kilometres of gas pipeline have now been laid?
- (4) When is it expected that new gas connections will be available to all Kalgoorlie-Boulder households?
- (5) What was the initial time frame for connections as stated by the Minister and how does actual progress compare to this?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) 422 Active residential customers.
- (2) 34 Active business customers.
5 Active contract customers.
- (3) 112.66 kilometres as at 12 April 1999.
- (4) Currently AlintaGas has completed 70 per cent of the reticulation roll-out, providing access to approximately 6800 properties. AlintaGas will make natural gas available to approximately 95 per cent of the 9600 properties in Kalgoorlie-Boulder by December 1999, depending on weather and ground conditions.
- (5) The time-frame stipulated was to reticulate 95 per cent of Kalgoorlie-Boulder within two years of receiving a licence from the Office of Energy. The legislation providing for the issuing of a licence has not yet been passed. Hence, a licence has not yet been granted. AlintaGas commenced operations in October 1997, and depending on weather and ground conditions, should complete the project by December 1999.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

2709. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government prepared to implement a scheme under which youth unemployment is eliminated by offering school leavers a guaranteed job for a period of time, say three years, on a fixed wage?
- (2) Is the Premier prepared to consider such a scheme given that it could provide valuable training, job experience, employment stability and confidence in young people and make a significant contribution to redressing some of the social problems that exist today?
- (3) Will the Premier raise this matter with the Prime Minister with a view to obtaining Commonwealth financial assistance?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) One serious problem with a simple guarantee program is the message it sends to young people who might otherwise be successful in the job market. In the future world of work, enterprising skills will be critical for success and a guarantee scheme would almost certainly diminish young people's skills in this area. The labour market is complex and changing at a rapid rate. This Government is committed to preparing our young people for the exciting future world of work. The Access All Areas initiative aims to provide young Western Australians with a positive message about the range of options available to them. It is supported by a range of programs and initiatives that help young people come to grips with the new world of work, such things as dealing with home based businesses, managing a number of part time jobs in a way that builds a desired portfolio of skills, moving into the new knowledge based industries and focusing on a desirable lifestyle and how to achieve it given the skills currently possessed and those required. This Government believes in the innate ability of our young people and does not want to send a message that they need the Government to provide them with a job because they will be unable to get one themselves. The Commonwealth Government provides a safety net type program through its Work for the Dole initiative. It is currently seeking to expand this initiative and the Minister for Employment and Training has suggested changes they may wish to consider to enhance the initiative.
- (3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2711. Mr RIEBELING to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

What action, if any, has the Premier taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr COURT replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2714. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr BARNETT replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2715. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr HOUSE replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/ fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceed \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with the employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in the employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain Government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was

recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded" benefits, and do not need to be included on the employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2717. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr KIERATH replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2719. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr SHAVE replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2720. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Dr HAMES replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional

development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2721. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr OMODEI replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2722. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Health:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr DAY replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2723. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply :

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain Government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2724. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr BOARD replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2725. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply :

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain Government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2726. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr BARNETT replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2727. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr PRINCE replied:

As part of its tax reform package released last year, the Commonwealth Government announced a number of reforms to the fringe benefits tax (FBT) system. One of these reforms, which the Western Australian Government strongly supports, is to provide an FBT exemption for remote area housing benefits provided to mining industry employees (from the 2000-01 FBT year). Not only will this measure reduce the tax impost on the mining industry, it will also reduce the incentive for mining companies to use fly-in/fly-out operations, thereby providing a potential boost to regional development. One of the other FBT reforms announced by the Commonwealth was to include the "grossed-up" taxable value of fringe benefits on employees' group certificates, where the value of the benefits exceeds \$1,000. While the tax liability for such benefits will remain with employers (under the FBT system), they will be included in employees' income for determining liability for tax surcharges (such as the superannuation contributions surcharge) and entitlement to certain government benefits (such as family allowance). The legislation to implement this second measure was recently passed, with amendments, by the Commonwealth Parliament. As a result of the amendments to the draft legislation, benefits relating to remote area housing are defined as "excluded benefits", and do not need to be included on employees' group certificates. This will largely ameliorate the impact of this measure on employees working in remote areas.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2730. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

See answer to question 2726.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, IMPACT OF FRINGE BENEFITS TAX IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

2732. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

What action, if any, has the Minister taken to ensure that employees who receive an incentive in the form of a fringe benefit to work in the remote areas of the State will retain the full value of the incentive under the Commonwealth's new fringe benefit tax arrangements?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

See answer to question 2726.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL TWO EMPLOYEES

2758. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

In relation to the employment status of Level Two employees of the agencies falling within the Minister's responsibility -

- (a) what was the total number of Level Two employees at each agency as at 20 April 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time;
 - (ii) permanent part time; and
 - (iii) on short term contract?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development

- (a) 28
- (b)
 - (i) 19
 - (ii) Nil.
 - (iii) 9

Office of Energy

- (a) 14
- (b)
 - (i) 9
 - (ii) 3
 - (iii) 2

Western Power: Western Power does not employ employees pursuant to the Public Sector Management Act. This question is therefore not applicable to the Corporation.

AlintaGas: AlintaGas does not employ employees pursuant to the Public Sector Management Act. This question is therefore not applicable to the Corporation.

Education Department of Western Australia

- (a) There were 257 public servants, plus a further 23 employees (eg officers in schools) at level two covered by similar Ministerial and Government officer provisions. Therefore the total number of level two staff is 280.
- (b)
 - (i) 160 (12) permanent full-time.
 - (ii) 14 (1) permanent part-time.
 - (iii) 83 (10) on short term contracts.

Department of Education Services

- (a) The Department of Education Services has two Level Two employees.
- (b)
 - (i) Two permanent full-time.
 - (ii)-(iii) Not applicable.

Curriculum Council

- (a) The Curriculum Council has 13 Level Two employees.
- (b)
 - (i) Nine permanent full-time.
 - (ii) Three permanent part-time.
 - (iii) One short term (full-time) contract.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, LEVEL TWO EMPLOYEES

2776. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

In relation to the employment status of Level Two employees of the agencies falling within the Minister's responsibility -

- (a) what was the total number of Level Two employees at each agency as at 20 April 1999; and
- (b) of these employees, how many were -
 - (i) permanent full time;
 - (ii) permanent part time; and
 - (iii) on short term contract?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

MINISTRY OF SPORT & RECREATION

- (a) 17
- (b)
 - (i) 9
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 8

RECREATION CAMPS AND RESERVES BOARD

- (a) 3
- (b)
 - (i) 3
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

- (a) 12
- (b)
 - (i) 8
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 4

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR SPORT

- (a)-(b) WAIS is not a respondent to the Public Sector Administration Act, and has its own salary structure which does not identify level 2 employees as identified in the question.

WESTERN POWER, SENIOR STAFF SALARY PACKAGES

2798. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Energy:

In relation to the salaries of senior staff at Western Power -

- (a) Will the Minister confirm that the number of senior staff at Western Power having salary packages worth over \$100,000 rose from 29 to 49 over the last three financial years?
- (b) if yes, what was the total cost to Western Power of employing these high salary earners for the years -
 - (i) 1995-96;
 - (ii) 1996-97;
 - (iii) 1997-98; and
- (c) how many Western Power employees will receive a salary package worth over \$100,000 in the current financial year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) The remuneration of senior Western Power staff is detailed in the Corporation's Annual Report. The remuneration package includes cash salary, the vehicle cost and other benefits and employer liabilities such as superannuation.
- (b)
 - (i) \$3 495 000 - 29 employees
 - (ii) \$4 496 000 - 37 employees
 - (iii) \$6 163 000 - 49 employees
- (c) There is still some time before the end of the current financial year and the reporting is on the actual figures including the cost of benefits. I would not want to pre-empt what might transpire before the end of the year. This information will be in Western Power's 1998/99 annual report.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2805. Mr CARPENTER to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

- (1) Will the Deputy Premier state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Deputy Premier's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Deputy Premier's office, will the Deputy Premier advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1)
 - (a) \$22,876.26
 - (b) \$40,932.47
 - (c) \$38,795.14

(2) (a)-(c) (i)

STAFF IN 1993/94

NAME AND POSITION	MONTHLY LIMIT	TOTAL
Hendy Cowan MLA Deputy Premier	\$20,000	\$8,173.23
Geoff Wiltshire Principal Private Secretary	\$10,000	\$7,645.94
Joy Shadbolt Executive Officer	\$7,000	\$1,147.25
Barry Calderbank Principal Policy Officer	\$7,000	Nil
Sandra Krupa Principal Policy Officer	\$5,000	\$2,467.43
Peter Jackson Media Secretary	\$7,000	\$3,442.41
	TOTAL =	\$22,876.26

(2) (a)-(c) (ii)

STAFF IN 1994/1995

NAME AND POSITION	MONTHLY LIMIT	TOTAL
Hendy Cowan, MLA Deputy Premier	\$20,000	\$17,801.50
Geoff Wiltshire Principal Private Secretary	\$10,000	\$6,864.80
Joy Shadbolt Executive Officer	\$7,000	\$4,311.85
Barry Calderbank Principal Policy Officer	\$7,000	\$40.30
Sandra Krupa Principal Policy Officer	\$5,000	\$853.61
Peter Jackson Media Secretary	\$7,000	\$8,913.50
Lee Mackin Policy Officer	\$5,000	\$2,146.91
	TOTAL =	\$40,932.47

(iii)

STAFF IN 1995/1996

NAME AND POSITION	MONTHLY LIMIT	TOTAL
Hendy Cowan, MLA Deputy Premier	\$20,000	\$12,694.07
Geoff Wiltshire Principal Private Secretary	\$10,000	\$15,321.85
Joy Shadbolt Executive Officer	\$7,000	\$592.36
Barry Calderbank Principal Policy Officer	\$7,000	\$186.70
Sandra Krupa Principal Policy Officer	\$5,000	\$700.02
Peter Jackson Media Secretary	\$7,000	\$5,094.54
Ross Field Principal Policy Officer	\$6,000	\$351.45
Lee Mackin Policy Officer	\$5,000	\$699.10
Angela Frodsham Policy Officer (From 3/10/95 & \$10,000 from 2-13/11/95 to cover overseas trip)	\$2,000	\$3,155.05
	TOTAL =	\$38,795.14

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2806. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Will the Attorney General state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Attorney General's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Attorney General's office, will the Attorney General advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1)
 - (a) \$1,353.75
 - (b) \$2,623.20
 - (c) \$16,348.86
- (2)
 - (i) 1993/94
 - (a) Name and Position
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General
Brian Easton – Executive Director
 - (b) Credit Limit
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$5,000
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$5,000
 - (c) Total Expenditure
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$0
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$1,353.75
 - (ii) 1994/95
 - (a) Name and Position
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General
Brian Easton – Executive Director
Brian Bradley – Executive Director
 - (b) Credit Limit
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$10,000(Increased from \$5,000)
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$5,000
Brian Bradley – Executive Director \$10,000
 - (c) Total Expenditure
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$1,545.40
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$1,077.80
Brian Bradley – Executive Director \$0
 - (iii) 1995/96
 - (a) Name and Position
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General
Brian Easton – Executive Director
Brian Bradley – Executive Director
 - (b) Credit Limit
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$10,000
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$5,000
Brian Bradley – Executive Director \$10,000
 - (c) Total Expenditure
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General \$16,136.36
Brian Easton – Executive Director \$0
Brian Bradley – Executive Director \$212.50

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2807. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?

- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
- (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a) \$29 981.79
 (b) \$27 139.76
 (c) \$27 419.83
- (2) (a) Colin J Barnett - Minister for Resources Development
 (b) \$20 000
 (c) (i) \$14 178.30
 (ii) \$11 592.80
 (iii) \$8 845.50
- (a) John C Hammond - Chief of Staff
 (b) \$5 000 at start of 1993/94, subsequently increased to \$10 000 in September 1993.
 (c) (i) \$14 223.05
 (ii) \$10 225.74
 (iii) \$8 445.80
- (a) Geoffrey Wedgwood - Principal Policy Officer
 (b) \$10 000
 (c) (i) \$1 580.44
 (ii) \$5 321.22
 (iii) \$651.25
- (a) Cheryl Dove - Executive Officer
 (b) \$5 000
 (c) (i)-(ii) Not applicable.
 (iii) \$9 477.28

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2808. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
- (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
- (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (1)-(2) I refer the member to my answer to QON 1497 of 17 November 1998, in relation to the 1996/97 and 1997/98 financial years. The member is now seeking the same information relative to 1993/94, 1994/95 and 1995/96 financial years and I advise that I am not prepared to allocate the necessary resources to carry out the research in order to answer this broad based request. However, if the member has any specific item he wishes to raise, I would be happy to investigate the matter.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2810. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Planning; Employment and Training; Heritage:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
- (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -

- (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
- (b) the credit limit on the card; and
- (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr KIERATH replied:

Whilst I am prepared to provide a response to the member, in view of the inordinate time required to research the answer to this question, it will not be at the expense of other more pressing work which is required to be completed by my staff. A response will be provided to the member in writing hopefully within the next six months.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2814. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Department of Local Government which has been my primary Portfolio since 1993 has provided the following information in relation to costs relating to Ministerial Office credit cards from 1993 to 1996.

- (1)
 - (a) \$2,470.78
 - (b) \$12,013.39.
 - (c) \$7,031.59
- (2)
 - (a) The Hon Paul Omodei MLA - Minister
 - (b) Mr John Kime - Chief of Staff
 - (c) \$5,000 for both cards.
- (3)
 - (a) Omodei - \$1,012.06
 - (b) Kime - \$1,458.72
 - (c) Omodei - \$9,298.86
 - (b) Kime - \$2,714.53
 - (c) Omodei - \$3,542.59
 - (b) Kime - \$3,489.00

With respect to the Disability Services Commission - I advise that this Portfolio has been supported by a number of agencies since its inception. From 1993 to 1994 it was funded through the Environmental Portfolio via the Environmental Protection Authority. From 1994 to 1996 it was funded via the Works Portfolio by the Building Management Authority. As both of these agencies have undergone recent change in respect to their accounting procedures, the information sought would be too difficult to prepare. However, if the member has a specific item he wishes to raise, I would be happy to investigate the matter.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2816. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response

- (1)
 - (a) \$8,677.34
 - (b) \$10,201.25
 - (c) \$17,506.40
- (2)
 - (a) Mrs R Smith, Personal Assistant
Hon G M Evans, Minister for Finance; Racing and Gaming
 - (b) Mrs R Smith
Westpac Mastercard - \$5,000
Hon G M Evans, MLC
Westpac Mastercard - \$20,000
 - (c) Westpac Mastercard Mrs R Smith
 - (i) 1993/94
Not applicable.
 - (ii) 1994/95
\$1,239.39
 - (iii) 1995/96
\$4,707.89
 Westpac Mastercard - Hon G M Evans
 - (i) 1993/94
\$8,677.34
 - (ii) 1994/95
\$8,961.86
 - (iii) 1995/96
\$12,798.51

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2817. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr BOARD replied:

I am advised that:

- (1)
 - (a) \$19,505.69
 - (b) \$28,717.67
 - (c) \$7,115.74
- (2)
 - (a)
 - (i) 1993 - 94

Name	Position	Credit Limit	Total Expenditure
G Kierath	Minister	\$10,000.00	\$1,975.25
D Jackson	Personal Secretary	10,000.00	412.04
E Tenardi	Executive Officer	10,000.00	5,812.94
T Errington	Admin Assistant	10,000.00	8,052.01
M Raschella	Correspondence Officer	10,000.00	18.75
G Hamley	Principal Private Secretary	10,000.00	3,234.70
			\$19,505.69

(ii) 1994 - 95			
Name	Position	Credit Limit	Total Expenditure
G Kierath	Minister	\$30,000.00	\$14,551.94
D Jackson	Personal Secretary	10,000.00	11.25
E Tenardi	Executive Officer	10,000.00	3,465.62
T Errington	Admin Assistant	10,000.00	5,375.64
M Raschella	Correspondence Officer	10,000.00	110.55

G Hamley	Principal Private Secretary	10,000.00	2,533.66
K Minson	Minister	20,000.00	924.05
H Grzyb	Support Staff	5,000.00	1,393.31
K Warner	Personal Assistant	5,000.00	351.65
			\$28,717.67

(iii)	1995 - 96			
	Name	Position	Credit Limit	Total Expenditure
	K Minson	Minister	20,000.00	6,369.39
	K Warner	Personal Assistant	5,000.00	746.35
				\$7,115.74

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2818. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) I refer the member to my answer to Question No 2816

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2821. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) The Ministry for Culture & the Arts does not administer any credit cards for use in the office of the Minister for the Arts.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2822. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -

- (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
- (b) the credit limit on the card; and
- (c) the total expenditure on that card in -

- (i) 1993-94;
- (ii) 1994-95; and
- (iii) 1995-96?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Hon Minister for Transport has provided the following response:

- (1)
 - (a) \$2 270.20.
 - (b) \$6 117.56.
 - (c) \$4 229.65.
- (2)
 - (a) Mr Eric Charlton, Minister for Transport
Mr Steve Imms, Principal Private Secretary
 - (b) \$10 000.
\$ 5 000.
 - (c)
 - (i) \$1 306.35.
\$ 963.85.
 - (ii) \$3 828.71.
\$2 288.85.
 - (iii) \$3 264.25.
\$ 965.40.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN, CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE BY MINISTERIAL OFFICERS

2824. Mr CARPENTER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Will the Minister state the total expenditure on Government credit cards in the Minister's office for the following financial years -
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95; and
 - (c) 1995-96?
- (2) For each individual cardholder in the Minister's office, will the Minister advise -
 - (a) the name and position of the cardholder;
 - (b) the credit limit on the card; and
 - (c) the total expenditure on that card in -
 - (i) 1993-94;
 - (ii) 1994-95; and
 - (iii) 1995-96?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1)
 - (a) \$1,353.75
 - (b) \$2,623.20
 - (c) \$16,348.86
- (2)
 - (i) 1993/94
 - (a)

Name and Position	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	
Brian Easton – Executive Director	
 - (b)

Credit Limit	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$5,000
Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$5,000
 - (c)

Total Expenditure	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$0
Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$1,353.75
 - (ii) 1994/95
 - (a)

Name and Position	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	
Brian Easton – Executive Director	
Brian Bradley – Executive Director	
 - (b)

Credit Limit	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$10,000(Increased from \$5,000)
Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$5,000
Brian Bradley – Executive Director	\$10,000
 - (c)

Total Expenditure	
Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$1,545.40
Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$1,077.80
Brian Bradley – Executive Director	\$0

(iii)	1995/96	
(a)	Name and Position	
	Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	
	Brian Easton – Executive Director	
	Brian Bradley – Executive Director	
(b)	Credit Limit	
	Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$10,000
	Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$5,000
	Brian Bradley – Executive Director	\$10,000
(c)	Total Expenditure	
	Cheryl Edwardes – Attorney General	\$16,136.36
	Brian Easton – Executive Director	\$0
	Brian Bradley – Executive Director	\$212.50

LOTTERIES COMMISSION, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER PROJECTS

2842. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

(1) What allocations of funding for the financial years -

- (a) 1996-97;
- (b) 1997-98;
- (c) 1998-99; and
- (d) 1999-2000;

have been made by the Lotteries Commission to projects in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following response:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----------|--|
| (1) | (a) | 1996/7 | 35 grants totalling \$292,655 plus Kalgoorlie Lotteries House \$1,241,000 - finalised 1995 - paid 1996/97 |
| | (b) | 1997/8 | 39 grants totalling \$631,932 |
| | (c) | 1998/9 | 26 grants totalling \$317,893 |
| | (d) | 1999/2000 | Not applicable. Funding decisions are made in the relevant financial year. No advance funding decisions have been made for Kalgoorlie/Boulder. |

MR ROSS DRABBLE

2860. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

With regard to the appointment of former Main Roads Commissioner Ross Drabble as chief executive of the south-west metropolitan railway -

- (a) on what date was Mr Drabble appointed to this position;
- (b) was the position advertised;
- (c) if yes to (b) above, where and when was the position advertised;
- (d) if no to (b) above, why was it not advertised;
- (e) what is the annual salary package value of the position; and
- (f) can the Minister provide a breakdown of all the components of this package?

Mr COURT replied:

- (a)-(d) Effective on and from 11 February 1999, Mr Ross Drabble was transferred from the position of Commissioner of Main Roads to the performance of other functions in the Senior Executive Service. The transfer was effected in order for Mr Drabble to commence work full time on the South West Metropolitan Rail Master Plan project, in addition to providing strategic transport advice on key issues associated with the proposed extensions of the Northern Suburbs and Midland Rail Lines. The function was not advertised as it is not a chief executive officer position.
- (e)-(f) Pursuant to section 50 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994, Mr Drabble retains for the remainder of the term of his contract, until 15 January 2001, the level of classification he held as Commissioner of Main Roads. The Commissioner of Main Roads has a Group 3 maximum classification, which attracts a remuneration package, as determined by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, as follows:

Base salary	\$159,068
Motor vehicle	19,500
Superannuation	19,088
Annual Leave Loading	708
TOTAL:	\$198,364

CONSTITUTIONAL CENTRE, HIRE OF BOARDROOM

2881. Ms McHALE to the Premier:

- (1) In the Western Australian Constitutional Centre, what amount is budgeted for the hire of the boardroom, for the year -

- (a) 1997-98; and
- (b) 1998-99?
- (2) What was the actual income from hire of the boardroom for the year 1997-98?
- (3) What is the actual income from the hire of the boardroom to date for the year 1998-99?
- (4) What is the rate that applies for hiring the boardroom for business groups?
- (5) What is the rate that applies for hiring the boardroom for community groups?
- (6) Which business groups have hired the boardroom?
- (7) Which community groups have hired the boardroom?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) (a) No projections for revenue were determined.
(b) No projections for revenue were determined.
- (2) \$375
- (3) 1 July 1998 to 30 April 1999 - \$2,885
- (4)

Half day	\$300
Full day	\$450
Evening	\$350
- (5) Not applicable. The Boardroom is generally not available for community groups, unless their purpose complements the objectives and aims of the Centre, or have a past history involvement in the area.
- (6) No business groups have hired the boardroom.
- (7) Capital City Vision Inc, Hale School.

CONSTITUTIONAL CENTRE, HIRE FACILITIES

2882. Ms McHALE to the Premier:

- (1) Other than the boardroom, what are the areas of the Western Australian Constitutional Centre available for hire?
- (2) Which Government funded organisations are tenants of the Centre?
- (3) Which Government Agencies are tenants of the Centre?
- (4) Which Government Departments are tenants of the Centre?
- (5) Where were the Government Departments in (4) above located prior to the opening of the Constitutional Centre?
- (6) If any costs were incurred in relocating the Government Departments in (4) above to the Constitutional Centre, in each case -
 - (a) what were the costs for each Department;
 - (b) from whose budget were the costs debited; and
 - (c) who authorised the relocation?
- (7) Where were the Government Agencies in (3) above located prior to the opening of the Constitutional Centre?
- (8) If any costs were incurred in relocating the Government Agencies in (3) above to the Constitutional Centre, in each case -
 - (a) what were the costs for each Agency;
 - (b) from whose budget were the costs debited;
 - (c) who authorised the relocation?
- (9) Where were the Government funded organisations in (3) above located prior to the opening of the Constitutional Centre?
- (10) If any costs were incurred in relocating the Government funded organisations in (3) above to the Constitutional Centre, in each case -
 - (a) what were the costs for each organisation;
 - (b) from whose budget were the costs debited; and
 - (c) who authorised the relocation?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Debating chamber, theatrette, courtyard meeting room, courtyard, main hall, playing fields and café.
- (2) Centenary of Federation State Committee.

- (3) Nil.
- (4) Constitutional Centre Management B Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, and Western Australian Electoral Commission - Electoral Education Centre.
- (5) Constitutional Centre Management - 197 St Georges Terrace, and Electoral Education Centre - 160 Hamersley Road, Subiaco.
- (6)
 - (a) Constitutional Centre Management - Transport costs only Electoral Education Centre - \$40,000.
 - (b) Constitutional Centre Management - Policy Office, Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, and Western Australia Electoral Commission.
 - (c) Constitutional Centre Management - Chief Executive, Policy Office, Ministry of the Premier & Cabinet, and Electoral Education Centre - Electoral Commissioner, with endorsement from the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform and the approval of the Premier.
- (7)-(8) Not applicable.
- (9) Centenary of Federation State Committee - 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth.
- (10)
 - (a) Transport costs only.
 - (b) Centenary of Federation State Committee - Office of State Administration, Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet.
 - (c) Centenary of Federation State Committee - Director General, Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet.

GLOBAL DANCE

2885. Mr GRAHAM to the Premier:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to recoup advances to companies and people associated with the failed Global Dance proposals?
- (2) Have any of the actions referred to in (1) above been successful in recouping money;
 - (a) If the answer to (2) above is yes -
 - (i) which actions were successful; and
 - (ii) how much money has been recouped;
 - (b) If the answer to (2) above is no -
 - (i) which actions have been unsuccessful;
 - (ii) which actions have been discontinued;
 - (iii) which actions have been are still in progress; and
 - (iv) how much money is still outstanding?
- (3) What was the cost to Government of the actions referred to in question (2) above?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) It would be inappropriate to respond at this time given the questions are the subject of current legal proceedings.

PUBLIC SERVICE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS

2921. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) How many public sector Chief Executive Officers or Acting Chief Executive Officers have previously received a redundancy payment from the Government?
- (2) On what date was the redundancy payment made?
- (3) What was the amount of the payment?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Available records indicate the number of public sector chief executive officers in receipt of a termination or redundancy payment since 1985/86 is as follows:

1985/86	2
1986/87	5
1987/88	3
1988/89	1
1989/90	2
1990/91	2
1991/92	3
1992/93	4
1993/94	5
1994/95	2

- (2) The nature of assistance was as follows:

Yokine	1996/97 -	1 organisation long term housing
	1997/98 -	1 organisation medium term housing
	1998/99 -	2 organisations long term housing
Bassendean	1996/97 -	3 organisations long term housing
		1 organisation medium term housing
	1997/98 -	4 organisations long term housing
	1998/99 -	5 organisations long term housing

- (3) (a) The accommodation has been provided in the following suburbs:

Yokine	1996/97 -	Yokine
	1997/98 -	Osborne Park
	1998/99	Osborne Park, North Perth, Tuart Hill and Yokine
Bassendean	1996/97	Bassendean, Bayswater, Eden Hill, Embleton and Morley
	1997/98 -	Bassendean, Embleton and Kiara
	1998/99 -	Bassendean, Beechboro, Lockridge and Morley

- (b) Yokine Accommodation will be provided in the suburbs of Osborne Park and Tuart Hill.
 Bassendean Accommodation will be provided in the suburbs of Bassendean, Beechboro, Eden Hill, Kiara and Lockridge.

These projects have been approved but are not yet completed.

- (4) Yes.

- (5) Homeswest assisted the following organisations:

Yokine	1996/97	Wesley Housing
	1997/98	Outcare
	1998/99	Perth Inner City Housing Association and the Salvation Army
Bassendean	1996/97	Activ Foundation, Disability Services Commission, Salvation Army and Ethna-Ashari Islamic Association of WA
	1997/98	Activ Foundation, Hills Community Support Group, Catholic Care and Richmond Fellowship
	1998/99	Catholic Care, Disability Services Commission, Eastern Metropolitan Community Housing Association, Hills Community Support Group and Perth Inner City Housing Association

- (6) The level of assistance provided is as follows:

Yokine	1996/97	Wesley Housing (1 unit)
	1997/98	Outcare (1 unit)
	1998/99	Perth Inner City Housing Association (3 units) and the Salvation Army (4 units)
Bassendean	1996/97	Activ Foundation (2 units), Disability Services Commission (2 units), Salvation Army (1 unit) and the Ethna-Ashari Islamic Association of WA (1 unit)
	1997/98	Activ Foundation (1 unit), Catholic Care (1 unit), Hills Community Support (1 unit) and the Richmond Fellowship (1 unit)
	1998/99	Catholic Care (2 units), Eastern Metropolitan Community Housing Association (3 units), Hills Community Support Group (4 units), Perth Inner City Housing Association (2 units) and Disability Services Commission (4 units)

FIRE LEVY

2936. Mr PENDAL to the Premier:

- (1) I refer to the Government's stated intention of introducing a universal fire levy and ask, is the Government aware that in some cases, insurers have pre-empted the new charge by, for example, charging not only a premium from May 1999 to May 2000, but full stamp duty for that period?
- (2) Is the Minister further aware, given that the new scheme does not commence until 1 July 1999, some insurers will arrange for appropriate refunds of premium but are declining to refund any portion of the stamp duty?
- (3) Will the Government take steps to insist companies refund the pro rata refund of stamp duty, and if not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) As the member will be aware through the Ministerial Statement made by the Minister for Emergency Services on Wednesday, 12 May 1999, the proposed changes to the funding arrangements for the Fire and Rescue Service will not occur at this time. Due to the widespread implications of the Fire Brigades (Fire Service Levy)

Bill, the extensive consultation and the complexities of the drafting process, it is not possible to introduce and pass the required legislation through Parliament before 1 July 1999. As such, all major parties have been advised the existing system will stay in place.

CORAL BAY, TOURIST AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

2950. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Government approved the development of a tourist and residential development in Coral Bay?
- (2) When was the approval granted?
- (3) What is the nature of the approval?
- (4) Has the Government supported a tourist and residential development in Coral Bay?
- (5) What is the nature of the support?
- (6) On what date did the Government decide to support the development?
- (7) What is the nature of the development the Government supports?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) Yes, over many years.
- (2)-(3) Approvals have been given for various developments over a number of years.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Planning support through approved town planning schemes.
- (6) Support has been ongoing over many years.
- (7) Appropriate development as permitted under approved town planning schemes.

PRISONS ACT 1981, REVIEW OF SECTIONS 46 AND 33

2956. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice

- (1) Is the Government/Ministry of Justice undertaking a review of Sections 46 and 33 of the Prisons Act 1981?
- (2) Who is undertaking the review?
- (3) Have interested parties been invited to make submissions to the review?
- (4) What groups and organisations have been so invited?
- (5) Have such groups and organisations been given a reasonable period of time to forward a submission?
- (6) What period of time was/has been given to such groups to forward a submission?
- (7) When is it envisaged that the review will be completed?
- (8) Will the results of the review be made public?
- (9) If not, why not?
- (10) If so, when?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) The Ministry is undertaking a review of placement of prisoners under S.43 of the Prisons Act 1981 to provide assurance that such confinement is in compliance with the Act, that conditions of confinement comply with relevant standards and that proper processes are adhered to in respect of placement. The appropriateness of using the powers of S.36 (3) of the Prisons Act to separately confine prisoners is also considered.
- (2) Mr Ian Vaughan (Review Team Leader) Mr David Watson.
- (3) No general invitation was made for organisations to make submissions. One organisation was invited to make a submission following its approach to the Ministry.
- (4) Deaths In Custody Watch Committee.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Deaths In Custody Watch Committee agreed to lodging a submission within three days.
- (7) 15 June 1999.

- (8) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) At an appropriate time.

KEMERTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, LAND ACQUISITION

2960. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Have funds been earmarked in the Western Australian Land Authority's 1999-2000 budget for the acquisition of land in the Kemerton area?
- (2) If yes, how much was allocated?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(2) The Authority's estimates make provision for expenditure of \$6 million. However, actual expenditure will depend on further decisions relating to the expansion proposals for the estate.

PRISONS, SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAMS

2963. Mr RIEBELING to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to sex offender treatment programs offered in jails and ask the Minister to advise -

- (a) how many sex offenders are currently incarcerated in each of our jails;
- (b) which jails offer these courses;
- (c) what is the capacity of each of these courses on a monthly or annual basis; and
- (d) what is the length of wait at each of these institutions before one is able to access a sex offenders programme?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (a) As at April 30 there were 372 sentenced prisoners and 25 unsentenced prisoners in prison whose major offence was a sexual assault or other sexual offence.
- (b) Casuarina, Bunbury, Karnet and Greenough Prisons. It is also planned to run a program at Riverbank in August.
- (c) Each program has between 10-12 participants, there are two types of programs, the intensive which lasts for 9 months and the intermediate which lasts for 4 months.
- (d) The length of wait before participating in a program is based upon the earliest release date. Most prisoners commence a program in the last 12-15 months of their sentence. Their waiting time before commencing a program will depend upon their sentence length. As programs are not run at all prisons prisoners are transferred to a prison where the appropriate program is running.

EDUCATION, HOMESCHOOLERS

2964. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Education Department offer any training to homeschoolers?
- (2) How are homeschoolers expected to understand and comply with the Curriculum Council requirements?
- (3) Would the Education Department consider running training sessions for homeschoolers on their obligations under the Curriculum Council programs?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Although the Education Department does not provide specific training for families who choose to educate their children at home, staff at District Education Offices responsible for monitoring home schooling are available for educational support and advice.
- (2)-(3) Funding has been allocated for Home Educators from that provided by the State Government for professional development for the implementation of the Curriculum Framework. The 1998/1999 amount of \$4 500 is being held over in the Curriculum Council budget and will be combined with a further amount of approximately \$3 000 allocated in the 1999/2000 budget so that most effective use of these funds for professional development can be made. During August/September 1999, the Curriculum Council will hold information sessions for Home Educators and Home Education Moderators in centres across the State. These will outline issues relevant to the *Curriculum Framework*, its implementation and accountability requirements and processes. Where possible, the seminars will be provided in conjunction with the Education Department District Office staff.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION BOARD, LAKESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE

2967. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Has the Government Employees Superannuation Board recently sold part of its investments in the Lakeside Shopping Centre?
- (2) On what date was the sale made?
- (3) On what date did part of the beneficial ownership change to the new owner?
- (4) What company is the managing agent for the Lakeside Shopping Centre?
- (5) Had the managing agent, on behalf of the owner, entered into commercial tenancy arrangements with retailers in the Centre?
- (6) Has the managing agent, on behalf of the owner, issued any new leases to retailers since 1 November 1998?
- (7) How many new leases have been issued?
- (8) What was the date of issue of each of the new leases?
- (9) How many retail leases expire before 30 June 1999?
- (10) Is the owner, or now part owner the Government Employees Superannuation Board, through the managing agent, trying to enter into new leases with any retailers prior to 30 June 1999?
- (11) If so how many?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following response:

The Government Employees Superannuation Board does not own and has never owned the Lakeside Shopping Centre.

CHEMICAL SPILLS

2972. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

How many chemical spills have been reported to the Department of Minerals and Energy in -

- (a) 1999 to date; and
- (b) in 1998?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a) In 1999, to date, there have been 18 chemical spills reported to the Department of Minerals and Energy.
- (b) In 1998 there were 37 chemical spills reported to the Department of Minerals and Energy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, COUNCILLORS SWEARING ALLEGIANCE TO THE QUEEN

2980. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the requirement for newly elected Local Government Councillors to swear allegiance to the Queen and ask -

- (a) will the Government be amending the Local Government Act 1995 to allow newly elected Councillors to swear allegiance to Australia as an alternative;
- (b) if not, why not;
- (c) what is the position in other states;
- (d) has the Government examined this issue; and
- (e) has the Government received many submissions in relation to this issue?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) In Western Australia, the swearing of allegiance is to the Sovereign.
- (c) I am unaware of the position in other States.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Four submissions have raised this issue. It was considered in 1996 but the legal position requires that allegiance be to the Sovereign. A person who administers an oath to an entity other than the Sovereign would risk committing an offence under section 86 The Criminal Code.

CAMPING, FORTY MILE BEACH AND CLEAVERVILLE

2986. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Did the Department of Land Administration write to a TA & MA Perry on 23 April 1999 about camping at Forty Mile Beach?
- (2) Is it true that Subsea International never formalised any land tenure arrangements with the Department of Land Administration?
- (3) If so, who are the land tenure arrangements organised with?
- (4) Is the Department of Land Administration working in consultation with the Shire of Roebourne to set aside land at Forty Mile Beach and Cleaverville to allow the Council to manage certain camping areas?
- (5) What progress has been made on this matter?
- (6) What is the current status of the discussions between the Shire and the Department of Land Administration?
- (7) Has the Department of Land Administration entered into any lease arrangements and/or discussions in and around Forty Mile Beach in the last two years?
- (8) What arrangements/agreements/leases have been entered into?
- (9) On what date were such arrangements, agreements or leases entered into?
- (10) Are any discussions underway with or within the Department of Land Administration about additional lease arrangements in and around Forty Mile Beach?
- (11) What is the nature of those proposals?
- (12) Is the Department of Land Administration holding any leases in and around Forty Mile Beach?
- (13) What leases is the Department of Land Administration holding?
- (14) What is the nature of the lease or leases being held?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) Yes and also on 18 May 1999 on this issue.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) While Subsea International have never held a formal lease, permission was given in 1997 for them to utilise the site for a short period.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The Shire of Roebourne has prepared a management plan for the area and is working with the Department of Land Administration for the future reservation of the area for "Recreation and Preservation of Coastal Environment". The matter is also proceeding through the native title process.
- (6) The Shire is currently seeking quotes to conduct an Aboriginal heritage survey.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) (i) Permission was given to Subsea International in 1997 for them to utilise the site for a short period.
(ii) At the present time Apache Energy are negotiating with the State and the native title claimants on the short term use of De Witt location 341.
- (9) (i) 4 August 1997.
(ii) To be determined.
- (10) No.
- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) No.
- (13) None.
- (14) Not applicable.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

2987. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Premier's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?

- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr COURT replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

2989. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Attorney General's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

2991. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr HOUSE replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

2999. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr COURT replied:

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPLY –

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3000. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works; Services; Youth; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr BOARD replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3001. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr COWAN replied:

THE MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPLY –

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3002. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3003. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Police; Emergency Services:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3004. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?

- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3006. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3007. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

CONSULTANTS, NUMBER, PURPOSE AND COST

3008. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How many consultants are currently engaged by each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the name of each consultant?
- (3) What is the purpose or the nature of the consultancy?
- (4) What is the cost of the consultancy?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the consultancy?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The member would be aware that a six monthly report is tabled in Parliament which provides information on consultants engaged by Government agencies. The member should access this report when it is tabled to obtain the information sought in his question.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

3013. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?

- (2) What is the nature of each research project?
- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Fisheries Western Australia:

- (1)-(5) Fisheries WA has its own research establishment - the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories (Bernard Bowen Fisheries Research Institute), located at West Coast Drive, Waterman - at which a large number of fisheries research projects are undertaken. I would be very happy to provide information to the member on any specific fisheries research project undertaken by the Agency.

Agriculture Western Australia:

- (1) Agriculture Western Australia is the State's foremost agricultural research organisation. The Agency's outputs are achieved by way of a series of 279 projects, approximately 200 of which involve a major research component.
- (2) Projects involve research, development, extension and inspection relevant to the full range of agricultural industries.
- (3) The 200 research-oriented projects are managed by some 150 Agriculture Western Australian officers, and staffed by agency specialists in the relevant area.
- (4) The 200 research-oriented projects are budgeted at \$90 million, of which approximately \$44 million is derived from the Consolidated Fund.
- (5) The term of any one project can vary from several months to on-going (in the case of some inspection functions). The median term is three years. I would be very happy to provide information to the member on any specific primary industry research project undertaken by the Agency.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

3021. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the nature of each research project?
- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

STATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

VALUER GENERAL'S OFFICE

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION BOARD

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

INSURANCE COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- (1) Yes. One research program is currently being undertaken.
- (2) Customer service survey.
- (3) Data Analysis Australia.
- (4) \$14,500.
- (5) August 1999.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

3023. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the nature of each research project?

- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply:

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Fixed Odds Betting Impact Assessment.
 - (b) Performance Measurement.
- (2)
 - (a) Assessment of economic and social impacts of Fixed Odds betting
 - (b) Tracing of key performance indicators (Workplace Agreement effectiveness of performance)
- (3)
 - (a) ERM Mitchell McCotter.
 - (b) Market Equity
- (4)
 - (a) \$15,400 (estimate).
 - (b) \$14,900
- (5)
 - (a) Mid-June 1999.
 - (b) 11 June 1999.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION

- (1) One research project is being undertaken by the Lotteries Commission.
- (2) 5 Focus Groups - Cash 3.
- (3) Research Solutions.
- (4) \$13,500.
- (5) 21 June 1999.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

3024. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the nature of each research project?
- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, RESEARCH PROJECTS

3026. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Are any research projects being undertaken by the departments and agencies under the Minister's control?
- (2) What is the nature of each research project?
- (3) Who is conducting each research project?
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of each research project?
- (5) What is the anticipated completion date of the research project?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes.

ArtsWA

- (2) Research and prepare a discussion paper on seniors' participation in the arts.
- (3) Ms M. Scott.
- (4) \$5,000.
- (5) 10 June 1999.

Western Australian Museum

- (2) Historic Shipwreck Program - Research and analysis of wreck sites and dissemination of information.
- (3) Adjunct Professor Jeremy Green.
- (4) \$12,500.
- (5) June 1999.

- (2) Centre of Excellence - Grants to undertake research projects involved with maritime Archaeology and historic shipwrecks.
- (3) Adjunct Professor Jeremy Green.
- (4) \$52,000.
- (5) June 1999.

- (2) Department of Materials Conservation - In-Situ conservation and corrosion studies of iron shipwrecks.
- (3) Ian MacLeod, John Carpenter, Vicki Richards.
- (4) \$22,000 over 3 years.
- (5) 2003.

- (2) Department of Materials Conservation - Removal of iron corrosion products from wet leather/leather analysis.
- (3) Ian Godfrey, Vicki Richards & Kalle Kasi.
- (4) \$17,500 over one year.
- (5) 2000.

- (2) Treatment of ancient wood and archaeological ivory samples.
- (3) Ian Godfrey and Wayne Smith (Texas University).
- (4) \$12,000 over 2 years.
- (5) 2001.

- (2) Application of supercritical fluids to conservation treatments.
- (3) Ian Godfrey, Vicki Richards and 3 University of WA staff, Rob Trengrove, Emilio Ghisalberti and Jack Harrowfield.
- (4) \$22,000 over three years, with external funding applied for.
- (5) 2002.

- (2) Application of natural freeze-drying technology to the preservation of historic Antarctic buildings.
- (3) Ian Godfrey and Wal Ambrose (Australian National University).
- (4) \$4,700 external funding, \$500- CF Salary component.
- (5) 2002.

- (2) Wood analysis via nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and pyrolysis gas chromatography/mass spectrometry.
- (3) Ian Godfrey, Vicki Richards and UWA Ghisalberti, Byrne and West from Geotech.
- (4) \$15,000.
- (5) 2001.

- (2) Removal of iron from Xantho materials.
- (3) Vicki Richards, Nikki King Smith and Ian Godfrey.
- (4) \$7,000.
- (5) 2001.

- (2) Analysis of whale residues from 19th century whaling stations.
- (3) Vicki Richards and Martin Gibbs (James Cook University).
- (4) \$10,000.
- (5) 2001/2002.

- (2) HMAS Swan wreck site monitoring and corrosion studies to assess degradation modes and impact on the marine environment.
- (3) Vicki Richards, Ian MacLeod & Peter Morrison (Senior Marine Biologist; Sinclair Knight Merz).
- (4) \$8,000 pa.
- (5) 2020.

- (2) Aboriginal History in Western Australia 1829-1999.
- (3) Dr Anna Haebich, Ann Delroy and Phyl Brown.
- (4) \$30,000 incl salaries.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Environmental History of Western Australia.
- (3) Matt Trinca.
- (4) \$50,000 incl salaries.
- (5) November 1999.

- (2) Women's Suffrage in Western Australia.
- (3) Phyl Brown.
- (4) \$10,000 incl salaries.
- (5) October 1999.

- (2) History of Federation in Western Australia.
- (3) Ann Delroy.
- (4) \$10,000 incl salaries.
- (5) December 2000.

- (2) Material Life in Western Australia.
- (3) Margaret Anderson, Ann Delroy and Phyl Brown.
- (4) \$20,000 incl salaries.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Traditional Indigenous Resource Use: A Study of the Bardi Community (particularly maritime economies).
- (3) Dr Moya Smith.
- (4) \$10,000 pa incl salaries.
- (5) mid-2000.

- (2) Prehistory of the lower south-west (Revision of dating sequences).
- (3) Conducted jointly with Australian National University and the Western Australian Museum, Charles Dortch.
- (4) \$40,000 pa incl salaries.
- (5) late 2000.

- (2) Australian national Allegory and the Female Form.
- (3) Margaret Anderson.
- (4) \$50,000 incl salaries.
- (5) September 1999.

- (2) Systematics of Western Australian Rodents.
- (3) Norah Cooper.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics of Dasyurids.
- (3) Norah Cooper.
- (4) CF + (\$10,000 South Australia National Parks & Wildlife).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Carnarvon Basin Survey: Taxonomy of Western Australian and Related reptiles, birds.
- (3) Ken Aplin, Laurie Smith, Ron Johnston, Mark Cowan.
- (4) CF + grant (\$30,000 Environment Australia).
- (5) Survey completed 1999, research ongoing.

- (2) Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology of Reptiles.
- (3) Ken Aplin and Laurie Smith.
- (4) CF + Collaboration with University of Western Australia.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Studies of Tertiary Fossils (Barrow Island).
- (3) Ken Aplin.
- (4) CF + grant (\$50,000 WAPET).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Validation of Australian Regionalisation (IBRA).
- (3) Ken Aplin.
- (4) CF + grant (\$120,000 Environment Australia).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Fungal Infection of Western Australian Frogs.
- (3) Ken Aplin.
- (4) CF + grant (\$20,000 CALM).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Frog Watch - Community Monitoring Program.
- (3) Ken Aplin.
- (4) CF + Grant (\$20,000 ALCOA).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Cockatoo Project.
- (3) Ron Johnston.
- (4) CF + grant (\$15,000 CALM).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Urban Bushland.
- (3) Ron Johnston.
- (4) CF + grant (\$5,000 Local Government Grant).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Birds of the Ord Basin; Birds of the Denison and Gardner Ranges.
- (3) Ron Johnston.
- (4) CF + private grant (\$50,000 Nick Kolichis).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biogeography of Western Australia (Eastern Goldfields).
- (3) Ric How and John Dell.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Wheatbelt Gecko Study.
- (3) Ric How John Dell.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Urban Vertebrate Ecology.
- (3) Ric How and John Dell.
- (4) CF + grant (\$29,000 Heritage Council of Western Australia, National Estate Project).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biogeography of Lesser Sundas, Indonesia.
- (3) Ric How.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Vertebrate Ecology of the Onslow Area.
- (3) Ric How and John Dell.
- (4) CF + grant (\$22,000 Griffin Gas).
- (5) Phase 1 completed 1998, Phase 2 first survey completed December 1998; second survey delayed due to cyclone damage.

- (2) Vertebrate Zoogeography of South-Western Western Australia.
- (3) Ric How.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Data-basing the Native Bee Collection.
- (3) Terry Houston and Tricia Gardner.
- (4) CF + grant (\$29,000 WA Insect Study Society).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Revision of Australian Hylaeine Bees.
- (3) Terry Houston.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Description of new Persoonia bees (Leioproctus).
- (3) Terry Houston.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biology of Native Bees (3 projects).
- (3) Terry Houston.
- (4) CF + grant (\$5,000 private).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Revision of Australian Spiders (2 projects).
- (3) Mark Harvey.
- (4) CF + grant (\$70,000 Australian Bureau of Research Studies).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Revision of Australian Schizomida.
- (3) Mark Harvey.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Classification of Pseudoscorpionida.
- (3) Mark Harvey.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Ground Fauna of Urban Bushland Remnants.
- (3) Mark Harvey and Ric How.
- (4) CF + grant (\$120,000).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biogeography of Gondwanan Arachnids.
- (3) Mark Harvey.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Survey of Endangered Spiders of Western Australia.
- (3) Mark Harvey.
- (4) CF + grant (\$13,000 Environment Australia).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Survey of Cave & Groundwater Fauna; Ecology of Troglobites and Stygofauna.
- (3) Bill Humphreys.
- (4) CF + grants \$120,000 from consultancies and Parks Australia, CALM, Water & Rivers Commission, and mining industry - petroleum and hard rock).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Age of the Cape Range.
- (3) Bill Humphreys.
- (4) CF + grant.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Endangered Ground-water Communities.
- (3) Bill Humphries.
- (4) CF + grant (\$11,000 CALM).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Marine Biodiversity of the Dampier Archipelago.
- (3) Clay Bryce, Jane Fromont, Mark Harvey, Diana Jones, Sue Morrison, Shirley Slack-Smith, Fred Wells.
- (4) CF + grant (\$640,000 over 4 years from Woodside Energy, starting 1998).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics of Opisthobranchs and Turrids.
- (3) Fred Wells.

- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Seagrass Fauna.
- (3) Fred Wells.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Research on Mangrove Molluscs.
- (3) Fred Wells.
- (4) CF + grant \$8,000 (from Woodside Grant).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics of the Bivalves of Western Australia.
- (3) Shirley Slack-Smith.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics and Biology of Land and Fresh Gastropods.
- (3) Shirley Slack-Smith.
- (4) CF + grant (pending from WA Fisheries).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics and Distribution of Australian and Related Barnacles.
- (3) Diana Jones.
- (4) CF + grant (\$10,000 Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biodiversity, Systematics and Distribution of South China Sea Barnacles.
- (3) Diana Jones.
- (4) CF + grant (\$5,000 Swire Institute of Marine Science, University of Hong Kong).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics and Distribution of Fiddler Crabs in Mangrove Systems.
- (3) Diana Jones.
- (4) CF + grant (\$8,000 from Woodside Grant).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Introduced Marine Species.
- (3) Diana Jones.
- (4) CF + grant (\$25,000 Centre for Research into Introduced Marine Pests), CSIRO).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics of WA Sponges; Reproduction of WA Sponges.
- (3) Jane Fromont.
- (4) CF + grant (\$99,000 Australian Biological Resources Study).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Molecular Systematics of the Sponge Genus Tethya.
- (3) Jane Fromont.
- (4) CF + grant (\$15,000 Australian Biological Resources Study).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Biodiversity of the Sponges of Thailand.
- (3) Jane Fromont.
- (4) CF + grant (\$75,000 government of Thailand).
- (5) 2000.

- (2) Taxonomy and Zoogeography of Seagrass Fishes.
- (3) Brian Hanich.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Zoogeographic Survey of Reef Fishes of South Australia.
- (3) Brian Hanich.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Systematics of Leatherjackets (Monacanthidae).
- (3) Brian Hanich.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Fish Fauna of Floating Sargassum and Seagrass.
- (3) Brian Hanich.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Recovery and Research on Meteorites.
- (3) Alex Bevan.
- (4) CF + grant (\$14,000 EUROMET).
- (5) Ongoing.

- (2) Description of WA Minerals.

- (3) Alex Baynes and Peter Downes.
- (4) CF + grant (\$2,500 Rugger Range Pty Ltd).
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Fossil Echinoid Systematics.
- (3) Ken McNamara.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Heterochrony.
- (3) Ken McNamara.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Fossil Molluscs.
- (3) George Kendrick.
- (4) Personally financed.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Silurian fossils of WA.
- (3) Ken McNamara.
- (4) CF.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Devonian Trilobites.
- (3) Ken McNamara.
- (4) CF + grant.
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Palaeozoic fish Faunas of Gondwana; Mesozoic Vertebrates of WA.
- (3) John Long.
- (4) CF + grant (\$5,000 National Geographic).
- (5) Ongoing.
- (2) Small Mammals of Cove Deposits.
- (3) Alex Baynes.
- (4) Personally financed.
- (5) Ongoing.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3035. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Fisheries Western Australia:

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Agriculture Western Australia:

- (1) Two.
- (2) (a) \$50,000
(b) \$60,554
- (3) (a) Farmenco Management Consultants.
(b) Major Motors Pty Ltd.
- (4) (a) Consultancy service for the Wool Program, Woolpro Project H3 region York.
(b) Supply and delivery of (one) only tipping truck for Avondale Research Station.
- (5) (a) Completion date 21 Feb 2000.
(b) Completion date 14 May 1999.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3040. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?

- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Dr HAMES replied:

Aboriginal Affairs Department:

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Country Housing Authority and Government Employees Housing Authority and Homeswest:

- (1)-(5) Homeswest has let a number of contracts above \$50,000 during the time specified in the question. It is not practical for the Department to commit the considerable resources that would be required to provide an answer to the question in its current form. If the member has a specific question about a particular contract then I would be prepared to commit the resources to provide an answer.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Water and Rivers Commission:

- (1) One.
- (2) \$335,958.00.
- (3) Platinum Technology.
- (4) Development of water information system software.
- (5) 31 December 1999.

Water Corporation:

- (1) 44 contracts.
- (2) Commercial in confidence.
- (3)-(5) See paper No 1018.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3043. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

STATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

VALUER GENERAL'S OFFICE

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION BOARD

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

INSURANCE COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- (1) The Insurance Commission of Western Australia has entered into five contracts between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999.
- (2)
 - (a) \$299,569
 - (b) \$149,300
 - (c) \$178,370
 - (d) \$100,000
 - (e) \$161,000
- (3)
 - (a) Fred Margaria Cleaning Services.
 - (b) Richard Ellis.
 - (c) Jones Lang Wootten.
 - (d) Barclays Global Investors.
 - (e) Concept Systems International Pty Ltd.

- (4)
 - (a) Cleaning contract for The Forrest Centre.
 - (b) Property Management for The Forrest Centre.
 - (c) Property Management for the Hartley Poynton Building.
 - (d) Management of an Indexed Australian Fixed investment portfolio.
 - (e) Provision of a Human Resource Information Management System.
- (5)
 - (a) 31 March 2002.
 - (b) 31 January 2002.
 - (c) 31 January 2002.
 - (d) 1 March 2004.
 - (e) 31 March 2000.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3045. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply:

BURSWOOD PARK BOARD

- (1) Five.
- (2)
 - (i) \$66,390
 - (ii) \$79,168
 - (iii) \$125,411
 - (iv) \$315,743
 - (v) \$69,498
- (3)
 - (i) Aquaculture Earthmoving Pty Ltd.
 - (ii) Darling Earthmovers.
 - (iii) Marsh Earthmoving & Paving.
 - (iv) K.T.B. Contractors (1982) Pty Ltd.
 - (v) Entyre Rubber Systems.
- (4)
 - (i) Golf course lake construction.
 - (ii) Golf course lake landscaping.
 - (iii) Golf course green and surrounds construction.
 - (iv) Public carpark construction.
 - (v) Playground rubber surfacing.
- (5)
 - (i) 21.5.1999
 - (ii) 16.6.1999
 - (iii) 11.6.1999
 - (iv) 30.4.1999
 - (v) 31.3.1999

No other organisation within the Racing and Gaming portfolios had contracts of \$50,000 or more (excluding employment contracts).

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3046. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Six.

(2)-(5)

Amount	Company	Service	Completion Date
\$340 000	Mt Magnet Drilling/Drillcorp	Drilling strategic coreholes	30/6/99
\$ 72 000	Alpha West	Administration and support of Gateway dial-in facilities	15/9/99
\$197 000	The Consultancy (WA) Pty Ltd	Development of Mining Operations Division's audit management system	31/8/99
\$540 000	Helicopters Australia	Helicopter hire for 36 months	1/11/2001
\$200 000	Consultech/People in Computers	Programming support for Mining Titles Information System (MiTiS)	18/12/99
\$800 000	National Workforce/TAD Pty Ltd	Geologists and Field Assistants as required for 24 months	28/3/2001

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, IN EXCESS OF \$50 000

3048. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) How many contracts of \$50 000 or more (excluding employment contracts) has each department or agency under the Minister's control entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) What was the amount of each contract?
- (3) What is the name of each person/entity with whom the contract has been entered into?
- (4) What is the nature of the work or services required by the contract?
- (5) What is the completion date of each contract?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following response:

- (1) Two agencies with the Ministry for Culture & the Arts have contracts of \$50,000 or more entered into between 1 January 1999 and 31 March 1999. These are the Art Gallery of Western Australia with two and the Perth Theatre Trust with one.
- (2) The Art Gallery of Western Australia
\$59,771.00 and \$224,640.00
The Perth Theatre Trust
The amount of the Contract is \$300,000 per annum
- (3) The Art Gallery of Western Australia
Southmark Solutions Pty Ltd (\$59,771)
Compton International Pty Ltd (\$224,640)

The Perth Theatre Trust
Ogden IFC (Perth) Pty Ltd.
- (4) The Art Gallery of Western Australia
Southmark Solutions Pty Ltd - Computer network upgrade
Compton International Pty Ltd - Management of capital fund raising campaign for the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation

Perth Theatre Trust
Manage the following Theatres under the Trusts Control:
Perth Concert Hall
His Majesty's Theatre
Playhouse Theatre
Subiaco Theatre Centre.
- (5) The Art Gallery of Western Australia
Southmark Solutions Pty Ltd - Completion date: 15 June 1999
Compton International Pty Ltd - Completion date: 31 December 1999

The Perth Theatre Trust
The completion date of the contract is 2 March 2004.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3055. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
 - (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Attorney General's control?

- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
- (i) name of the Former Member; and
- (ii) the title of the position,
- to which they have been appointed;
- (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
- (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply:

- (1) (a)-(c) Nil.
- (2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3057. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
- (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
- (i) name of the Former Member; and
- (ii) the title of the position,
- to which they have been appointed;
- (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
- (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mr HOUSE replied:

Fisheries Western Australia:

- (1) (a)-(c) John Caldwell
Tom McNeil
Ian Taylor
- (2) (a) (i) John Caldwell
(ii) Chair
Purse Seine Management Advisory Committee
- (b) Fisheries WA
- (c) \$5,100 pa
- (2) (a) (i) Tom McNeil
(ii) Chair
Northern Demersal Scalefish Interim Managed Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- (b) Fisheries WA
- (c) \$5,100 pa
- (2) (a) (i) Tom McNeil
(ii) Chair
Western Australian Demersal Gillnet & Demersal Longline Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- (b) Fisheries WA
- (c) \$5,100 pa
- (2) (a) (i) Ian Taylor
(ii) Chair
Abalone Management Advisory Committee
- (b) Fisheries WA
- (c) \$8,500 pa
- (2) (a) (i) Ian Taylor
(ii) Chair
Aquaculture Development Council
- (b) Fisheries WA
- (c) \$9,500 pa

Agriculture Western Australia:

- (1) (a)-(c) Ian Laurance
- (2) (a) (i) Ian Laurance
(ii) Chair
Gascoyne Murchison Strategy
- (b) Agriculture Western Australia
- (c) \$18,000 pa

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3061. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
- (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
- (i) name of the Former Member; and
- (ii) the title of the position,
- to which they have been appointed;
- (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
- (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mr SHAVE replied:

LANDCORP

- (1) (a)-(c) None.
- (2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

MINISTRY OF FAIR TRADING

(1)-(2)

Name of Former Member	Board Commission or Committee	Title	Administration Support by	Pay
Nick Catania	Retail Shops Advisory Committee	Member Representing the West Australian Council of Retail Associations	Ministry of Fair Trading	\$86 per half day

DEPARTMENT OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

- (1) (a)-(c) None.
- (2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- (1) (a)-(c) None.
- (2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3062. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
- (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
- (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
- (i) name of the Former Member; and
- (ii) the title of the position,
- to which they have been appointed;
- (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and

- (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Mr David Reid, Mr Matthew Stephens and Hon Peter V Jones.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (2) | (a)(i) | (a)(ii) | (b) | (c) |
| | David Reid | Member Stakeholder Council | Water and Rivers Commission | \$186 per full day \$123 per half day |
| | Matthew Stephens | Chairman Albany Waterways Management Authority and Wilson Inlet Management Authority | Water and Rivers Commission | \$8,100 per year for each Authority |
| | Hon Peter V Jones | Chairman Board of the Water Corporation | Water Corporation | \$88,250 |

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3065. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
- (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
 - (i) name of the Former Member; and
 - (ii) the title of the position,
 to which they have been appointed;
 - (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
 - (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply:

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

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3068. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
- (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
- (a) what is the -
 - (i) name of the Former Member; and
 - (ii) the title of the position,
 to which they have been appointed;
 - (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
 - (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) (a)-(c) None.
(2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, FORMER MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

3070. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Since February 1993, what Former Members of Parliament have been -
 - (a) appointed to a Government Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (b) appointed by the Government to any Board, Commission, Committee or other body; and/or
 - (c) employed or appointed within the Government in any capacity, paid or otherwise, under the Minister's control?
- (2) In each instance -
 - (a) what is the -
 - (i) name of the Former Member; and
 - (ii) the title of the position,
 to which they have been appointed;
 - (b) which organisation/department is responsible for the position; and
 - (c) what remuneration is paid for each position?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply:

- (1) (a)-(c) None.
- (2) (a)-(c) Not applicable.

NEWMAN COURTHOUSE

3108. Mr RIPPER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Newman Courthouse is a woefully inadequate facility with no waiting area for witnesses, defendants, victims and families, no interview rooms for solicitors and no parking facilities?
- (2) Does the State Government plan to replace this facility?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What is the anticipated cost of replacing this facility?
- (6) Has any money been allocated in the 1999-2000 Budget for the replacement of the Newman Courthouse?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply:

- (1) The existing facility is constrained by the size of the site, and consequently cannot readily accommodate all user requirements satisfactorily.
- (2) The court forms part of the Police complex and responsibility for it rests with the Western Australia Police Service. The current and projected court-related workload at Newman does not justify the provision of a Ministry of Justice run court.
- (3)-(6) This question would be more appropriately addressed to the Hon Minister for Police.

NEWMAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE, EQUIPMENT

3109. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that for improved effectiveness the Newman State Emergency Service needs an abseiling tower for training purposes and an additional vehicle?
- (2) Does the State Government have any plans to supply this additional equipment to the Newman State Emergency Services?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Training to enable the Newman Volunteer State Emergency Service Unit to effectively carry out its cliff rescue role is conducted in nearby cliff areas. As such, it is not essential for the unit members to train on an abseiling tower. I understand the unit, in the short term, does not need an additional vehicle.

- (2) The Newman Unit can access funds for these items by making a submission through the Commonwealth Vehicle and Equipment Program, the Lotteries Commission or HBF Sponsorship Program.
- (3) Not applicable.

NEWMAN POLICE STATION, REPLACEMENT

3110. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Newman Police Station and Lockup is a cramped and ramshackle collection of twenty year old temporary buildings badly in need of replacement?
- (2) Does the State Government plan to replace this facility?
- (3) If so, when?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What is the anticipated cost of replacing this facility?
- (6) Has any money been allocated in the 1999-2000 Budget for the replacement of the Newman Police Station and Lockup?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The WA Police Service has recognised that the Newman Police Station and Lockup is now fully utilised and further expansion would be difficult. The Newman Police Station and Lockup is maintained on a regular basis. Annual inspections by Contract and Management Services identify maintenance and prioritise work requirements. Sufficient funding is provided each financial year to meet high priority works.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Coalition Government has provided unprecedented support for the Western Australia Police Service Capital Works Building Program since coming into office. Unfortunately, the demand for new and enhanced Police facilities far outstrips the ability to satisfy those demands. Accordingly, it is incumbent on the Commissioner, in conjunction with his Senior Executive, to prioritise the New Works Program in line with all other Police Service priorities. When Newman can be afforded a priority that can be accommodated within Police Service budget allocations, planning and design work will commence at the earliest possible time.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The anticipated cost of a replacement station is not known.
- (6) No.

PARNPAJINYA COMMUNITY, REHOUSING

3113. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) How many Aboriginal people from the Parnpajinya community are to be rehoused in Newman?
- (2) Where in Newman will the Parnpajinya residents be housed?
- (3) Over what time period will this rehousing program occur?
- (4) What management arrangements will apply to the rehousing program?
- (5) Will the Parnpajinya settlement be closed at the conclusion of the rehousing program?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) What date has been set for the conclusion of the rehousing program and the closure of Parnpajinya?
- (8) What commitments have State Government agencies made to allocate staff to support the rehousing process?
- (9) For each of these staffing commitments when is the particular officer concerned expected to take up duties?
- (10) What funds have been made available within the 1999-2000 State Budget to support
 - (a) the rehousing program; and
 - (b) the commitments made by each state agency to support the rehousing process?
- (11) Will the Shire of East Pilbara be consulted on the implementation of the rehousing program?
- (12) If not, why not?
- (13) If yes, how?
- (14) Will the Minister set up a management group representing all the State Government agencies involved and the Shire of East Pilbara to oversee the rehousing process?

- (15) If not, why not?
- (16) What arrangements will be made for those Parnpajinya residents who wish to be rehoused at the Jigalong community?
- (17) How many new houses will be built at the Jigalong community to cater for Parnpajinya residents who make this choice?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) To be determined.
- (2) Available Homeswest accommodation in Newman.
- (3) Over 12 months.
- (4) Discussions are being held with the Western Desert Puntukurnuparna Aboriginal Corporation to manage properties occupied by Parnpajinya residents.
- (5) To be determined in consultation with the Western Desert Puntukurnuparna Aboriginal Corporation.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) (i) 30 June 2000.
(ii) Not applicable (refer to (5)).
- (8) One additional staff member from the Aboriginal Affairs Department and one additional staff member from Family and Children's Services.
- (9) As soon as possible.
- (10) Homeswest has allocated over \$900,000.00 for construction of 4 large family units in Newman.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) General discussions will be held with all key agencies.
- (14) Yes.
- (15) Not applicable.
- (16) To be determined.
- (17) To be assessed, subsequent to (16).

KEYSTART SCHEME, NEW LOANS

3119. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the total sum of new loans lent through the Keystart scheme in -
 - (a) 1996-97;
 - (b) 1997-98; and
 - (c) between 1 July 1998 and 31 March 1999?
- (2) Who were the ten building companies who were the top beneficiaries of these funds and what were the sums received by each of these companies?
- (3) What percentage of borrowings went to purchase existing homes?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) (a) \$295.3m.
(b) \$499.1m.
(c) \$414m (to 31 March 1999)
- (2) Keystart borrowers choose their builders. The ten most preferred builders by Keystart borrowers are:

1996/97	Homestart, Commodore Homes, The Homebuyers Centre, Summit Homes, Artisan Homes, WA Housing Centre, Pacesetter, Dale Alcock, J-Corp and National Homes
1997/98	Homestart, The Homebuyers Centre, WA Housing Centre, Commodore Homes, Summit Homes, Dale Alcock, J-Corp, Artisan Homes, National Homes and Content Living
1998/99	Homestart, WA Housing Centre, The Homebuyers Centre, Summit Homes, Buildstart, Commodore Homes, Holl, Content Living, J-Corp and Dale Alcock (to 31 March 1999)

Keystart does not maintain statistics covering the dollar amount of loans approved per building company.

- (3) Percentage of advances for existing homes:

1996/97	55%
1997/98	57%
1998/99	59% (to 31 March 1999)

GOLD ROYALTY, REVENUE

3128. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Minister advise what amount of revenue has been raised by the gold royalty since its inception?
- (2) Will the Minister advise what companies have paid the royalty and for each such company detail the amount paid and the number of ounces of gold produced and the source tenements?
- (3) What plans does the Government have to review the royalty and when?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) A total of \$28.3 million was collected at 3 June 1999.
- (2) A total of 40 companies have paid royalties for a cumulative production of 5.2 million ounces of gold. A list of those companies is tabled. [See paper No 1019.]

The commercial details of their royalty returns are provided to the Department of Minerals and Energy in confidence.
- (3) None. However, the Government continues to closely monitor the gold royalty system.

POLICE, MR TERRY MAUER

3146. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Have the police investigated the alleged leaking of Mr Terry Mauer's criminal record to Dr Peter Nattrass?
- (2) (a) If so, is the investigation complete; and
(b) what was the result?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Did the police service refer the matter to any other agency for investigation?
- (5) Did any other agency refer the matter to the police for investigation?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(5) Because of the constraints of an Act of Parliament it is not possible for the questions to be answered.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

879. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

As it has now been two weeks since the Howard-Lees tax package was announced, is the Premier now in a position to table the Government's full analysis of the implications of this package for Western Australia; and, if not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

The Leader of the Opposition asked the Government to table a Treasury analysis, and that was done.

Dr Gallop: It was a preliminary analysis.

Mr COURT: During 10 years in opposition, I saw no such advice tabled.

Extensive negotiations are proceeding about the tax package. However, one does not need to be too smart to realise that the Federal Government will push through its tax package. It believes it has reached an agreement with the Australian Democrats. However, that agreement has created a number of difficulties for the State in that it is a different package from that which was previously agreed to.

I will make some general comments on this matter, because it is very easy for the Leader of the Opposition, who comes from a party that has made an art form of sitting outside the policy debate, to snipe. The coalition has had the courage to tackle the question of taxation reform, and it has been prepared to go to an election on it. All that the Federal Leader of the Opposition has done is to say, "We will oppose it; we will oppose it." Then he said, "We will get rid of it; we will get rid of it." Now he is saying, "We will roll it back; we will roll it back." That is all code for saying, "Let the coalition

bring in the goods and services tax. We will not change it once we get into Government." The situation in the Australian Labor Party is that it does not have a tax reform policy and it is not prepared to get involved in the debate because it has come to the conclusion that it can do what it is doing today; that is, it can sit on the sidelines and snipe in or out. Mr Speaker, I will not give all the Treasury advice because the matters are still being negotiated.

ELECTORAL ACT, ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES

880. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

Is the minister aware of any recent cases in which the general principles of our State's Electoral Act may not have been adhered to?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I thank the member for that very intelligent question. Our state Electoral Act has ongoing bipartisan support as the framework in which elections for the State Government, local government, industrial organisations and statutory bodies are conducted. These elections are conducted on the basic principle that all relevant electors, whether enrolled voters or members of a trade union, have the right to vote in those ballots. It would be contrary to the principles of the Electoral Act if another body were able to out-vote and negate the votes of the membership of an industrial organisation. However, it is interesting to note that the Australian Labor Party at its recent state conference made a farce of these principles by permitting only 15 per cent of its membership base to have a say in preselections, with the balance of votes coming from the Trades and Labor Council. I wonder what the Australian Labor Party would say if the Liberal Party in Western Australia gave the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia an 85 per cent vote in Liberal Party preselections.

The procedures under the constitution of the Australian Labor Party for selecting its parliamentary candidates are profoundly undemocratic, as you, Mr Speaker, would appreciate. It is quite obvious that we have hit a very soft nerve. We have a whole lot of plebs sitting on the other side of the House to whom the union movement is dictating. When the union movement says jump, they jump and say, "Yes, sir, Mr Reynolds, how high do we jump? Whatever you want you will get. We will just keep nodding our heads." This situation contradicts the fundamental principles of the Electoral Act 1907, and for the Labor Party that talks about democratic rights and people's rights to vote, its members are an absolute joke.

REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS AGENTS SUPERVISORY BOARD, SUPREME COURT DECISION

881. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

Let us hope that the minister knows something about his portfolio and not just about the Australian Labor Party. One week's membership obviously did him well.

I refer to last week's finding by the Full Court of the Supreme Court that the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board decision in relation to 91-year-old Harry Cohen constituted a clear example of an arbitrary and improper exercise of power made without any realistic consideration of the merits of the case, and that the decision was so unreasonable as to give rise to a jurisdictional error of law and was an arbitrary and capricious decision.

- (1) Does the minister accept these findings are a complete indictment of the board, especially its chairman, and reflect badly on the board's current structure?
- (2) Does the minister propose to review the board's membership?
- (3) Will he institute a more formal tribunal better able to deal with its quasi-judicial obligations?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank my good friend the member for Armadale for her question, although I am disappointed that she did not give me the notice she usually provides. Notwithstanding that, I will comment on the issue. It is true that the Full Bench of the Supreme Court came down with some findings recently, which is an area of concern. However, I am not prepared to condemn the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board as a result of one finding. In fact, the court found in favour of the board in four of the seven instances. Considering that the board conducted 430 investigations last year, it does a very good job. Furthermore, the board comprises skilled individuals who operate in the real estate industry. It is interesting to see how the member for Armadale hits and runs - she is very effective. In answer to her question about whether I will ask the chairman of the board to step down, I refer the member to the following comments she made in this place on 8 April 1998 -

Reluctant as I am to acknowledge that the Minister for Fair Trading has ever done anything sensible -

That is the truth, as she rarely gives me any consideration. The comment continues -

- bearing in mind that he stuck with David Miller quite improperly for a year and effectively destroyed the capacity of the Sure Sale victims to get any speedy justice - his subsequent appointment of someone from the Bar, who has no connections with the real estate industry and does not have an active clientele of real estate agents and developers, is very sensible.

The member went on to say that the minister made a very sound appointment. However, she now states in this place, as a result of one decision being brought into question - which the chairman and the board will review -

that she wants me to sack the chairman! This shows the depth of commitment this member has to those on the board; that is, she supports a person in one instance, yet is prepared to try to destroy him in this place as a result of one decision made in one case. That is an absolute disgrace! When questions without notice finish, she should ring Mr Dawes and apologise for her criticism.

REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS AGENTS SUPERVISORY BOARD, SUPREME COURT DECISION

882. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

As a supplementary question, has the minister read the judgement regarding the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board, and is he taking any action?

Mr SHAVE replied:

It is not for me to direct the board on what it should do.

Ms MacTiernan: Have you read the judgment?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SHAVE: I will say that my staff -

Mrs Roberts: The answer must be no.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms MacTiernan: You have done nothing!

The SPEAKER: Order! I called for order twice. If members want to ignore that call, they will do so at their peril. I refer to the members for Armadale and Midland.

Mr SHAVE: My staff have been in discussions with the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board and the relevant people and have been assured that all comments made in the judgment will be assessed and considered by the proper process by the board.

CLEAVERVILLE AND FORTY MILE BEACHES

883. Mr MARSHALL to the Minister for Local Government:

Recently, the Minister for Local Government indicated that the Government was close to finalising arrangements that would allow caravanners and campers to continue to utilise Cleaverville Beach and Forty Mile Beach in the Shire of Roebourne. Many of my constituents have become anxious about the availability of these areas, because of continued scaremongering by the Australian Labor Party and the Opposition.

Will the minister clarify the current situation and also advise of progress in amending the regulations under the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act?

Mr OMODEI replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The member's continuing interest in this important issue has been both constructive and persistent. Wilf Mason from Mandurah has chaired the caravans and camping advisory committee. I was delighted recently to announce, as acting Minister for Lands, the formalisation of an occupation licence from the Department of Land Administration to the Shire of Roebourne. This licence, which covers Cleaverville and Forty Mile Beaches, is for four months from 4 June 1999 and is able to be extended.

The council is now allowing people to use the areas for up to six weeks, and at its meeting on 21 June will consider a more detailed report on various management issues. Finalisation of the licence also shows why the Opposition's Bill to amend the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act was nothing more than a stunt. I said at the time that the Government was working on fixing the problems with these beaches - they are now fixed - and I presume the Opposition will now not wish to proceed with its Bill.

I place on record my appreciation of the support of the Minister for Lands and DOLA, and the Minister for Tourism and his officers, as well as the Shire of Roebourne. I also advise the House that the drafting of amendments to the regulations, which I foreshadowed, is well and truly advanced, and I confirm the Government's willingness to make further amendments to the regulations, if necessary.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY WORKSHOP, WELSHPOOL

884. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Lands:

Given the extraordinary goings on in relation to the lease of the old Building Management Authority workshop in Planet Street, Welshpool to Radock Pty Ltd, trading as the Building Group Training Scheme, I ask the minister -

- (1) What was the minister's involvement with Harvey McLeod in approving the offer of a lease to Radock?
- (2) Will the minister assure the House that Radock Pty Ltd, as a private company, will not be given preferential treatment by way of a lease rental below commercial rates?

- (3) Can the minister assure the House that Radock Pty Ltd will not be granted an option to purchase the site, as such a preferential arrangement would preclude the open sale process needed to achieve the best return for taxpayers on this valuable public asset?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the member for the question and, although he did not give me notice of the question, that is not a problem because I suspected that this might arise in question time. My officers were at Parliament House during lunchtime to go through their paperwork and find out what transpired. I understand the Government received a request from Mr McLeod, on behalf of the Master Builders Association in 1998. I referred that to the department and asked officers to meet with Mr McLeod. That was the last involvement I had in this issue. I am advised by the officers that, apparently, I was subsequently to receive a briefing from Mr Skinner, the head of DOLA, but it did not take place. In the subsequent arrangements and negotiations the lease was discussed and the terms were arrived at, in consultation between the officers of DOLA, Mr McLeod and the MBA. That is the sole involvement I have had with this lease. I commented to the Press, when it contacted me last night about Radock, that I was sure I had not heard of that name before, and that is the case.

There are a number of issues to be considered with regard to the terms which the department strikes for the lease. One of them was the provision of services; whether it should be rated as unimproved or improved; and what was to be the cost of establishing the training scheme in this location. The training scheme has been operated by the MBA for more than 20 years and it has been very successful in providing training for apprentices. The Government would be very keen to see that scheme continue in addition to other schemes that are operating. I understand that the concern of the member who raised it in the other House, or some people in the political arena, is that it is competing with the union scheme, and that some sort of favourable treatment is being applied to this scheme. My officers briefed me at lunchtime on the issue because, as I say, up until half an hour before last night, that was the first I had heard of the problem. They assure me that they believe they have struck a reasonable and fair rent in all the circumstances. In fact, I believe the Auditor General is looking at that circumstance now because it has been referred either by the Labor Party or by one of its members, or by another party, to the Auditor General. That is under discussion and I am sure that he will form a view on that issue. I am not in any way concerned that the officers have acted in an inappropriate manner. A suggestion was made that I might know Mr McLeod; of course I know him because he stood on a couple of committees and has given us advice on -

Ms MacTiernan: How did he get on those committees? Was he appointed by you?

Mr SHAVE: Obviously, he has been on a number of appointments. The Minister for Employment and Training may have appointed him to one and -

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr SHAVE: That is an excellent deduction and exactly what I was trying to say in my simple manner. Even some members on the other side will recognise that Mr McLeod is a very ethical person and operates in a very professional manner. He has my support and confidence. I have no reason to think that anything that Mr McLeod has done has been anything other than honourable. The Government is very lucky to have him available with his expertise to provide the sort of knowledge that it needs in these areas.

I conclude by answering the second part of the question. I am not aware whether any decision or proposal has been made by the Government to sell the building. I understand the terms of the lease have been settled so I am not about to change those terms, and I am not sure whether that term is in the lease, but I will check it for the member. Everybody knows that this Government has been a lot more accountable and open than was the previous Government.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY WORKSHOP, WELSHPOOL

885. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Fair Trading:

Given the numerous references to the minister and his office about this deal, is he asking us to believe that he had no other part to play except to refer this to the Department of Land Administration?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Is the member for Nollamara now suggesting that -

Mr Kobelke interjected.

Mr SHAVE: Why do we not have a little debate on FOI and the member can raise the issues. In his stupidity, the member for Nollamara is asking me to say that what I said previously was not truthful. Mr Speaker, most people in this place other than the sceptics know that I am a very truthful person.

KINGS PARK, SWAN BREWERY LINK

886. Mrs HODSON-THOMAS to the Minister for the Environment:

Kings Park is one of Perth's leading tourist attractions and initiatives of the Kings Park Board in recent years, such as the lighting along Fraser Avenue, have been very positive. With the completion of the Swan Brewery redevelopment, are there any plans by the Kings Park Board to link the brewery with Kings Park and take advantage of another entry to this wonderful tourist attraction?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Over the years - in 1963, 1972 and 1980 - a number of proposals have been put forward for a cable car on the Mount Eliza escarpment. The Kings Park Board also considered a number of preliminary options for linking the park to the Swan Brewery redevelopment site; for instance, via a footbridge and boardwalk from the Swan Brewery car park or a suspended walkway from the brewery car park upper level. Recently I received a letter and proposal from a constituent of the member for Bassendean for a cliff railway similar to a funicular railway operating in England. I look forward to meeting with the member and his constituent in the not too distant future. However, the key environmental, cultural and heritage issues must be assessed in all of these proposals as Kings Park is one of Western Australia's prime tourism sites. Obviously, the Government will do nothing that will impact on those issues; they will always be considered very carefully by the Kings Park Board and by this Government. However, we will look at any proposal that people wish to put forward.

HOMESWEST, DECISION REVERSAL TO EVICT 94 YEAR OLD WOMAN**887. Mr MARLBOROUGH to the Minister for Housing:**

In relation to the refusal by the minister's office to reverse a decision to evict a 94 year old woman from a Homeswest property last week and the subsequent action taken by the chief executive officer of Homeswest to intervene and reverse the decision -

- (1) Why was this decision, which was initially brought to the attention of his office by the Opposition spokesperson for Seniors, not made by him?
- (2) Is the minister concerned about the way this issue was handled by his office?
- (3) Will the minister outline what actions he is taking to avoid a repetition of this fiasco?

Dr HAMES replied:

I am grateful to the member for giving me the chance to discuss this issue in the Parliament so that I can provide an explanation, as members may have heard me do on the radio earlier today.

As members are aware, a parliamentary liaison officer deals with issues raised by both members of the public and members of Parliament when they telephone my office. Issues raised by members of Parliament are mostly dealt with by the policy officer. However, if the policy officer is absent, as was the case when this phone call was made to my office, no-one is stationed in the office to deal only with Homeswest or Water Corporation inquiries from members of Parliament. The parliamentary liaison officer is stationed in the department where he or she does other work. Therefore, because the policy officer was absent, that phone call was automatically transferred to the parliamentary liaison officer stationed in the Homeswest office. The member who rang was unaware that she was talking to an officer in Homeswest rather than someone in my office which would automatically have resulted in my being aware that the problem existed; and I did not. I did not know anything about the problem until I heard about it after the issue had been dealt with by Greg Joyce. It means that some issues remain to be addressed. However, to be fair to the officer who was involved, as members know, 36 000 Homeswest houses have issues to be dealt with and members of the Labor Party know that many Homeswest tenants in their constituencies often ring with specific issues of concern to them. Members on the opposite side of the House must admit that the Government tries hard to address their concerns. We bend over backwards to try to address the issues raised by them, including the member for Peel as the shadow Minister for Housing, if we believe they have not been properly addressed by staff; and in many instances I or Greg Joyce overturn the decisions.

The difficulty is deciding between what we must do with policy and where compassion and commonsense comes in. On many occasions I have told the department staff that I expect commonsense and compassion to come first. In this case, the property was not owned by the mother; it was owned by the daughter. The daughter had purchased another property and had stayed in the Homeswest property. That is contrary to policy. Many people on the Homeswest waiting list have said, "We wish we could do that. We would like to own a house, rent it out, stay in Homeswest accommodation and pay low rent." That is not reasonable. The lady concerned put up a valid argument; her mother is 94 years of age, they have lived in the unit for 23 years and the mother has suffered a hip fracture. Although the policy was correct, and the officer made the correct decision in terms of policy, the compassion was not there in saying, "This is a special case; we must look at this differently." Members know that is exactly what we have done in many cases; we have gone outside policy and overturned those decisions for members' constituents. In the future, members must be aware that if they are dealing with staff and have an issue that they genuinely feel is not being fairly addressed, they should come directly to me or Greg Joyce. That is not for the routine, day-to-day issues because, as members know, we have many of those issues. As a backbencher I used to deal with exactly the same issues. On most occasions they are resolved by Homeswest. Sometimes they are not resolved, but members know that what their constituents are asking is not really fair. However, if they think it is fair and the department is doing the wrong thing, tell me or Greg Joyce. To ensure this does not happen in the future, all my staff, particularly the parliamentary liaison officer, will be aware that if a member of Parliament has a serious problem with a decision, they should go to Greg Joyce or come to me to have it adjudicated on.

VIETNAM, VISIT BY MINISTER FOR LANDS**888. Mr BLOFFWITCH to the Minister for Lands:**

I understand that the minister recently undertook a visit to Vietnam. What potential benefits to Western Australia resulted from this mission?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I met with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Nguyen Cong Tan, the Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ngo Thi Dan, and senior officials of the general Department of Land Administration. They were very pleased and supportive of the assistance given by the Western Australian Government and, in particular, DOLA and its private sector consultants in providing land administration, development and support to them over the past eight years. They welcomed the extension of our working relationship, and discussions on opportunities for further cooperation were held with senior Vietnamese government officials. These included the provision of consultant services in institutional development, training and education of land administrators via scholarships in Australia; regional development of an operational land registry within a selected province in Vietnam, which will provide the model for implementation throughout the country; and urban development to provide assistance in the development of strata title laws for multi-family buildings in the urban areas. As a follow-up, DOLA's project director for its current World Bank-Vietnam land policies project will travel to Hanoi in June where he will hold discussions with senior land administrators and agency officials from the World Bank and AusAID. He will work in scoping these projects in assisting Vietnam in the preparation of funding proposals to donor agencies such as the World Bank, AusAID and the Asian Development Bank. DOLA is well placed to secure any future projects tendered by these donor agencies, and furthering the export of Western Australia's fine land administration expertise into Vietnam.

GRUBB FINANCE, LETTER TO INVESTORS

889. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

Yesterday the minister was sent a copy of correspondence by failed finance broker Graham Grubb to investors exhorting them to continue dealing with him, notwithstanding the appointment of a provisional liquidator and a trust fund supervisor. In the light of Mr Grubb's ongoing involvement in the industry, what action is the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board taking to review Mr Grubb's finance brokers licence and to protect the interests of vulnerable older investors?

Mr SHAVE replied:

I expected this issue to be raised with me. Copies of two letters were given to me at lunchtime today. The chief executive officer of the Ministry of Fair Trading has had discussions with people in the legal area. I am advised that he is engaged in discussions with the Finance Brokers Supervisory Board. I expect the CEO to make a public statement either today or tomorrow morning on this matter and I expect that the appropriate action will be taken.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr SHAVE: The member for Armadale is saying that I am the minister. I am saying that the matter is in hand and we will take the appropriate action.

HEALTHDIRECT

890. Mrs HOLMES to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the minister inform the House about HealthDirect, an initiative of the Government to provide a health information service?
- (2) What has been the early public response to this new service, about which I have been asked by my constituents?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) I am pleased to say that recently I had the pleasure of launching HealthDirect, which is a call centre established in a joint initiative by the State and Federal Governments with a contribution of approximately \$3m each for the first year of operation. Its purpose is to provide information about the provision of health services to people in Western Australia. Members of the public can phone the centre via free call number 1800 022 222. It is hoped that it will provide a better after-hours service than has been previously available, particularly with regard to accessing health services after hours. It also means that many calls previously received at hospital emergency departments are redirected so that staff in emergency departments can provide urgent treatment to patients, for which they are primarily employed.
- (2) I understand the service has been well used. Since it was first advertised on 29 May until midnight last night, 3 658 calls have been received, which is an average of about 300 calls a day. An extensive advertising campaign has commenced, initially through the print media. Television advertisements have begun recently and a brochure will soon be circulated to all households in the metropolitan area so that people are well informed of this new service being provided for their benefit by the State and Federal Governments.

RESPIRE HOUSE, BOULDER

891. Ms ANWYL to the Minister for Disability Services:

I refer to the decision of the Disability Services Commission to auction Respite House at 288 Burt Street, Boulder, which is worth more than \$250 000 and which was used to provide respite care for families of disabled children in the Kalgoorlie area.

- (1) Will the minister guarantee that the funds raised from this auction will be spent on the provision of disability services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder?
- (2) Will he also give a commitment to build a permanent respite facility in the goldfields to replace Respite House?

Mr OMODEI replied:

I am not fully conversant with the issue. However, I recall some discussions that occurred in Kalgoorlie about a new respite centre.

Ms Anwyl: There are no plans on the drawing board.

Mr OMODEI: Those discussions occurred a few months ago when Barry McKinnon visited the goldfields as Chairman of the Disability Services Commission Board. Usually, funds received from the sale of assets go to defraying debt within the Disability Services Commission. I will raise the issue with the board to see what action it is taking and I will get back to the member for Kalgoorlie this afternoon.
